

HISTORY PHD

Degree Requirements

The following requirements are in addition to, or further elaborate upon, those requirements outlined in The Graduate School Policy Guide (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/academic-policies-procedures/>).

Master's

The History Department does not offer a separate master's program. Students in the PhD program earn a master's degree after a year of satisfactory work toward the PhD degree. Northwestern's School of Professional Studies (<https://sps.northwestern.edu/>) offers several part-time master's programs, including the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) and a Master of Arts in Literature (MALit).

PhD

Total Units Required: 18

The principal formal requirements for the PhD in history are as follows:

- Completion of 18 courses during the first two years of study, including two quarters of work each year in an intensive research seminar.
- Passing of examinations in three areas (a general field (<https://www.history.northwestern.edu/graduate/current-students/degree-requirements.html#generalfield>), a specialization (<https://www.history.northwestern.edu/graduate/current-students/degree-requirements.html#specialization>) within that field, and a minor field (<https://www.history.northwestern.edu/graduate/current-students/degree-requirements.html#minorfield>)) during the second and third year of study.
- Demonstration of proficiency in the primary research language (<https://www.history.northwestern.edu/graduate/current-students/degree-requirements.html#language>).
- Submission of a dissertation prospectus (<https://www.history.northwestern.edu/graduate/current-students/degree-requirements.html#dissertation>) or proposal by the end of the third year of study.
- Demonstration of proficiency in additional languages (<https://www.history.northwestern.edu/graduate/current-students/degree-requirements.html#language>) as necessary.
- Presentation of an approved dissertation.
- Completion of HISTORY 560-0 Teaching History by the end of the fifth year.