The Ph.D. in history prepares students to teach and conduct research in American history and to understand it within an expanded global perspective. Students are required to integrate the major field with a minor field outside of U.S. history. This broader intercontinental perspective enables students to explore themes such as the interaction of political, economic and cultural systems, questions of race and ethnicity, and the transnational dimensions of national experience. This global perspective is encouraged by providing a selection of courses that are cross-national, comparative, and integrative in content and format.

Students are encouraged to enlarge their perspective by understanding and analyzing national history in broader, international contexts. This goal is facilitated in two ways: first, a close integration of the minor into the major area; second, a selection of courses that are cross-national and integrative in format.

In a setting of relatively small classes, individualized research projects, and frequent contact with faculty, students are trained in the arts of scholarly research and writing. No less is the emphasis placed on fostering teaching skills. Through a required teaching seminar, hands-on teaching experience, and careful mentoring, students are prepared for teaching in a college or university environment.

A total of 45-60 credit hours of course work and dissertation credit, including a minimum of 33-39 credits of course work beyond the M.A. in history and a minimum of 12 credits of dissertation credit, are required to complete the Ph.D. in history. Upon entering the program, all students will develop a Plan of Study with the approval of the Graduate Program Director.

For information regarding deadlines and requirements for admission, please see the Guide to Graduate Admissions (https://grs.uncc.edu/prospective/guide).

In addition to the application materials required by The Graduate School, applicants must submit a writing sample and a personal statement to be considered for admission.

The Ph.D. program admits only a few highly qualified students each year. To enroll in the program, students must first obtain a M.A. in History, as well as a B.A. in History or a closely-related field.

**Degree Program Requirements**

**Required:** 45-60 credit hours

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIS 701</td>
<td>Colloquium in American History before 1865</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 702</td>
<td>Colloquium in American History after 1865</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 714</td>
<td>Varieties of Teaching</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 750</td>
<td>PhD Readings Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS 751</td>
<td>PhD Dissertation Proposal Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research Hours (0-6 credits)**

Complete up to 6 credits of additional research

**Electives in U.S. Major (9 credits)**

Select 9 credits of elective courses

**Minor Field (9 credits)**

**Additional Minor in Public History (9 credits)**

Complete 9 credits in the Public History Minor (optional)

**Dissertation (12 credits)**

HIS 799 Dissertation

Total Credit Hours  45-60

* As described in the Minor Field course requirements below.
** Students may elect an additional minor in Public History with the approval of their advisory/dissertation committee and the Graduate Program Director. See the Additional Minor in Public History below for the minor course requirements.

**Research Hours**

If the Graduate Program Director should conclude that an admitted Ph.D. candidate did not perform at least 6 credits of substantive research during the M.A. degree program or earned an M.A. in an area of history other than U.S. history, then the student will be required to complete up to 6 credits of additional research. These additional research credits will ordinarily include HIS 703 M.A. Research Project I and HIS 709 Introductory Research Seminar.

**Electives in U.S. Major**

In addition to the core requirements, students must complete 9 credits of elective courses in their major. HIS 692 Advanced Topics in History may not be counted for Ph.D. credit. Consult with the Graduate Program Director for course offerings.

**Minor Field**

With the approval of the student’s advisory/dissertation committee and the Graduate Program Director, doctoral students will choose and define a minor field outside of U.S. history. The minor field will consist of one required course (HIS 716 Graduate Colloquium in World History), at least one course at the 600-level or above with the minor field faculty member of the dissertation committee, and a second course at the 600-level or above on a topic outside of U.S. history, for a total of 9 credits. All course work applied toward the minor must be approved by the Graduate Program Director and listed on the student’s Plan of Study.

Where appropriate, and with the permission of the Doctoral Advisory/Dissertation Committee and Graduate Program Director, doctoral students may take a maximum of one course (3 credits) at the 600-level or above outside the Department of History as part of their minor field.

**Additional Minor in Public History**

With the approval of the students’ advisory/dissertation committee and the Graduate Program Director, doctoral students may undertake a second minor field in Public History (in addition to a first minor field in World History). The Public History Minor will consist of two required courses HIS 631 Digital History and HIS 627 Museum and Historic Site Interpretation: Principles and Practice and one elective course for a total of 9 credits. The elective may be chosen from the following courses (or other public history offering with approval of the Graduate Program Director):

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIS 547</td>
<td>History Museum Curatorship: Collections Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>
All course work applied toward the minor must be approved by the Graduate Program Director and listed on the student’s Plan of Study. Course work for the Public History Minor may be carried out simultaneously with HIS 750 PhD Readings Course and HIS 751 PhD Dissertation Proposal Course since this field will not be included as part of Ph.D. comprehensive examinations.

Language Requirement
All students are required to pass a written test demonstrating reading knowledge of one foreign language appropriate to their area of specialization prior to taking the qualifying examination.

Faculty Mentor
A mentor must be named after 9 credits of course work. Normally, the mentor will be the graduate faculty member in the Department whose research and teaching interests most closely correspond to those of the student. Prospective mentors must agree to serve on the committee. Mentors will be responsible for the pedagogical, scholarly, and professional development of their students during their program of study, will chair their Doctoral Advisory/Dissertation Advisory Committee, and will direct the student’s dissertation.

Permission to Proceed and Grade Point Average (GPA)
All students in the Ph.D. program must obtain “permission to proceed” at the end of their first year of courses (normally 18 credits). This permission is granted by a collective decision of the Doctoral Advisory/Dissertation Committee and the departmental Graduate Committee.

Students must maintain a 3.5 GPA to proceed to the writing of the dissertation.

Qualifying Examination
The qualifying examination, which will come at the end of the 33-39 credits of course work (including a 3-credit Ph.D. readings course and a 3-credit Ph.D. seminar), will include two parts:

- A written examination composed of questions from the major and minor fields.
- An oral examination given no later than one month after the completion of the written examination.

If a student fails only one part of the written examination, they may be required to retake only that part. If a student fails all three fields, they must retake the entire examination.

Dissertation
Students will register for a minimum of 12 credits of dissertation credit (HIS 799 Dissertation) while researching and writing the dissertation.