

History

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of History



siue.edu/grad/history

History at SIUE

The Master of Arts in history program contributes to the personal enrichment of students, as well as lifelong learning skills and recognition of responsibilities as members of a society composed of many communities of memory. Graduates leave SIUE with a firm education in the liberal arts, as well as excellent communication and critical thinking skills. Students also have the opportunity to gain crucial hands-on experience in documentary editing, digital history projects and archival research.

Degrees Available at SIUE

- **Master of Arts in History**
- Master of Science in Integrative Studies - Cultural Heritage and Resources Management
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Historical Studies (Cooperative doctoral program with Southern Illinois University Carbondale)

A secondary education history teaching focus is available with our Master of Science in Education (MSEd) in curriculum and instruction.

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

- Museum Studies

Program Format

Courses are available in online, weekday, evening and weekend formats.

What can I do with a degree in history?

The master's in history serves as important preparation for the pursuit of a variety of career opportunities. Some students choose to pursue careers as history instructors, while others choose to pursue careers in other fields. According to PayScale Inc. as published in the Wall Street Journal, mid-career history graduates earn an average salary of \$75,000. SIUE graduate employment locations include:

- National Archives in Washington, D.C.
- Department of Defense in St. Louis
- Johns Hopkins University
- St. Louis Science Center
- St. Louis Public Library
- George Mason University

Some of our students go on to pursue PhD programs, and have most recently completed or are currently enrolled in programs at:

- Kent State
- University of New Hampshire
- Georgetown
- Yale
- UCLA
- University of Nebraska
- Western Michigan
- Indiana University
- University of Oklahoma
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Admission Requirements

- Graduate School application and \$40 fee
- Submission of all academic transcripts
- Minimum 3.0 (A=4.0) GPA
- Successful completion of a bachelor's degree prior to enrollment and preparation in the discipline equivalent to at least an undergraduate minor (18 credit hours in history)
- International Applicants: Proof of English Proficiency, minimum requirements are TOEFL (79), IELTS (6.5) or equivalent
- Two letters of recommendation
- An academic writing sample
- Statement of Purpose: A one-page letter of intent discussing their preparation for graduate study in history, their area(s) of historical interest and their career goals.

Admission Requirements Cont.

Program application materials may be uploaded during the application process, but official transcripts must be sent directly from the school attended, and test scores must be verifiable with the appropriate testing service. Please contact the Graduate Admissions office with questions regarding the application submission process at graduateadmissions@siue.edu.

Application Deadline

All application materials are due by February 1 for fall admission and November 1 for spring admission. The Department's graduate program committee will review application materials and make a final determination of admittance normally by March 1 for fall admission and December 1 for spring admission.

Cooperative Doctoral Program

Faculty in the Department of History participate with faculty from the Department of History at Southern Illinois University Carbondale in offering a cooperative program leading to the Doctor of Philosophy in history. Prospective students may initiate application procedures at either campus and may enroll in courses at either or both campuses concurrently. The doctoral degree is conferred by Southern Illinois University Carbondale. For more detailed information, students may contact either department directly.

Graduation Requirements

Students who follow a thesis plan of study will be required to pass an oral defense of the thesis and related historical material and submit a final draft to the Graduate School.

Upon completion of the coursework, students pursuing the exam option must pass a written examination, at least three hours long, covering one principal and two secondary fields. They are also required to pass an oral examination based on their written exams, portfolio and related historical material. The chairperson of the student's advisory committee will provide guidance to the student regarding the nature of the portfolio and examination. Such guidance will include a list of readings compiled by the advisory committee, which, in conjunction with the student's coursework, will serve as the basis for the examination.

Exam option students intending to take examinations in the spring semester must declare their intention to take examinations by **September 15** of the preceding fall semester. Students intending to take examinations in the fall semester must declare their intention to do so by **April 1** of the preceding spring semester.

Declaring an intention to take exams requires students to form an exam committee and, in consultation with their committee, establish reading lists for the exams.

Spring semester written exams must be completed by April 1 and an oral examination based on the written exams and the portfolio must be held by April 15.

Fall semester written exams must be completed by November 15 and an oral examination based on the written exams and the portfolio must be held by December 5. Generally, master's-level exams will not be scheduled during the summer term.

Required Credit Hours/Tuition and Fees

- 33
- Visit siue.edu/graduate-tuition for detailed tuition information

Curriculum

Both thesis and non-thesis plans of study are available. Students pursuing either the thesis or the non-thesis plan must complete a minimum of 33 semester hours. All entering students are required to take a two-semester sequence of History 555 (Graduate Seminar in History and Theory) and History 556 (Graduate Seminar in Historical Research). Students may also apply to participate in an internship program that allows them to obtain practical experience in non-teaching career fields related to history. In addition to the 33 semester hours required, all students must demonstrate a reading knowledge of a foreign language (modern or classical) or complete an appropriate research tool course or courses, chosen in consultation with and approved by the Graduate Program Director. This requirement can be completed through the following options:

- Passage of an examination showing mastery of translation
- Completion of four semesters of college-level study in a single language with an average of C or better (through coursework or completion exam)
- Completion of a language in translation course with a grade of B or better
- Completion of an appropriate research tool course with a grade of B or better.

Students must earn a grade of B or better in each course counting toward their graduate degree, with the exception of foreign languages. Candidates for the Master of Arts in history may pursue one of the two following plans of study:

Thesis Option

Students complete 33 hours of graduate credit, three of which represent the Graduate Core Seminar in History and Theory (HIST 555); three are the Graduate Seminar in Historical Research (HIST 556) and six of which represent a well-conceived thesis on a topic chosen in consultation with a faculty advisory committee. Enrollment in HIST 599 is required. Students will prepare a research plan during the semester or summer immediately preceding their first HIST 599 class. Students will present the research plan to the chair of his or her committee and will then distribute it to the rest of the committee. It is strongly suggested that the entire committee and the student meet together to comment on the plan. Students will not receive an instructor permit to register for HIST 599 until this process is complete.

Exam Option

This plan emphasizes breadth of historical understanding while not ignoring research techniques. Students concentrating in one primary and two complementary secondary areas of emphasis complete 33 hours of graduate credit, which includes completion of the Graduate Core Seminar in History and Theory (HIST 555) (three credit hours) and the Graduate Seminar in Historical Research (HIST 556) (three credit hours). Exam option students also enroll in six credit hours of Readings for Exams (HIST 598). Suggested areas of emphasis can include:

- Ancient History
- African Diaspora
- African-American History
- Asian History
- Early Modern Europe
- Gender History
- Intellectual History
- Medieval Europe
- Middle Eastern History
- Modern Europe
- U.S. Economic History
- U.S. since 1877
- U.S. to 1877

The broad fields may be modified in consultation with the student's advisory committee. Before embarking on any area(s) of emphasis, a student should consult the appropriate faculty member(s). All exam option students are required to develop a portfolio of two research papers, written for different faculty while enrolled at SIUE, that reflect their primary, and one of their secondary fields of interest. All students are required to submit their portfolio to their examination committee a month before the scheduling of their written exams. In order for written examinations to be scheduled, the portfolio must first be approved by the student's committee.