

History, MA, MS

Department: History Department

College: College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Overview

About This Degree

The Department of History has been recognized by the American Historical Association as one of 12 outstanding history departments in the United States and Canada, selected for its “brilliant teaching and leadership.” The department's graduate program attracts students from across the United States and overseas. Because the department limits its entering class to approximately 12, every graduate student is important. Moreover, master's-level students are not competing with doctoral students for the faculty's time or for history-related work experiences.

The faculty members of the History Department have a broad array of specialties, so students can study a variety of time periods and geographic areas in history. In particular, the department has particular depth in the areas of environmental history, religious studies, and Western United States studies.

The **MA** degree requires students to gain proficiency in one or more foreign languages. The **MS** degree requires students to incorporate computer, social, or natural science into their research in lieu of a foreign language. A course plan will be developed for each student with their committee in their first year.

Career Options

Graduates with a master's degree in history can find careers in many venues, such as:

- Historical societies
- Museums
- Publishing companies
- Archives
- Government agencies
- High schools
- Libraries

Many master's students go on to prestigious doctoral programs or have careers as writers.

What it takes

Admissions Requirements

The Department of History strongly recommends that applicants have either an undergraduate major or minor in history or a closely related field.

Application Requirements:

- Complete the [online application](#)
- Pay the \$55 application fee
- Score at or above the 40th percentile on in the GRE
- Have a 3.0 or higher GPA on your last 60 semester or 90 quarter credits
- Provide transcripts of all college/university credits
- Provide three contacts for letters of recommendation

International students have [additional admissions requirements](#).

It is important that students be aware of the areas of expertise of the History Department faculty. If students wish to study a field not covered by faculty at USU, they may not be admitted to the program.

Admissions Deadlines

The department accepts new students each fall and has the following application deadline:

- Fall semester – February 1
- Applicants who submit applications after the February 1 deadline may still be admitted to the program; however, they will not be considered for financial assistance.

Master's Degree Plan Options

Students can receive the MS or MA by pursuing one of two options:

- In the **Plan A** option, students complete graduate-level coursework and must write a thesis.
- The **Plan B** option requires the production of a paper or creative work of art and is expected to reflect equivalent scholarship standards as a thesis.

Financial Assistance

The History Department offers various types of graduate financial assistance:

The *Western Historical Quarterly*, published at USU, offers the S. George Ellsworth Editorial Fellowship and the Robert M. Utey Editorial Fellowship in alternating years. Nationally competitive, these fellowships are awarded to highly-qualified students who work as editorial assistants in the WHQ office where they are acquainted with all aspects of journal production. The award includes a stipend of \$14,000 (including summer work), a nonresident tuition award, and medical insurance. Fellowship holders must enroll in USU's master's program in history and work 20 hours a week for the WHQ. These fellowships may be retained for a second year, depending upon satisfactory progress toward the master's degree and acceptable completion of editorial assignments. Additional funding is available if the fellow can begin work at the beginning of August. Applicants should send a letter of application and three letters of recommendation to the WHQ. Materials must be postmarked no later than February 1. Applicants will be notified in early April.

Send application and recommendations to:

Western Historical Quarterly
0740 Old Main Hill
Utah State University
Logan, UT 84322-0740

Graduate assistantships are the primary financial assistance offered by the Department of History. Offered annually on a competitive basis, there are seven graduate assistantships each year for qualified students. These [assistantships](#) entail approximately 20 hours of work a week assisting the faculty in the introductory survey courses taught by the department. The award carries a stipend of \$3,750 for one semester of work and \$7,500 for two semesters and a [nonresident tuition award](#). A GA must maintain a GPA of 3.0 and be enrolled as a full-time student to keep an assistantship and may hold graduate assistantships for a maximum of two years while enrolled in the master's program. Applications for graduate assistantships should be postmarked no later than February 1 for the next academic year.

Additional financial assistance: The department has a small number of Carr Graduate Fellowships which are usually awarded to supplement the stipend provided to graduate assistants and to support summer research travel. In addition, a \$500 summer research award, the Charles and Elizabeth Peterson Thesis Award, is given on a competitive basis to a student working on the history of Utah or the West.

Additionally, the cost of living in Logan, Utah, is about 12% lower than the national average.

Program Requirements

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Master of Arts**.

[Click here](#) to see course requirements for the **Master of Science**.

Students may complete up to four credits of internship work in various museums or historical venues. The internship is not required for graduation, however.

Contact

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Get Involved

Professional Organizations, Honor Societies, and Clubs

American Historical Association: The American Historical Association was founded in 1884 and was incorporated by Congress in 1889 to serve the broad field of history. It encompasses every historical period and geographical area and serves professional historians in all areas of employment.

Western History Association: The Western History Association is the professional organization focused on the history of the American West that publishes the journal *Western Historical Quarterly*, which is housed at USU.

Phi Alpha Theta: This professional society has a mission to promote the study of history through the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication, and the exchange of learning and ideas among historians.

Labs, Centers, Research

Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art: This museum collects, maintains, preserves, and regularly exhibits art in diverse media created primarily in the American West with an emphasis on modern and contemporary movements. Through exhibitions and education programs, the museum provides the campus and community with opportunities for growth, discovery, and scholarly research.

Special Collections and Archives: One of the most important centers for students' historical research is housed within the Merrill-Cazier Library in the Special Collections and Archives division. The division is composed of seven distinct sections (art book collections, folklore, manuscripts, western and Mormon americana, photographs, preservation, and USU archives). Each section is assigned a specialist who is responsible for the care and use of the materials. In addition, the Merrill-Cazier Library provides extensive reference and database collections covering historical experience from the classical period through the present.

