

M.A. History Program

Frequently Asked Questions

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How quickly can I graduate from the program?

The answer to this question really depends on how much time you have available. The program is designed so that you can graduate in two years. We have had full-time students complete the program more quickly as well as part-time students who have only been able to take one course a semester who have taken longer to complete.

Can I keep my full-time (day time) job and still be a grad student?

Yes, we have two types of graduate classes: 5000 (upperdivision undergraduate lectures where grad students have their workload supplemented) and 6000 (graduate seminars). The 6000 courses typically meet one night a week for three hours. The 5000 courses tend to be daytime courses, although there are some that either meet late in the day or once a week.

What are the admission requirements?

Applicants must have achieved a minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.70 on a scale of 4.00 or at least a 3.00 in the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate study. In addition to this minimum graduate school requirement, applicants need a minimum of 12 undergraduate history hours (with a minimum 3.0 gpa for those courses). The department requires GRE scores along with the application and recommends minimum GRE scores of 500 verbal and 4.5 analytical writing. Applicants are also asked to supply two writing samples: Why are you interested in the History M.A. Program at UCA? and What historical problem/interests prompted you to pursue a M.A. in History? Lastly, the applicant is asked to provide two letters of recommendation and a CV (academic resume).

When is the application due?

The graduate school and department has set October 1 for Spring and March 1 for Summer and Fall admission as preferred application dates. Applications received after these deadlines will be processed.

Are there any assistanceships I can apply for?

The department currently employs three Graduate Assistants (GAs). The application is available online. These GAs are responsible for assisting faculty by proctoring exams, tutoring, giving lectures, grading, and assisting in faculty research. There are also GA positions in other departments on campus for which you can apply.

What are the two tracks?

This program is structured to meet the needs of two types of graduate students: those who wish to continue their graduate studies in a Ph.D. program and those who wish to complete their graduate studies with a M.A. As such, we have developed two tracks: thesis track and non-thesis track to meet the above students' needs respectively. Thesis-track students will write a thesis as the culmination of their M.A. coursework. These students must show proficiency in a foreign language, as most Ph.D. programs require proficiency in two foreign languages, and must have a 3.5 gpa at the time they enroll in HIST 6301. Non-thesis track students do not write a thesis. Both tracks take comprehensive exams at the end of their coursework.

How does the program work?

This program requires thirty hours to graduate. This thirty is broken down into a major and minor field (from three areas: American, European, and Non-Western history) with students taking twelve hours in their major field and six in their minor field. There are two required classes: 6300 (Historiography and Methods offered every fall) and 6371 (Research in History offered every spring). Lastly, of the thirty hours total needed to graduate, twenty-one hours need to be at the 6000 level.