History
+ College of Arts and Sciences

Saint Louis University is a Catholic, Jesuit institution that values academic excellence, life-changing research, compassionate health care, and a strong commitment to faith and service.

Founded in 1818, the University fosters the intellectual and character development of nearly 14,000 students on two campuses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Building on a legacy of nearly 200 years, Saint Louis University continues to move forward with an unwavering commitment to a higher purpose, a greater good.

OVERVIEW ///

The reputation of the history graduate program at Saint Louis University is based, above all, on the strength of the faculty, whose research and publications have won national and international recognition. This program familiarizes students with the richness of thought, culture and society of the past. By studying the history of civilization, students become acquainted with all fields in the humanities, as well as with developments in other disciplines, such as law, medicine, business and technology.

M.A.:
Upon admission to the program, students choose a specialized area of study in late Antiquity/Byzantium, medieval European, early modern European, modern European, U.S. or world history. They must complete 30 credit hours of coursework, including:
- HIST 5000, Theory and Practice of History: An Introduction
- 12 credit hours (minimum) in the primary field, which must include a “studies” course (HIST 5200/5300/5400/5500/5600/5700) and at least one seminar (HIST 6800/6810/6820/6830/6840)

Students may choose a thesis or nonthesis option. If they choose the thesis option, six credit hours of thesis research will replace six credit hours of coursework. For both options, up to six credit hours of coursework may be taken in fields outside of history. Competency in one foreign language is required by the beginning of the second year of coursework. After completing their coursework, nonthesis students must pass a two-hour written examination and one-hour oral examination on their major field. Thesis students must complete their thesis and a one-hour oral defense of the thesis.

There is also a combined M.A./Ph.D. track for those who enter the master’s program intending to continue on to doctoral studies. For these students an M.A. exam or thesis is unnecessary.

Ph.D.:
Doctoral students must complete 27 credit hours of coursework if entering with an M.A. and 36 credit hours of coursework if pursuing the combined M.A./Ph.D. Coursework must include a minimum of 12 credit hours in the major field and six hours in the minor field. Major doctoral fields are offered in medieval European, early modern European and U.S. history. Minor fields include these areas, as well as late Antiquity/Byzantium, modern European history, world history or a constructed field defined by the student with the approval of the director of graduate studies. The primary purpose of coursework is to prepare students for careers as scholars and teachers. After completing their coursework, candidates must pass a comprehensive examination, consisting of two four-hour written examinations — one each in the major and minor fields — and a two-hour oral examination. The culmination of a doctoral student's education is the completion of a doctoral dissertation. Twelve credit hours are given for the writing of the dissertation.

For U.S. history students, competency in one foreign language is required. For medieval and early modern European history students, two languages are required, one of which must be Latin. It is understood that in all fields of study advisors can require additional languages if they are pertinent to the student's research agenda.

Career Paths:
Graduates go on to find jobs in education (especially university faculty), government and industry/business.

DEGREES AND PROGRAMS OFFERED ///

- Master of Arts (M.A.) in History
- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in History

COURSES AVAILABLE ///

- Transcript(s)
- Three letters of recommendation
- GRE score
- Résumé
- Professional goal statement
- Writing sample

ADMISSION CRITERIA ///

M.A.:
Applicants must have an undergraduate degree in history or the equivalent. An applicant who majored in a field other than history may be admitted with the requirement that certain history prerequisites be taken before pursuing the degree coursework.

Ph.D.:
Applicants must have a graduate degree in history.
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FACULTY ///

Douglas Boin, Ph.D.: Greek and Roman history, late Antiquity
Stefan M. Bradley, Ph.D.: 20th century African-American history
Flannery Burke, Ph.D.: U.S. environmental and western history
Thomas J. Finan, Ph.D.: Medieval Ireland
Philip R. Gavitt, Ph.D.: Early modern Europe
Claire Gilbert, Ph.D.: Early modern Spain and north Africa
Lori Glover, Ph.D.: Colonial America
Torrie Hester, Ph.D.: U.S. Gilded Age
Thomas F. Madden, Ph.D.: Medieval Europe
Filippo Marsili, Ph.D.: East Asia, early China, cross-cultural history
Nathaniel Millett, Ph.D.: Atlantic world and borderlands
George O. Ndege, Ph.D.: Africa
Charles H. Parker, Ph.D.: Early modern Europe
Jennifer J. Popiel, Ph.D.: Modern France
Michal Jan Rozbicki, Ph.D. (habil): British colonial America, cross-cultural history
Mark E. Ruff, Ph.D.: Modern Germany
Daniel L. Schlafly Jr., Ph.D.: Russia
Steven A. Schoenig, S.J., Ph.D.: Medieval Europe
Sivana R. Siddali, Ph.D.: U.S. Civil War era
Damian J. Smith, Ph.D.: Medieval Europe
Katrina D. Thompson, Ph.D.: 19th/20th century African-American history
Warren Treadgold, Ph.D.: Byzantine empire
Luke Yarbrough, Ph.D.: Middle East

Recognition:
• The graduate program in history at Saint Louis University is one of the oldest in the country, granting its first Ph.D. in 1919.
• Today, the tradition of excellence is continued by training students in a variety of historical fields.
• The Ph.D. program ranks among the top 100 history programs in the nation according to U.S. News & World Report.

SLU's history program offers students internationally renowned faculty, an outstanding mentoring program and high-quality professional training.

The department offers a number of teaching and research assistantships as well as fellowships to assist graduate students: two years of funding for master's students (merit-based and renewed with demonstrative advancement of thesis/research) and three years of funding for Ph.D. students (merit-based and renewed with demonstrative advancement of dissertation/research).

FINANCIAL SUPPORT ///

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