Saint Louis University is a world-class Catholic, Jesuit institution educating nearly 13,000 students on two dynamic, urban campuses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Founded in 1818, the University is celebrating its bicentennial.

With a legacy of innovative academics and research, compassionate health care and faithful service, Saint Louis University attracts a diverse community of scholars who push intellectual boundaries in pursuit of creative, meaningful ways to impact the world, striving to serve a higher purpose and seek a greater good.

OVERVIEW

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. This program familiarizes students with the richness of thought, culture and society of the past.

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. 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.
History
+ College of Arts and Sciences

FACULTY
Douglas Boin, Ph.D.: Greek and Roman history, late Antiquity
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
Lorri 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
Silvana 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

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.

Career Paths: Graduates go on to find jobs in education (especially university faculty),

FINANCIAL SUPPORT
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). Students who are on the MA/Ph.D. track may receive a sixth year of financial support.

For information on scholarships and financial aid, please visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.