

**Program Leading to a Bachelor of Arts (BA)
or Bachelor of Science (BS) in History, with Honors**

Objectives

The Honors Option in History affords outstanding History majors the opportunity to propose, carry out, and formally present independent research on a topic of their choosing, under the guidance of a faculty advisor. Students who successfully complete an approved thesis and its associated 16 credit-hour Honors curriculum will be formally designated History Honors graduates and receive notice of this distinction on their diplomas.

Program Description

Students who wish to pursue the Honors in History Option must have completed a minimum 24 credit hours in History and must have a 3.5 GPA in those courses. In addition to the standard requirements for the undergraduate major, the Honors Option culminates in an undergraduate thesis, executed during the student's junior and senior years; during the first term after acceptance to the Honors Option, the student investigates thesis topics in a reading and conference course (HST 405) directed by a faculty member who has agreed to supervise the student's honors thesis. During senior year, the student's first term is devoted to research (HST 401), the second term to writing (HST 403), and the third to presentation and revision of the thesis (HST 403).

Eligibility/Applying for Honors Option

Eligibility to apply for the Honors Option will be established by the following:

- Student must have a cumulative GPA in History courses of 3.5 and have completed at least 24 credit hours of coursework in the major, including HST 300: Historical Imagination, or equivalent coursework approved by the History Department.
- Student must have an overall GPA of at least 3.25.
- Student must have no Incomplete grades in History.
- Confirmation (in writing) of two full-time faculty members who have agreed to serve as primary and secondary advisors for the honors thesis.
- Student must submit a successful application to the department, consisting of a written thesis prospectus (approximately 500 words) of the research to be undertaken, signed by the primary and secondary advisors. Copies of the approved prospectus will be kept on file in the department.

Program guidelines

In addition to 8 combined credit hours of Reading and Conference (HST 405) and Research (HST 401), students will complete 8 credit hours of work in writing, editing, and presenting the thesis (HST 403). However, only the first 8 Credit Hours of the Honors Option may be applied to the 60-credit requirement for the major: that is, the directed reading (HST 405) and directed research (HST 401), both of which must be graded. Thus, to successfully complete the Honors Option, students must finish a total of 68 Credit Hours of work in the major.

Honors Option in History
Proposed Timeline of Student Participation***Fall term, Junior year (or first term of program)***

Students meeting the basic eligibility requirements (minimum GPA and completion of 24 credit hours in History) will be notified of their achievement by letter from the department and invited to apply to the program.

Winter/Spring term, Junior year (or second/third term of program)

Following the submission and acceptance of a thesis prospectus, student enrolls in HST 405, Reading and Conference, with primary thesis advisor (grade option 'A-F', 4 credit hours; these credit hours may count as upper-division elective credits toward the requirements for the History major). During this term, the student will pursue directed reading in the proposed subject in preparation for formal research. Successful completion of directed reading may be determined in part by the submission of a revised and expanded research prospectus or by other appropriate means of evaluation.

Fall term, Senior year (or third/fourth term of program)

This term is devoted to formal research of the thesis topic. Student enrolls in HST 401, Independent Research (grade option 'A-F', 4 credit hours; these credits may not be applied towards elective requirements for the History major; however, successful completion of research, with criteria to be set by faculty advisor, may be considered as equivalent to one of the two HST 407 courses required for the major.)

Winter term, Senior year (or fourth/fifth term of program)

This term is devoted to writing and editing of thesis. Student enrolls in HST 403, Thesis (graded as "IP," "In Progress," for 4 credit hours; these credits may not be applied towards elective requirements for the History major).

Spring term, Senior year (or fifth/sixth term of program)

Students conclude writing of the thesis and submits thesis to primary and secondary advisors for approval. Student enrolls in HST 403, Thesis (graded 'A-F' upon successful completion of thesis, for 4 credit hours; these credits may not be applied towards elective requirements for the History major). A formal presentation of research to peers and faculty in a public setting is also required.

Once the thesis has been accepted, the necessary paperwork (exact nature TBD) is completed by advisor(s) and the History Department Chair and forwarded to the Dean of CLAS and Vice Provost for Curriculum for approval. Student designated "History Honors Student" on diploma. A copy of the thesis is kept on file in the department.