

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY
HISTORY DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS
INTERDISCIPLINARY PH.D. PROGRAM**

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Except in unusual circumstances, students who select History as a discipline in the Ph.D. program must begin their work during the fall term. Applications must be received by the School of Graduate Studies no later than February 15. The doctoral faculty of the Department of History will review applications and make their recommendations for admission by the end of March. Applications that are incomplete as of February 15, and completed applications submitted after this deadline, may not be considered until the following year.

Applications who choose History as their Coordinating discipline, or applicants whose course work in history will comprise at least 50% of the Ph.D. Plan of Study, must meet the criteria for admission specified by the School of Graduate Studies. In addition, they must:

- 1) possess a Master's degree in History, or its equivalent
- 2) have earned a GPA of 3.5 in graduate courses

Students who choose History as a Co-discipline and whose course work in History will constitute less than 50% of the Ph.D. Plan of Study, must meet the criteria for admission specified by the School of Graduate Studies. In addition, they must fulfill other entrance requirements specified by the Doctoral Faculty of the Department of History. These requirements are established on an individual basis.

ALL applicants for admission must submit:

- 1) a sample of written work
- 2) a brief statement of academic and professional goals
- 3) a 1000 word essay that specifies a dissertation topic, demonstrates its interdisciplinary nature, and shows how historical methods and approaches would be utilized
- 4) a statement of support from a member of the department who would be willing to serve as the applicant's faculty mentor

Applicants who do not meet the requirements specified above may be granted provisional admission by the Doctoral Faculty of the Department of History. An applicant admitted provisionally receives notification of deficiencies and of the conditions which must be met before the Doctoral Faculty will again consider an application for full admission.

The Doctoral Faculty of the Department of History, in consultation with the History faculty as a whole, make recommendations to the Dean of Graduate Faculties and Research on each application for admission. These recommendations reflect the majority vote of the Doctoral Faculty.

Applicants are advised that meeting the criteria of the School of Graduate Studies and the Department of History does not automatically result in admission to the interdisciplinary Ph.D. program. When making recommendations to the School of Graduate Studies, the History faculty consider other factors as well, particularly the availability of faculty qualified to work in the applicant's area of interest, and the availability of library resources and research materials.

ALTERNATE ADMISSION CRITERIA: In exceptional cases, candidates who do not meet either the School of Graduate Studies or the History Department's minimum requirements for admission may be admitted under alternate criteria. The Doctoral Faculty of the department have adopted the following alternate criteria, one or more of which will be used to assess the applicants's ability; satisfactory performance in 500 or above-level classes taken in the department's Master's degree program; positive, written recommendations of our faculty willing to work with the applicant who have evaluated his/her previous work; satisfactory completion of specified courses in the department before consideration or reconsideration of a candidate's application; publications or comparable professional achievements related to the study of History.

THE PLAN OF STUDY: If full admission is granted, the student who chooses History as a discipline must satisfy the residency requirements of the School of Graduate Studies, and must fulfill the course requirements of the Ph.D. Plan of Study as prepared by the student and his/her advisor(s) and approved by the Ph.D. Executive Committee.

A student whose Coordinating discipline is History will be required to list at least 18 hours of graduate-level History courses (exclusive of dissertation credits) on the Plan of Study. These will include: 3 hours of History 680 (Doctoral Colloquium: Approaches to History); 3 hours of History 687 (Doctoral Research Seminar); 6 hours minimum of History 697 (Independent Reading and Research) or at least one independent readings course with each member of the department on the Supervisory Committee; 3 hours of History 581 (Research Methodology) if this course or its equivalent has not been taken before; and the remainder of the program in courses numbered 500 or above. Coursework should be fashioned to prepare the student for the Comprehensive Examination (see below). Thus, the student should identify a general field of historical study, a specific field relevant to the dissertation topic, and seek through History 680 and other courses to attain a general comprehension of historical analysis and methodology.

Students for whom History is a Co-discipline will be required to take, at the minimum, the four core courses of the department's M.A. program (History 581--Research Methodology; History 587--Research Seminar; and two graduate colloquia), as well as History 680 (Doctoral Colloquium).

In exceptional or unusual circumstances, some of these hours may be waived upon petition to the student's Supervisory Committee.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION: The History Department requires that the comprehensive examination of a student listing History as a discipline include both a written and an oral component. For students with History as a Coordinating discipline, there will be three areas of examination: one covering approaches to history; one covering a general field of history; and one covering a specific field of history related to the dissertation topic. See the appended list of general and specific fields offered by the department.

For Co-discipline students, the written component will cover two areas: methods of and approaches to History; and a specific field of History related to the dissertation topic.

It is expected that in the oral examination, questions of an interdisciplinary nature will be asked of both Coordinating and Co-discipline students.

DISSERTATION REQUIREMENTS: A student for whom History is a discipline must meet the School of Graduate Studies requirements for the dissertation. On a Ph.D. Plan of Study where History is the coordinating discipline, there must be a minimum of 12 credits in History 699 (Dissertation hours).

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS: Those students for whom History comprises 50% or more of the Program of Study, or whose dissertation will utilize sources in a foreign language or languages, must demonstrate competency either through a passing satisfactory score on the ETS language examination, or through a special examination approved by the student's examining committee.

Those students for whom History comprises less than 50% of the Plan of Study, and whose dissertation will not utilize sources in a foreign language, will ordinarily not be required to demonstrate language competency. It is strongly urged, however, that all Ph.D. students choosing History as a primary discipline will pursue the development of foreign language skills or equivalent (quantitative) research skills.

RETENTION IN THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM: A doctoral student must maintain a 3.0 Grade Point Average in each semester of course work taken at UMKC. A student who falls below a 3.0 GPA, or whose work is deemed unsatisfactory by his/her Supervisory Committee, may be declared ineligible for further study. In exceptional cases, such a student may petition to be placed on probation for one semester. A

person receiving a failing grade in a class will normally not be retained in the doctoral program.