

HISTORY, MA, THESIS OPTION

Arts & Humanities (ah) (<https://catalog.csub.edu/general-information/csub-information/school-arts-humanities/>)

Department of History (<https://catalog.csub.edu/general-information/csub-information/school-arts-humanities/department-history/>)

Department Chair: Douglas Dodd

Office: Office: Humanities Office Building (HOB), 131

Phone: Phone: (661) 654-2847

Email: sallen13@csub.edu

www.csub.edu/history/M.A.%20Program/index.html (<http://www.csub.edu/history/M.A.%20Program/>)

Program Maps for Arts and Humanities (<https://programmmap.csub.edu/academics/interest-clusters/b25268bc-3d3d-44bd-8366-730406c8a906/>)

Program Requirements Program Options

There are two program options leading to an MA degree in History: the examination option and the thesis option. and are credit/no-credit courses. Graduate students are encouraged to earn as many units as possible in 5000- or 6000-level courses. A maximum of 12 semester units, however, may be earned in 4000-level courses.

Once students decide on the examination or thesis option, they should secure the appropriate Plan of Study from the Graduate Program Coordinator. This Plan of Study, which will be kept in individual students' files, will formally indicate committee members, coursework leading to the MA degree, date of classification, and satisfaction of the GVAR (see below).

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GVAR)

All MA candidates must demonstrate writing competency at the upper-division level. Students who have not had the equivalent of an upper-division writing course in history, in consultation with the Graduate Coordinator, may be required either to take or the waiver exam. Details on the GVAR waiver exam are available at: www.csub.edu/testing/tests/test%20description/GVAR/ (<http://www.csub.edu/testing/tests/test%20description/GVAR/>).

Waiver of GVAR

MA students may be exempted from the GVAR if the following apply:

- The student has graduated from a CSU or UC since 1980.
- The student earned the following score on a standardized test taken since 1980: CBEST—41 or higher on the writing portion; GMA
- 4.5 or higher on the writing portion; GRE—4.5 or higher on the analytic writing portion of the GRE General Test.
- The student has had one or more articles published as a first author in a refereed professional journal (student must submit this work to the chair of the university-wide GVAR committee with a formal request to waive the GVAR).

- The student already holds an MA or MS in any discipline that included a master's thesis or project. (The student must submit this work to the chair of the university-wide GVAR committee with a formal request to waive the GVAR).

The Master of Arts in History - Thesis Option (30 units)

The thesis option path is designed for those students who expect to continue on for the PhD or an advanced degree through other research and writing-intensive graduate programs. Permission to pursue this option is contingent on departmental approval.

Code	Title	Units
Required Courses		
HIST 5030	Historical Research Methods and Historiography	3
HIST 6970	Master's Thesis ¹	3
Graduate Seminar Courses		
Select at least three in a chosen field related to the thesis topic		9
<i>The Americas</i>		
HIST 5110	Reading Seminar in US History to 1865	
HIST 5120	Reading Seminar in US History in 1860	
HIST 5130	Reading Seminar in the American West	
HIST 5310	Reading Seminar in Latin American History	
<i>World History</i>		
HIST 5410	Reading Seminar in the Asian World	
HIST 5420	Reading Seminar in African/Middle Eastern History	
HIST 5510	Seminar in European History	
HIST 5610	Reading Seminar in the Ancient Mediterranean World	
HIST 5620	Reading Seminar in the Atlantic World	
Additional Graduate		
Graduate or 4000-level courses ²		12-15
Total Units		27-30

¹ The student may take HIST 6970 Master's Thesis as a directed (or guided) research course—*independent study*—each semester of the second year of study to complete the thesis

² Students may take no more than 40% of the program (12 units) in 4000-level courses

Thesis Proposal

Students are reminded that a good master's thesis is a significant piece of written work, usually requiring research in primary sources. Because primary sources are scarce at CSUB, the choice of thesis topics is severely limited, and students need to assure the Department Graduate Committee that source material necessary to the topic is available. The thesis topic should be selected at the time of achieving Classified Status in order to ensure the maximum amount of time for completion. Research for the master's thesis or project that involves data from or about human subjects may be required to be reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects Research (IRB/HSR).

Students should meet with their thesis director and discuss in detail their subject, the elements of a thesis, and the sources to be examined before submission of the thesis proposal. The proposal, accompanied by chapter descriptions and a bibliography, shall be submitted to the

thesis director and approved by the thesis committee no later than one semester before enrolling in HIST 6970 Master's Thesis. The names of the thesis committee members should be submitted at the same time.

Thesis Committee

The thesis committee shall consist of three faculty readers: the specialist reader (chair) and two others. If the thesis topic involves expertise in another discipline, one reader may be chosen from that discipline with the approval of the thesis director and the Department Graduate Committee. The thesis committee will judge whether or not the thesis represents sound research and will ensure that it meets the standards of the profession in originality, scholarship, and written English.