

Department of History & Philosophy

MA in History PhD in History

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

The Department of History and Philosophy is dedicated to providing quality education in History for two graduate degree programs, the M.A. and the Ph.D. The Graduate Program is designed to train students to think historically, to conduct research effectively, and to write lucidly. Students research and write in seminar settings as well as individually under the guidance of each student's graduate committee.

The program seeks to expand students' intellectual horizons and expose students to the variety of roles played by historians in academic and public life through seminar discussions, classroom instruction, teaching assistantships, research assistantships, and internships.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs) are available and are awarded based on merit, departmental funding, academic performance prior to entering the program and prior performance as a GTA (for current GTAs seeking continuing funding), and are determined by the faculty and the Graduate Committee as a whole. Occasionally, Graduate Research Assistantships are available, some of which include a tuition waiver.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Official transcripts from all universities attended
- Minimum 3.0 GPA
- A two-page personal statement addressing the applicant's areas of intended study and qualifications for graduate-level work
- Three letters of recommendation written by individuals in a position to assess your potential for success in a graduate course of study
- A 15-20 page writing sample, preferably from a history related course

WHY MONTANA STATE

Our program's small size and our faculty's commitment to close, one-to-one mentoring makes our program stand out from other graduate programs nationwide. This is a program where students and faculty know one another and develop a collegial spirit through student research colloquia, First Friday get togethers, History Graduate Student Association events and the High-Altitude History Blog, as well as summer graduate student conferences at field stations across the West.

Students have many opportunities to collaborate with faculty and with prestigious visiting scholars brought in by the annual Wallace Stegner lecture, the Ivan Doig Center, the Montana Institute on Ecosystems, and the Center for Science, Technology, Ethics, and Society. The department organizes colloquia, workshops, and informal interactions between faculty and graduate students that stimulate creative, interdisciplinary, and provocative scholarship.

Students can gain valuable professional experience at local and regional venues, including:

- The Museum of the Rockies
- The Gallatin History Museum
- The Montana Historical Society
- Yellowstone National Park
- The C.M. Russell Museum
- The Buffalo Bill Historical Center

CONTACT INFORMATION

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