

School of History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies | College of Liberal Arts

# HISTORY MA/MS GRADUATE HANDBOOK



Oregon State  
University



# Contents

Options	4
Overall Requirements	5
Minimum Requirements	5
Basic program Requirements	5
Project and Thesis Defense	5
Requirements for Option 1	6
Requirements for Option 2	7
Requirements for Option 3	8
Important Checkpoints	8



**OPTIONS:**

Students will specialize in one of three graduate options:



**1** Global Perspectives on War, Peace, and Empire, with course work on the Holocaust, the Rise of Anti-Semitism, the World Wars, War in History, and Empires in Latin America, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.

**2** History of Science and Technology, concentrating on the history of the life and environmental sciences, drawing from an invaluable onsite collection of personal documents relating to Linus Pauling and other prominent scientists.



**3** Community History and Civic Engagement with a focus on the history of race in the West, citizenship in the USA, social welfare, labor history, immigration, activism and public history.

**OVERALL REQUIREMENTS:**

HST MA/MS MINIMUM Graduation Requirements

45 quarter credits taken at OSU – Corvallis within the MA/MS HST program

Transfer credits in history accepted if taken at OSU at the graduate level (as MAIS or other MA/MS program students)

**THIS IS A COHORT-BASED PROGRAM**

Overall, students will take courses offered in SHPR, and, secondarily, across OSU, as opposed to directed readings arranged individually with professors.

Students will not take thesis or project credit until fall of their second year.

Students will not take any more than 5 thesis credits in any given term until their final term before graduation.

**BASIC PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (FUNDAMENTALS) FOR ALL HST MA/MS STUDENTS:**

REQUIRED FUNDAMENTALS carry a value of 12 credits (4 credits x 3 classes).

Every HST MA/MS student must take one HST 511, HST 512, and a 599 in either HST or HSTS (the latter option only if they are concentrating on Science and Technology in History).

See below for specific requirements in each option.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR COURSEWORK IN EACH OPTION:**

- REQUIRED COURSEWORK carries a value of 12 credits (4 credits x 3 classes).
- The required course work varies by option.
- See below for specific requirements for each option.

**THESIS OR PROJECT REQUIREMENT:**

- THESIS carries a minimum value of 6 credits, and a maximum of 12 total over the course of the degree.

- PROJECT carries a value of 4 credits (1 class) maximum.
- The project track is especially recommended for students in the Community History and Civic Engagement Option.
- Thesis and Project credit classes will be taken with the students’ major advisor.
- Overall, this program requires 45 credits in HST or HSTS, for students in the History of Science and Technology Option, to graduate.
- Additional elective credits should be taken in HST or HSTS graduate courses, or, with guidance from the faculty mentor, in other courses at OSU.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Students in the MA Program must pass a language-proficiency exam or approved graduate level course work.
- The exam is typically a translation assigned by their major advisor.
- Students in the MS program do not have a language requirement.

**PROJECT AND THESIS DEFENSES Steps:**

- Work with the graduate school to organize a time and the required paperwork for the defense.
- The first part of the defense includes a presentation and questions from anyone who wishes to attend.
- The second part of the defense is open only to committee members.
- Announce the time formally through the SHPR list serve, contact Suzanne Giftai to do this.
- Thesis defenses require a GCR present. This is optional, but recommended, for project defenses.





**REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH OPTION:**

**Global Perspectives on War, Peace, and Empire Option**

28 credits minimum as specified below. Additional 17 elective credits should be taken in HST or HSTS graduate courses, or, with guidance from the faculty mentor, in other units at OSU. Students in this option must pass a language proficiency test, in order to graduate with an MA.

**Year One Requirements:**

Students must take HST 511 or HST 512, one HST 599 in Global History Topics, and at least two other HST classes at the 500 level.

Total minimum required credits in year one: 16

**Year Two Requirements:**

Students must take one HST 599 in Global History Topics (topics rotate annually), and at least one other HST 500-level class. Students must take at least 6 credits of HST 503 or 4 credits of HST 506, working with their major advisor. Total minimum required credits in year two = 12.

**Global Perspectives on War, Peace and Empire  
Option Requirements /Program of Study by year**

(these courses can be taken any term they are offered):

1	HST 511 or 512	HST 599 (Global HST topic)	2 additional HST 500 level classes
2	HST 599 (Global HST topic)	1 other HST class	at least 6 credits of HST 503 or 4 credits of HST 506

**History of Science and Technology Option:**

28 credits minimum as specified below. Additional 17 elective credits should be taken in HST or HSTS graduate courses, or, with guidance from the faculty mentor, in other units at OSU.

**Year One Requirements:**

Students must take HST 511 or HST 512, one HSTS 599, and at least two other HSTS-designated classes in their first year. Total minimum HSTS/HST credits in year one = 16.

**Year Two Requirements:**

Students must take HSTS 599 at least once and at least one other HSTS-designated classes in their second year. Students must take at least 6 credits of HSTS 503 or 4 credits of HST 506 working with their major advisor. Total minimum HSTS/HST credits in year two = 12.

**History of Science and Technology Requirements/Program of Study by year**

(these courses can be taken any term they are offered):

1	HST 511 or 512	HSTS 599	2 additional HSTS 500 level classes
2	HSTS 599	1 other HSTS 500 level class	at least 6 credits of HSTS 503 or 4 credits of HST 506





Community and Civic Engagement Option:

36 credits minimum as specified below. Additional 9 elective credits should be taken in HST or HSTS graduate courses, or, with guidance from the faculty mentor, in other units at OSU.

Year One Requirements:

Students must take HST 511 or HST 512, one HST 599 in US History, HST 514, and at least two other HST classes at the 500 level.

Total minimum HST credits in year one = 20.

Year Two Requirements:

Students must take one HST 599 in US History (topic rotates annually), HST 510, and at least one other HST 500-level class from the list included in the YEAR ONE REQUIREMENTS. Students must take at least 6 credits of HST 503 or 4 credits of HST 506, working with their major advisor. Total minimum HST/HSTS credits in year two = 16.

Civic History Requirements/Program of Study by year  
(these courses can be taken any term they are offered):

1	HST 511 or 512	HST 599 (US) and HST 514	2 additional HST 500 level classes
2	HST 599 (US)	HST 510 1 other HST class	at least 6 credits of HST 503 or 4 credits of HST 506

HST 510 is a 4-credit internship with an organization such as the OSU Foundation, SCARC, Alumni Association, OSU Press, Benton County Historical Society/Museum, Oregon Historical Society, City of Corvallis, Corvallis Chamber of Commerce, the National Parks Service, the National Forest Service, local newspapers and local/state/national publications, other historical sites, societies, businesses, local and state government representatives’ offices, regional historical societies, and museums. Students also have online internship opportunities such as with the History News Network or Washington Post Made by History Section.

IMPORTANT CHECKPOINTS:

- For those receiving an MA, a language exam will be taken by no later than fall of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. An MS does not require a language exam.
- Advisor will be chosen by winter term of the 1<sup>st</sup> year.
- Defense will be scheduled by the end of winter term of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in the program.

