The BA/BS program in the Department of History pursues four main goals, aligned with the Northern Illinois University's Baccalaureate Student Learning Outcomes (Critical Thinking, Creativity, and Communication) with an additional goal of Context. Below each goal statement is a series of objectives.

Goal 1. Context: Students gain a broad, comparative understanding of the human past. Graduates with a BA/BS from the Department of History:

1.1 Change and Continuity: Demonstrate both broad and deep knowledge of long-term historical developments.

1.2 Diversity: Understand how societies have constructed and experienced history across time, place, and person.

1.3 Explanation: Explain distinctions between different historical periods, places, actors, events, and forces by using disciplinary categories of analysis and academic language.

Goal 2. Critical Thinking: Students learn to think critically about the past and develop the curiosity needed to pursue in-depth knowledge of particular historical subjects. Graduates with a BA/BS from the Department of History:

2.1 Consciousness: Display an appreciation of causation, chronology, contingency, complexity, multiple perspectives, historical empathy, and contemporary relevance.

2.2 Curiosity: Develop the ability to ask historical questions in the language of the discipline.

2.3 Historical Scholarship: Read works of historical scholarship for argument, historiographical context, and perspective.

2.4 Historical Record: Use primary sources to address historical questions.

Goal 3. Creativity: Students develop original and complex interpretations of the past. Graduates with a BA/BS from the Department of History:

3.1 Research and Engaged Learning: Use libraries, archives, museums, databases, reference works, and other research resources to locate primary and secondary sources.

3.2 Discovery: Design, research, and write original interpretations that are based on evidence from the historical record and situated within relevant scholarly literatures.

Goal 4. Communication: Students express historical interpretations both orally and in writing. Graduates with a BA/BS from the Department of History:

4.1 Expression: Convey oral and written explanations of the past in clear and grammatically correct language.
4.2 **Convention**: Write in the conventions of the discipline of history and conform to the profession’s current practices of citation and quotation.