

History Major Checklist of Degree Requirements

History Major (40 hours)

Lower Division Requirements (12 hours/4 courses):

6 hours 100-level Survey

(choose any two of the following) _____

110 Western Civilization to 1500

111 Western Civilization 1500-1815

112 Western Civilization Since 1815

140 Asia to 1500

141 Asia Since 1500

170 World History I: Problems in the Human Past

171 World History II: Problems in the Human Past

6 hours 200-level Survey

(choose any two of the following) _____

260 American History to 1865

261 American History since 1865

270 The African-American to 1865

271 The African-American Since 1865

Upper Division Requirements (28 hours/9 courses) at the 300/400 level:

Required Courses (7 hours/2 courses):

HIST 395 Historical Methods _____ (**HIST 395 must be taken *before* HIST 495.**)

The History Department recommends completing HIST 395 after at least one semester at NIU and before earning 90 credit hours.

HIST 495 Senior Thesis (4 hours/1 course) _____ (**Majors must take at least one 400-level course *before* HIST 495.**)

Most majors take HIST 495 in their last semester; licensure students take it just prior to student teaching.

Elective Courses (21 hours, 7 courses):

- Majors must take at least one class each from Groups A, B, and C (the undergraduate catalog lists which courses are in which group) plus four electives at the 300 or 400 level. Although HIST 390, 396, 398, 399, 469, 470, 492, 493, 494, and 496 are not assigned to a specific group, they will count in the major as one of the four electives.
- Majors must take at least 6 hours/2 courses at the 400 level in addition to HIST 495 (and for licensure students in addition to HIST 400). **At least one of these 400-level courses must be taken *before* HIST 495.**

Upper Division Distribution Requirement (9 hours/3 courses):

Group A _____

Group B _____

Group C _____

Upper Division Electives (12 hours/4 courses) _____

History Major FAQ

What are the differences between 300- and 400-level courses?

400-level classes often have a more focused thematic emphasis or chronological scope than 300-level courses. 400-level courses tend to have smaller enrollments. If cross-listed as 500-level courses, they will include graduate students who must do additional work to earn graduate credit. 400-level courses are likely to require either historiographical writing assignments (e.g. book reviews, state-of-the-field essays) or research projects based on primary sources. 400-level courses tend to emphasize historiographical thought through reading, analysis, and discussion of historical scholarship. Individual faculty have discretion to decide which of these elements to emphasize in their classes.

What is the logic behind the numbering of upper division history courses?

The subject matter of an upper division history course does more to dictate its number than any other factor. Higher numbers do not therefore represent increased difficulty.

What exactly are groups A, B, and C?

These groups are designed to ensure that history majors have geographic and temporal breadth in their studies. A is pre-1800, B is non-western, and C is post-1800 western (US and Europe). Because certain courses could fall under more than one group or do not clearly fall into a single group, majors should never depend on the descriptions above in determining a course's designated group. Majors should always check the lists for Groups A, B, and C in the undergraduate catalog.

(See reverse for other degree requirements)

General Education, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and University Degree Requirements

The following information is provided as a courtesy. If you began your degree at NIU prior to August 2015, you may be under a different set of general education requirements. See a CLAS advisor on a regular basis to ensure that you are meeting the following requirements in a timely fashion:

Foundational Studies Requirements

- Rhetoric and Composition: ENGL (103 and 203* or 204) or pass the English Core Competency II Exam
- Oral Communication: COMS 100 or pass the Oral Communication Core Competency Exam
- Quantitative Literacy: one MATH course: 101, 155, 201, 206, 210, 211, 229 **or one** of the following: STAT 208, STAT 350, ISYE 335, UBUS 223 **and one** of the following: MATH 110 or ACT math score 24+ or SAT math score 560+ or A-B placement on the Math Placement Exam. Note: all courses (except MATH 101) require a C or better.

*The History Department recommends either 203B or 203D.

Knowledge Domains (21 hours, with no more than *two* courses in *one* department. History majors may count two HIST courses towards these general education requirements. See catalog for course choices.

- Creativity and Critical Analysis (at least 6 hours)
- Nature and Technology (at least 6 hours)
- Society and Culture (at least 6 hours)

B.A. Degree Requirement for history majors: Candidates for the Bachelor of Arts degree must demonstrate competence in a foreign language equivalent to that attained in two years of college instruction. See the Undergraduate Catalog for the ways in which one can fulfill this requirement.

B.S. Degree Requirement for history majors: Candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences must demonstrate competence in laboratory science/mathematical/computational skills. This requirement may be met by completing one of the five sequences listed in the Undergraduate Catalog under the heading "College Requirement for the B.S. Degree."

To comply with NIU university requirements you will also need:

- A minimum of 120 semester hours (that can be applied toward the bachelors degree) for graduation.
- At least 40 of those 120 hours in 300-400 level courses, including at least 12 hours in the major taken at NIU.
 - Completion of history major upper-division requirements provides 28 of these 40 hours.
 - The other 12 must be completed with coursework in other departments or additional history courses.
- No more than 60 semester hours in your major.
- To attain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 in all credit earned at NIU and 2.00 in NIU courses in your major. (There are higher requirements for those seeking admission to teacher licensure and to student teaching; see departmental advisor in teacher licensure for details).
- To meet the residence requirement. This requirement can be satisfied by taking the last 30 hours in NIU courses. See the undergraduate catalog for a more detailed statement and exceptions.
- Students who enter NIU with 30 or fewer credit hours, excluding credits awarded through NIU's Credit By Examination Program, must earn credit in two upper-division courses that are designated as "writing-infused."

Please note:

Students seeking teacher licensure must complete significant additional course work, primarily in professional education and the social sciences. For a complete explanation of licensure guidelines, students should consult with the department's office of teacher licensure as soon as possible.

Seeing a history advisor or history faculty mentor as well as a college advisor and your minor advisor each semester will help ensure that you graduate in a timely manner.

(See reverse for major requirements)