

# History

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## Department Information

- **Department Head:**  
Mark Harvey, Ph.D.
- **Graduate Program Director:**  
Bradley Benton, Ph.D.
- **Department Location:**  
422 Minard
- **Department Phone:**  
(701) 231-8654
- **Department Email:**  
ndsu.history@ndsu.edu
- **Department Web Site:**  
ndsuhistory.org/ (<http://ndsuhistory.org>)
- **Application Deadline:**  
April 1 for assistantship consideration
- **Credential Offered:**  
Ph.D., M.A., M.S.
- **Test Requirement:**  
GRE
- **English Proficiency Requirements:**  
TOEFL ibt 100; IELTS 7

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## Program Description

The graduate program in history at North Dakota State University has offered a master's degree since the Graduate School was founded in 1954 and a Ph.D. in History since 2002.

For more information on our Master's and Doctoral programs, please see the department's website.

### Master's Degree

The Department of History graduate program is open to qualified graduates of universities and colleges of recognized standing. In addition to the Graduate School admission requirements, the applicant must also

- provide a statement of intent that clearly outlines the applicant's interest and purpose for seeking a master's degree in history. The department uses this statement to assess the applicant's ability to organize thoughts, to formulate a plan of academic study, and to complete the graduate program. This statement also enables the department to determine whether North Dakota State University's graduate history program suits the applicant's needs and objectives.
- Submit a substantial paper submitted for an upper-division history class or for a class in the humanities and social sciences. The paper should provide evidence of an applicant's ability to synthesize information, to organize his/her thoughts logically, and to communicate clearly and effectively.
- Take the general Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) and submit these scores before admission to the program. The department requires students whose native language is not English to submit a TOEFL score.

### Ph.D.

Preference for admission into the Ph.D. program with full graduate standing will be given to applicants who have a GPA of at least 3.5 in history courses in an earned bachelor's or master's degree.

Applicants shall submit a statement of intent clearly outlining their research interests, potential major adviser, career goals, and purpose for seeking a Ph.D. in History.

Applicants will submit a substantial paper submitted for a class in History to provide evidence of ability to research thoroughly, to interpret and analyze primary and secondary sources, to synthesize information, to organize thoughts logically, and to communicate clearly and effectively.

The GRE examination is required.

The TOEFL is required for students for whom English is not a native language.

## Residency Requirements

Students enrolled in the Ph.D. program are required to complete at least one academic year (18 credits minimum) in residence on campus.

Most graduate courses are held during the workday, but a number of courses are offered in the late afternoon and evening each semester to accommodate working professionals within driving distance of NDSU. Online courses are not typically offered.

## Financial Assistance

Both teaching and research assistantships are available. Graduate assistants work between 10 and 20 hours per week, and the appointments include a tuition waiver. Students wishing to apply for assistantships should indicate this in their application. The deadline for assistantship applications is March 1.

The department awards and renews assistantships based on maintenance of good standing in the program and full-time registration during the appointment, demonstration of historical knowledge and good communication skills, progress towards completion of a degree, financial need, and minority status in cases of equally qualified candidates.

Master's students can generally expect a maximum of 2 years of funding, while doctoral students are typically awarded no more than 4 years of support.

## Master's Degree

### Master of Arts

The department offers both the Master of Arts and the Master of Science degrees in history. The Master of Arts requires proficiency in at least one foreign language and the successful defense of a thesis. Those planning to continue graduate study in history at the doctoral level are strongly encouraged to pursue the MA. The Master of Science is designed for in-service professionals and has no language or thesis requirement; students pursuing the MS are generally not awarded assistantships or tuition waivers. Both degrees require a minimum of 30 credit hours with a minimum of 24 hours in history.

Code	Title	Credits
HIST 702	Historiography	3
HIST 705	Directed Research (taken during second year)	1
HIST 710	Research Seminar in North American History	3
Select 6 credits of the following (one to be declared the student's major area and the other the minor area):		6
HIST 730	Readings in North American History	
HIST 760	Readings in European History	
HIST 780	Readings in World History	
History course work at 600 level or above		6-9
Course work in approved outside field, at 600 level or above		3
HIST 798	Master's Thesis	8
Total Credits		30-33

### Master of Science Degree

Code	Title	Credits
HIST 702	Historiography	3
HIST 710	Research Seminar in North American History	3
Select 9 credits of the following (one to be declared the student's major area and the other the minor area):		9
HIST 730	Readings in North American History	3
HIST 760	Readings in European History	3
HIST 780	Readings in World History	3
<b>6xx-level or above courses (Up to 3 credits may be taken from outside of the history department.)</b>		12
HIST 797	Master's Paper	3
Total Credits		39

## Ph.D. Degree

The department offers a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in History. The Ph.D. in History is a research degree. It requires the successful defense of a dissertation based on primary sources that makes an original contribution to knowledge. We only admit students who already hold an M.A. in History or another very closely related field.

Foreign language requirements vary from field to field. One foreign language is required for students in the U.S. field. At least two foreign languages are required for all others, depending on the languages needed to conduct research and access the secondary literature. The language requirement can be met by completing college coursework in that language through the second year (e.g., SPAN 202) or by passing a language exam administered by the faculty.

Code	Title	Credits
HIST 702	Historiography	3
HIST 705	Directed Research	1
HIST 710	Research Seminar in North American History (May be repeated for credit, provided the topics are different.)	3
<b>Readings courses (Any of them may be repeated for credit, provided the topics are different.)</b>		<b>6</b>
HIST 730	Readings in North American History	
HIST 760	Readings in European History	
HIST 780	Readings in World History	
<b>6xx - level or higher courses (At least 3 and no more than 6 of these credits must come from non-HIST courses)</b>		<b>15</b>
HIST 899	Doctoral Dissertation	1
Total Credits		29

### Ashley Baggett, Ph. D.

Louisiana State University, 2014

Field: Women's History/Gender Studies, 19th century U.S., Southern History

### Tracy Barrett, Ph.D.

Cornell University, 2007

Field: East and Southeast Asia, Overseas Chinese

### Bradley Benton, Ph.D.

University of California, Los Angeles, 2012

Field: Latin American History, Colonial Mexico; Nahua (Aztec) politics, society, and culture; the early modern Atlantic world; cross-cultural contact and exchange.

### Anne Blackenship, Ph.D.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2012

Field: Religion & Social Justice, Material Culture, Religion and the American West, Immigration, Civil Religion, Transpacific Studies, Pilgrimage

### Sean Burt, Ph.D.

Duke University, 2009

Field: Religious Studies

### Dennis Cooley, Ph.D.

University of Rochester, 1995

Field: Ethics (Bioethics, Environmental, Agricultural, Medical, Business, Professional, and Theoretical), History of Modern Philosophy

### John K. Cox, Ph.D.

Indiana University, 1995

Field: Eastern Europe, Russia, Germany, Ottoman Empire

### Anthony Flood, Ph.D.

University of Oklahoma, 2003

Field: Philosophy, Logic

### Mark Harvey, Ph.D.

University of Wyoming, 1986

Field: American West, Environmental History, Public History

### Thomas D. Isern, Ph.D.

Oklahoma State University, 1977

Field: History and Folklore of the North American Plains, History of Agriculture

**Don Johnson, Ph.D.**

Northwestern University, 2015

Field: Colonial and Revolutionary America History

**Marcela Perett, Ph.D.**

University of Notre Dame, 2009

Field: Late Antiquity, Medieval Europe, Renaissance & Reformation

**Angela Smith, Ph.D.**

Middle Tennessee State University, 2011

Field: Public History, 20th Century American History, Cultural History, Digital History