

**Fiscal Unit/Academic Org** History - D0557  
**Administering College/Academic Group** Arts and Sciences  
**Co-administering College/Academic Group** Graduate School  
**Semester Conversion Designation** New Program/Plan  
**Proposed Program/Plan Name** Graduate Minor in History  
**Type of Program/Plan** Graduate minor  
**Program/Plan Code Abbreviation** HISTMIN  
**Proposed Degree Title**

## Credit Hour Explanation

Program credit hour requirements		A) Number of credit hours in current program (Quarter credit hours)	B) Calculated result for 2/3rds of current (Semester credit hours)	C) Number of credit hours required for proposed program (Semester credit hours)	D) Change in credit hours
Total minimum credit hours required for completion of program				10	
Required credit hours offered by the unit	Minimum			10	
	Maximum			10	
Required credit hours offered outside of the unit	Minimum			0	
	Maximum			0	
Required prerequisite credit hours not included above	Minimum			0	
	Maximum			0	

## Program Learning Goals

Note: these are required for all undergraduate degree programs and majors now, and will be required for all graduate and professional degree programs in 2012. Nonetheless, all programs are encouraged to complete these now.

### **Program Learning Goals**

- Encouraging students to take an interdisciplinary approach to their graduate studies with the aid of a historian.  
Qualifying students from outside the field of history to work as historians.

## Assessment

Assessment plan includes student learning goals, how those goals are evaluated, and how the information collected is used to improve student learning. An assessment plan is required for undergraduate majors and degrees. Graduate and professional degree programs are encouraged to complete this now, but will not be required to do so until 2012.

**Is this a degree program (undergraduate, graduate, or professional) or major proposal?** No

## Program Specializations/Sub-Plans

If you do not specify a program specialization/sub-plan it will be assumed you are submitting this program for all program specializations/sub-plans.

## Pre-Major

**Does this Program have a Pre-Major?** No

**Attachments**

- graduate.minor.proposal.revised.pdf: Minor proposal  
*(Program Proposal. Owner: Heikes,Jacklyn Celeste)*
- Letter of Support - History - Graduate Minor.pdf: Letter of Support from Dean Hahn  
*(Support/Concurrence Letters. Owner: Heikes,Jacklyn Celeste)*

**Comments**

- All program proposals from the College of Arts and Sciences must be ad hoc'd to Bernadette Vankeerbergen for ASC review before they can be submitted to the Graduate School for review by the Curricular subcommittee. *(by Pearce,Laura Elizabeth on 06/27/2019 07:17 AM)*
- letter of support for graduate school review from College Dean forthcoming *(by Heysel,Garett Robert on 06/26/2019 11:43 PM)*

**Workflow Information**

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Heikes,Jacklyn Celeste	06/24/2019 09:53 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Otter,Christopher James	06/24/2019 09:58 AM	Unit Approval
Approved	Heysel,Garett Robert	06/26/2019 11:43 PM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Pearce,Laura Elizabeth	06/27/2019 07:17 AM	GradSchool Approval
Submitted	Heikes,Jacklyn Celeste	07/15/2019 12:42 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Otter,Christopher James	07/15/2019 01:02 PM	Unit Approval
Pending Approval	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	07/15/2019 01:46 PM	Ad-Hoc Approval
Approved	Heysel,Garett Robert	08/26/2019 11:18 AM	College Approval

June 5, 2019

Alicia L. Bertone  
Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Studies  
250 University Hall  
230 North Oval Mall  
Campus

Dear Alicia:

On behalf of the College of Arts and Sciences, I write to express enthusiastic support of establishing a new Graduate Minor in History. A Graduate Minor in History would offer significant benefit to graduate students within and outside of the Department of History as history intersects with many other disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences, and this program would offer students in those other disciplines the opportunity to add versatility to their professional profiles.

We look forward to the expansion of our graduate offerings and creating partnerships across campus.

Sincerely,



Peter L. Hahn  
Professor of History  
Dean, Arts and Humanities

## Proposal for a Graduate Minor in History

Date: June 12, 2019.

Department: History

Contact Persons: Greg Anderson, Chair of Graduate Studies (anderson.1381@osu.edu); Ashley Bowerman, Graduate Coordinator (bowerman.14@osu.edu)

Format: <https://gradsch.osu.edu/proposing-new-programs-degrees-and-specializations>

---

### 1. Title of Proposed Program: Graduate Minor in History

### 2. Rationale for its development, including description of purpose and benefits for participants:

Graduate students in many programs across the university are working on historical subjects that would benefit greatly from an in-depth analysis of the era's history. To offer some examples: How can a graduate student in the English department working on Renaissance literature feel confident in his analysis of John Milton's *Paradise Lost* without a solid understanding of the political upheaval and religious creativity produced by the English Commonwealth under Oliver Cromwell which acts as a backdrop and an inspiration to Milton's writing? How can a student in NELC working on the theme of modernization in Ottoman literature proceed without analysis of the historical relationship between the Ottoman Empire and the Western world, especially when modernity is intimately tied to the West? The answer to these questions is that they *could* do the work without input from an historian in their fields; however, their work would be of much better quality if they also work with an historian.

And of course, many of them are working with historians. Myriad faculty members in the History Department already work closely with graduate students in other majors across the university in order to better prepare them to tackle the work of writing an interdisciplinary dissertation. Creating a minor in history would formalize those existing relationships; at the same time, it would advertise the department's enthusiasm to create further interdisciplinary relationships. The creation of a graduate minor in history will benefit graduate students. At the moment, when a history professor works with a graduate student from another department, that relationship is not recognized on the student's transcript or CV; nor can the student claim any formal expertise in the field of history. This situation is not to the student's advantage when it comes to finding employment in the post-graduation phase. OSU offers programs that do not exist at most universities, such as AAAS, Comparative Studies, International Studies, NELC, WGSS. Someday the graduates of these programs will need to find jobs outside of the mega-university environment. Being associated with a more traditional department, like History, can be very beneficial when it comes to finding a job. History departments are notoriously reluctant to hire faculty members who were not trained specifically in the field of history, even when their research is historically focused. This is particularly pertinent for those graduates looking for jobs at small colleges where every faculty member is required to teach historical methods, historiography, and global history. Having a minor in history would better qualify and prepare a

NELC graduate or a WGSS graduate for such a position. To offer a specific example: this proposal was inspired by a PhD student in the Department of Dance whose research is in the history of dance. In all likelihood, someday she will be working in a department of History, because not many universities have Dance departments. It will be much easier for her to get such a job, if her transcript makes it clear that she is qualified to do so; that is, if it says “minor in History.”

Having a minor in history fits in better with the new cooperative and interdisciplinary vision of graduate education at the university. Across the College of Arts and Sciences, we are in the midst of downsizing our graduate programs. With much smaller programs, the departments within the college will need to rely more heavily on each other to deliver a quality education and create communities among graduate students. We cannot run a graduate class without six students. Many of us in smaller graduate fields have had to cancel classes because we cannot get enough students to fill our classes. The best way to do so is to encourage interdisciplinarity. Luckily for our graduate students, we live in an era when interdisciplinary training is highly prized; thus, smaller programs requiring cooperation between the departments may in fact be compelling us into a better means of delivering a graduate education.

In some respects, the History Department has been ahead of the game: it has already gone through this process of downsizing over the last decade, shrinking from accepting thirty-five graduate students each year to a more modest twelve to fourteen. In some areas of study, our programs are quite small. For example, we currently have two PhD students in Medieval history. Thus, when we offer a graduate course in the area of medieval history, the majority of the students are necessarily from other departments. We also cannot offer enough graduate classes in Medieval history to educate these students on our own. As a result, both of those students are enrolled in graduate minors in the English Department. This situation is not limited to medieval history. The same is true of Central Asian history, Chinese history, Early Modern European history, Latin American history, and Ancient history. These courses are filled with non-history majors, or they do not run at all. What can we learn from this? 1) Since students outside the major are already taking our classes, there is good reason to believe that they might find them useful enough to pursue a minor and get actual credit for taking the courses; 2) Having a graduate minor in history might encourage students to take not one or two courses in history, but instead three or four. An increased interest in our courses will help those in smaller programs to reach the necessary seat limits to guarantee that a course will actually run. It is always better for a student to take a seminar with other students rather than an independent study.

There is also good precedent for having a graduate minor in history. Other schools with graduate minors in history include Iowa State University, Stanford University, and the University of Minnesota. A glance over the departments at OSU that have graduate minors also suggests that the History Department is one of the few at OSU not to have developed such a program.

### **3. Description of proposed curriculum:**

a. Pre-requisite: At least a B+ in any graded History graduate course/independent study.

b. Minimum 10 credits (maximum 20 credits), including those from the pre-requisite course, all drawn from History department courses and/or independent studies (e.g., History 7193, 8193). It may therefore be possible to achieve the Minor by taking just three courses, though we would encourage students to take four classes if possible.

c. Required course:

- History 7900, “Colloquium in the Philosophy of History, Historiography, and the Historians’ Skills.” (3 cr.) This colloquium is fundamental for all history graduates as it tackles the foundations of historical and theoretical methodologies as well as the history of historical method. This grounding is critical for those who do history, but also those who teach history.

d. Excluded courses: The only courses that would not be available to the Minor student would be: 7905, 7910, 8999.

e. The student must achieve a minimum of a B+ grade in all courses that apply to the Minor.

#### **4. Administrative arrangements and support for the proposed graduate minor:**

a. To gain admission to the Minor program after completing the pre-requisite, the student will arrange with a suitable History Department faculty member to serve as an advisor. The advisor will then notify the History Department’s Director of Graduate Studies and Graduate Studies Coordinator of the arrangement for the record.

b. To ensure that suitable History courses are chosen, the student should always consult with the History advisor before enrolling in any classes.

c. Like any regular History graduate student, the graduate History Minor student is also entitled to seek guidance and help from History’s Director of Graduate Studies and Graduate Studies Coordinator at any time on any matter pertaining to the program.

#### **5. Plans to enroll students and prospective enrollment, including a statement of the maximum number of students to be enrolled at any one time:**

The Minor will be publicized through email lists and in all History graduate courses. We foresee no need to state a maximum number of enrolled students at this point.

#### **6. Letter(s) of support from the participating deans:**

Letter from Peter Hahn, Dean of Arts and Humanities