

# **Department of History Graduate Handbook**

August 2015  
College of Arts and Sciences  
University of Tennessee

## Table of Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Introduction.....</b>   | <b>4</b>  |
| <i>Purpose of the Handbook .....</i>   | <i>4</i>  |
| <i>Administrative Structure.....</i>   | <i>4</i>  |
| <i>Forms and Deadlines.....</i>  | <i>5</i>  |
| <i>General Duties and Responsibilities of Faculty and Graduate Students.....</i> | <i>5</i>  |
| <b>Admissions Requirements and Application.....</b>                              | <b>5</b>  |
| <i>Application Procedures.....</i>   | <i>6</i>  |
| <i>Application Deadlines.....</i>  | <i>6</i>  |
| <b>Financial Support.....</b>  | <b>6</b>  |
| <i>Graduate Assistantships.....</i>  | <i>6</i>  |
| <i>Support for Research Travel.....</i>  | <i>7</i>  |
| <i>Conference Travel.....</i>  | <i>7</i>  |
| <b>Registration and Advising.....</b>  | <b>8</b>  |
| <i>Adviser Selection.....</i>  | <i>8</i>  |
| <i>Registration Procedures.....</i>  | <i>8</i>  |
| <i>Types of Courses and Course Credit.....</i>                                   | <i>9</i>  |
| <i>Minimum Number of Hours for Full-time Status.....</i>                         | <i>9</i>  |
| <i>Proper Use of 502 (Use of Facilities).....</i>                                | <i>9</i>  |
| <i>Thesis and Dissertation Hours.....</i>  | <i>10</i> |
| <b>Degree Requirements for Master of Arts in History.....</b>                    | <b>10</b> |
| <i>Specializations.....</i>  | <i>10</i> |
| <i>Thesis Track Requirements.....</i>  | <i>10</i> |
| <i>Non-Thesis Track.....</i>   | <i>11</i> |
| <i>Independent Readings Courses.....</i>   | <i>11</i> |
| <i>Formation of Committee and Admission to Candidacy.....</i>                    | <i>12</i> |
| <i>Timetable for Degree Completion.....</i>                                      | <i>12</i> |
| <i>Transitioning to the PhD Program.....</i>                                     | <i>12</i> |
| <b>Degree Requirements for Doctor of Philosophy in History.....</b>              | <b>12</b> |
| <i>Concurrent MAs for PhD Candidates:.....</i>                                   | <i>12</i> |
| <i>Specializations.....</i>  | <i>13</i> |
| <i>Research Requirement.....</i>   | <i>13</i> |
| <i>Foreign Language Requirement.....</i>   | <i>14</i> |
| <i>Coursework Requirements.....</i>  | <i>15</i> |
| <i>Residency Requirements.....</i>   | <i>16</i> |
| <i>Coursework Taken Outside the History Department.....</i>                      | <i>16</i> |
| <i>Formation of the Committee.....</i>   | <i>16</i> |

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <i>Timetable for Degree Completion</i> .....                   | 16        |
| <b>Examinations: MA Program, Non-Thesis Option</b> .....       | <b>17</b> |
| <i>The Examination</i> .....                                   | 17        |
| <i>Scheduling the Exam</i> .....                               | 17        |
| <i>Examination Failure and Appeal Policy</i> .....             | 17        |
| <b>Examinations: MA Program, Thesis Option</b> .....           | <b>18</b> |
| <i>The Examination</i> .....                                   | 18        |
| <i>Administration Procedure, Scheduling, and Grading</i> ..... | 18        |
| <i>Examination Failure and Appeal Policy</i> .....             | 18        |
| <b>Examinations: PhD Program</b> .....                         | <b>19</b> |
| <i>The Comprehensive Examination</i> .....                     | 19        |
| <i>The Examination Committee</i> .....                         | 19        |
| <i>Content and Structure of the Exam</i> .....                 | 19        |
| <i>Timing of the Examination</i> .....                         | 20        |
| <i>Examination Failure and Appeals Policy</i> .....            | 20        |
| <i>Dissertation Defense</i> .....                              | 21        |
| <b>Standards, Problems, and Appeals</b> .....                  | <b>21</b> |
| <i>Required GPA</i> .....                                      | 21        |
| <i>Fourth Semester Review and Terminal MA</i> .....            | 22        |
| <i>MA Benchmarks for Progress to Degree</i> .....              | 22        |
| <i>PhD Benchmarks for Progress to Degree</i> .....             | 23        |
| <i>Legal Requirements for Research</i> .....                   | 23        |
| <i>Terms of Probation</i> .....                                | 23        |
| <i>Academic Honesty</i> .....                                  | 23        |
| <i>Termination from the Program</i> .....                      | 24        |
| <i>Department and University Appeal Procedure</i> .....        | 24        |

## Introduction

In order to serve the mission and vision of the Graduate School and preserve the integrity of Graduate Programs at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, information related to the process of graduate education in each department is to be provided for all graduate students. Based on best practices offered by the Council of Graduate Schools, it is important that detailed articulation of the information specific to the graduate degrees offered in each department be disseminated.

### Purpose of the Handbook

The Department Graduate Handbook does not deviate from the Graduate School Policies outlined in the Graduate Catalog, but rather provides the specific ways in which those policies are carried out. Graduate students are responsible for following all regulations governing their work and study at the university.

When planning your studies, always be sure to check both the relevant sections in this departmental handbook *and* the general Graduate Catalog. The current UTK Graduate Catalog can be found on the Graduate School's website (<http://catalog.utk.edu/index.php?catoid=17>).

Students should also be aware of the policies outlined in the Hilltopics Student Handbook (<http://dos.utk.edu/publications/hilltopics/index.shtml>), the Policies for the Administration of Graduate Assistantships ([http://catalog.utk.edu/content.php?catoid=7&navoid=521#poli\\_admi\\_grad\\_assi](http://catalog.utk.edu/content.php?catoid=7&navoid=521#poli_admi_grad_assi)), and the Graduate Council's Appeals Procedure (<http://gradschool.utk.edu/GraduateCouncil/gcouncil.shtml>).

### Administrative Structure

The Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) manages the day-to-day administration of the graduate program (currently, the DGS is Dr. Phillips, [aphill13@utk.edu](mailto:aphill13@utk.edu)). The duties of the DGS include publicizing the department's programs, working with the Graduate School and higher administration on issues relating to graduate education, and answering questions from applicants and current students. The graduate secretary, Bernice Koprince ([bkoprinc@utk.edu](mailto:bkoprinc@utk.edu)), assists the DGS in these duties.

The Graduate Committee (of which the DGS is a non-voting, ex-officio member) is appointed by the department head and oversees all aspects of graduate education in the department, making recommendations when necessary to the department head and department faculty. The Graduate Committee also evaluates all currently enrolled graduate students on an annual basis and recommends students to the department for

assistantships and other graduate awards. The admissions subcommittee of the Graduate Committee, which consists of the DGS and two committee members appointed by the Graduate Committee chair, evaluates and decides on applications to the graduate program. The chair of the Graduate Committee, appointed by the department head, convenes the Graduate Committee, insures that the Committee addresses those issues that the department head or faculty have charged it to consider, and works with the department head and DGS to identify further graduate matters that the committee or department needs to address.

### **Forms and Deadlines**

In the following handbook, students will find reference to multiple forms that need to be completed to mark completion of different phases of their graduate education.

Some required forms are mandated by the UTK Graduate School and can be found on the Graduate School website. Others are merely for internal departmental records, and they can be found on the History Department website. In all cases, please pay close attention to the listed deadlines for paperwork.

### **General Duties and Responsibilities of Faculty and Graduate Students**

Faculty members must teach seminars that introduce graduate students to the most important current approaches to professional history; they must read and respond to their students' work—especially drafts of theses and dissertations—in a timely manner; and must carefully oversee their advisees' progress through the degree program. While the onus is on students to seek out their advisers and schedule appointments, advisers are obliged to give thoughtful advice. In cases of conflict between advisor and advisee, both are encouraged to consult with the DGS and/or department head. Faculty should refer to the Faculty Handbook.

Graduate students are expected to be familiar with all degree requirements and to satisfy those requirements in a timely fashion. They should also observe all administrative deadlines and turn in forms and other paperwork on time.

### **Admissions Requirements and Application Procedure:**

The History Department considers applications to its MA and PhD programs once a year for admission the following fall. Student may apply to our PhD program either directly from the BA or from other MA programs. While most of our graduate students were undergraduate history majors, we also sometimes accept students with backgrounds in closely related fields.

For students who have no current plans to continue on for the doctorate, we also offer a terminal MA in History.

## **Application Procedures**

Applications to the History Department are submitted online through the UT Graduate School's general admissions portal. All of materials should be submitted through this online system. Please do not have materials mailed to the university.

Both MA and PhD applicants are required to submit the following materials:

- Online Graduate School application
- Nonrefundable application fee (\$60)
- Transcripts for all previously attended colleges and universities
- Graduate Record Examination scores
- Three recommendations from people familiar with your academic abilities and scholarly potential
- A writing sample (**approx. 15-30 pages**)
- A statement of scholarly interest that describes your intended field of study and your professional goals (**750 words**)
- A current CV
- Applicants whose native language is not English must also submit documentation of their English-language proficiency. For more details, please see the Graduate School website (<http://graduateadmissions.utk.edu/index.shtml>)

## **Application Deadlines**

The History Department will review all applications and make decisions about admission in the early spring. Once admissions decisions have been made, students will receive notification of their admission status from the Graduate School, with additional information following soon thereafter from the History Department if applicable.

# **Financial Support**

## **Graduate Assistantships**

The Department of History annually awards approximately twenty-two half-time graduate teaching assistantships (20 hours per week) that carry a tuition waiver and a base stipend of approximately \$11,100 per year. Students holding these awards are normally working toward the PhD and serve as teaching assistants for upper division courses or large undergraduate survey courses. The Department also has four quarter-time graduate research assistantships (10 hours per week) that come with a tuition waiver and a stipend of \$5,500. Students in these positions assist faculty in research-related activities.

Assistantship stipends may be increased depending on the availability of various "top-off" funds or additional College or University fellowships.

The renewal of assistantships from semester to semester is not automatic. It is contingent on student performance and compliance with the terms set forth in funding offer letters. Each year, students are required to fill out a progress-to-degree report documenting their

work over the past year. The faculty uses the progress-to-degree report and faculty evaluations to assess continued funding of the student.

Funded students in half-time positions are expected to devote the rest of their time to their studies, and should not pursue outside employment. If a student in a half-time position has an intellectually meaningful opportunity to take on a small amount of extra work on campus, they should contact the DGS to arrange for special permission to work above 50%.

Students who decide to resign their assistantship should contact their adviser and the DGS to notify them of this decision.

Students who do not receive internal departmental funding should consult the Graduate School website for other assistantship possibilities.

Students who need information on loans should contact UTK's Financial Aid Office.

### **Support for Research Travel**

The Department has a small number of endowed funds that are used to support internal fellowships, graduate student awards, and limited research travel.

The DGS will solicit applications for departmental research travel support once a year early in the Spring Semester. All applications will be evaluated by the Graduate Committee and funds awarded on a competitive basis. Students applying for internal funding are also expected to apply for external grants.

**Due to the high costs involved, the department will typically not be able to offer support more than once for a student to travel to do research abroad.** For all international trips, students must also register with UTK's International Student & Scholar Services.

### **Conference Travel**

Under certain circumstances, the department will help pay for graduate students to travel to professional conferences. Funding is limited to a total of \$1,000 during a graduate student's tenure in the program, and is limited to students who are presenting at appropriate conferences.

Students applying for departmental conference travel funds must also apply for money from the Graduate Student Senate Travel Fund. When applying for departmental funds, the student must first send an email to the DGS describing the professional benefit they will gain from presenting at the conference and a detailed budget. The DGS will respond

requesting more information or with an approval for a specified dollar amount and will copy this email to the graduate secretary, who will help the student access the allotted money.

Upon receiving approval from the DGS, the student must fill out an Authorization to Travel form, using the appropriate form for international or domestic travel. The student should provide their best guess on budget expenses.

For all international trips, students must also register with UTK's International Student & Scholar Services. The International Travel Authorization Form and trip registration must match.

Reimbursable expenses include airfare, taxi or train transportation, baggage, hotel, and conference registration. Students are referred to the graduate secretary for specifics on requirements for individual reimbursements.

## **Registration and Advising**

### **Adviser Selection**

Until a student selects a major professor, he or she will work with a temporary advisor appointed by the DGS. Incoming students should consult with their temporary advisor when registering for fall classes.

With the guidance of the temporary advisor and the DGS, the student will select a major professor under whose guidance he or she will complete the program. Students must select a permanent advisor by the end of their first semester and then **submit the appropriate form to the graduate secretary (the form is available on the department's website).**

Students should meet regularly with their advisor to discuss their progress in the program. Students may change their permanent advisor by filing new paperwork with the graduate secretary, should their interests or research agenda change.

### **Registration Procedures**

To register for classes, a student must first obtain his or her Net ID. Admitted students can find their Net ID by searching for their name in the University's online directory. With this information, students may go to the Office of Information (OIT) website to create a password and register for their accounts. After a student has set up an account, he or she may log into myUTK by following the instructions provided by the Registrar's office.



### **Types of Courses and Course Credit**

Courses numbered 515 through 585 are primarily readings seminars utilizing secondary sources. The amount of reading and the nature of writing assignments vary, as does the scope of each seminar.

Courses numbered 629 through 651 are research seminars that involve work in primary historical sources culminating in a scholarly paper.

Some courses are offered as joint 500/600-level classes; students should sign up for the course under the course number that is appropriate to their needs. Those who take the course for 500-level credit will focus their written work on the historiography of the course's topic; those who take it for 600-level credit will write a research paper based on primary sources related to the course's topic.

### **Minimum Number of Hours for Full-time Status**

The maximum load for a graduate student is 15 hours, and 9 hours is typically considered full time. However, for students in half-time assistantships (Graduate Teaching Assistantships), the Graduate School counts students taking 6 hours of graduate credit as full time. Courses audited do not count toward minimum graduate hours required for financial assistance. For the summer term, graduate students may register for a maximum of 12 hours in an entire summer term or a maximum of 6 hours in a five-week summer session.

If you are funded by the department and still in the coursework phase of your studies, you should take at least 9 hours per semester (language instruction may count towards this total, as long as the student does not drop below the 6 hours of graduate credit mandated by the Graduate School). Refer to the Policy for the Administration of Graduate Assistantships for additional information.

Registration for more than 15 hours during any semester, or for more than 12 hours in the summer term, is not permissible without prior approval. The academic advisor may allow registration for up to 18 hours during a semester if the student has achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.6 or better in at least 9 hours of graduate work, with no outstanding incompletes.

### **Proper Use of 502 (Use of Facilities)**

Students using university facilities, services, or faculty time, including summer term, must be registered. Normally, students are registered for coursework or thesis/dissertation credit. Students who are not taking coursework and are not yet eligible to register for thesis or dissertation hours must register for course 502 (Use of Facilities) if they wish to have borrowing privileges in the University libraries or to use labs or other University resources.

## **Thesis and Dissertation Hours**

A thesis-track MA student must be registered for History 500 (thesis hours) each semester during work on the thesis, including a minimum of 3 hours in the semester in which the Graduate School accepts the thesis. Thesis-track students must take at least six hours of History 500. After receiving the MA degree, a student is no longer permitted to register for History 500.

History 600 (dissertation hours) is reserved for doctoral research. Initial registration for History 600 generally corresponds to the time at which a student begins to work actively on dissertation research. From this time on, students are required to register continuously for at least 3 hours of History 600 each term, including summer. A minimum of 24 total hours of History 600 is required. Students on an approved Leave of Absence (LOA) are exempted from the continuous enrollment requirement during the semesters approved for an LOA.

## **Degree Requirements for Master of Arts in History**

Students choose between a thesis track and a non-thesis track of study for the MA degree. This decision should be made in consultation with their adviser.

### **Specializations**

Students concentrate in one of four MA fields: Premodern Europe, Modern Europe, Asia, or United States. There is no foreign language requirement for the MA.

### **Thesis Track Requirements**

*Coursework:* Thesis-track students will complete 24 hours of course work plus 6 hours of thesis credit (History 500) for a total of 30 hours. As part of the 30 hours, they should also complete History 510 and a 600-level research seminar; these two courses will usually be taken during the fall and spring of the first year in the MA program. A student's course work must be at the 500-level or above if it is to count for the 30 hours of graduate credit required.

*Coursework outside the Department:* Up to 9 hours of graduate-level courses taken outside of the department may count towards a student's 30 hours of required graduate credit. Students may count up to 9 hours of graduate credits earned outside UTK (with the grade of B or higher) if those hours were not used to earn a degree at another institution and if the student does not take any additional hours outside the History Department. Students should consult the DGS for advice on this matter.

*Thesis:* The MA thesis should be at least 50 pages in length, plus notes and bibliography. The student will select the thesis topic under the direction of their adviser.

*Exam:* Thesis students will sit for a two-hour oral examination that will cover the thesis and the major field. For details about this examination, please see the relevant section

under “Examinations.” To prepare for their exam, student may chose to take History 521, a directed readings course designed to fill in gaps left after completing other coursework. This course is normally taken no earlier than the semester preceding the MA examination. History 521 is graded Satisfactory/No Credit. To register for the course, students should fill out the [Registration for Independent Study form \(available on the department website\)](#) and return it to the graduate secretary.

### **Non-Thesis Track**

*\*NOTE: PhD students applying for concurrent MA will typically complete the non-thesis track requirements.*

*Coursework:* Students who choose the non-thesis track must complete 30 hours of coursework. As part of the 30 hours, they should also complete History 510 and a 600-level research seminar; ideally, these two courses should be taken during the fall and spring of the first year in the MA program. At least twelve hours of coursework must be completed in the student’s major field. A student’s course work must be at the 500-level or above if it is to count for the 30 hours of graduate credit required.

*Coursework outside the Department:* Up to 9 hours of graduate-level courses taken outside of the department may count towards a student’s 30 hours of required graduate credit. Students may count up to 9 hours of graduate credits earned outside UTK (with the grade of B or higher) if those hours were not used to earn a degree at another institution and if the student does not take any additional hours outside the History Department. Students should consult the DGS for advice on this matter.

*Exam:* Non-thesis students will sit for a written examination in their major field. For the format and scheduling of this exam, see the relevant section under “Examinations.” To prepare for their examinations, student may chose to take History 521, a directed readings course designed to fill gaps left after completing other coursework. It is normally taken no earlier than the semester preceding the MA examination. History 521 is graded Satisfactory/No Credit. To register for the course, students should fill out the [Registration for Independent Study form \(available on the department website\)](#) and return it to the graduate secretary.

### **Independent Readings Courses**

History 593 is an independent readings course. It is graded A through F. It involves work equal to a 500-level seminar. In rare cases, the instructor and the DGS may permit a graduate student to enroll in an upper-division undergraduate course under the 593 course number. To register for the course, students should fill out the [Registration for Independent Study form \(available on the department website\)](#) and return it to the graduate secretary.

### **Formation of Committee and Admission to Candidacy**

Under the direction of their adviser, students should establish their MA committee no later than the end of the second semester in the program. The committee consists of the adviser and two, or occasionally three, additional professors in the department. If the student is writing a thesis, the members of the committee will advise the student on his or her research, read and evaluate the thesis, and administer the two-hour oral exam. For non-thesis students, the committee will administer the written exam. Once the committee is selected, the student must see the graduate secretary to complete the appropriate form.

After completing 9 hours of coursework in History with at least a 3.0 GPA, the student must apply for admission to MA candidacy. The appropriate form can be found on the Graduate School website. The form must be submitted to the Graduate School no later than the end of the semester prior to the semester the student intends to graduate, and a copy of the Admission to Candidacy form must be filed with the graduate secretary.

### **Timetable for Degree Completion**

The MA program can typically be completed in two years. The Graduate School allows six calendar years to complete the degree, starting at the beginning of the semester of the first course counted toward the degree.

The student must apply for graduation no later than the end of the semester before the semester in which he or she intends to graduate. [The Graduate School website lists all dates, paperwork requirements and deadlines for graduation.](#)

### **Transitioning to the PhD Program**

A student who wishes to continue to the PhD program should solicit letters of recommendation from the members of the MA examination committee, write a new statement of intent, and complete a [Change of Program form](#) through the Graduate School. The Graduate School will then send the student's file to the History Department for evaluation by the Graduate Committee.

## **Degree Requirements for Doctor of Philosophy in History**

**Concurrent MAs for PhD Candidates:** PhD students who entered the program straight from the BA are encouraged to get a concurrent MA while completing their course of study. The form to apply for a concurrent MA is available on the Graduate School Website. Once the student has completed this initial form, they will then follow the normal paperwork requirements and deadlines outlined on the Graduate School's website, just as if they were completing a terminal MA.

In order to receive this degree, students must complete all the requirements for a non-thesis track MA (please see the relevant section above).

## Specializations

PhD students select on major (Group I) field from the following:

- \* **United States** -- from colonial era to the present.
- \* **Premodern Europe** -- from ancient Greece through the mid-18th century.
- \* **Modern Europe** -- from the mid-18th century to the present.

Students also select one research specialization (Group II) field within the major (Group I) field, from the following:

| United States                  | European                  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Colonial and Early Republic    | Medieval                  |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Century       | Early Modern              |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> Century       | Modern                    |
| Regional (e.g., Southern)      | Political and Diplomatic  |
| Military and Foreign Relations | Intellectual and Cultural |
| Social and Cultural            | Social and Economic       |
| Political                      | National (e.g., German)   |
| Gender                         | Gender                    |

Students also do a teaching (Group III) field in World History (satisfied through History 511 and two reading seminars in non-US or non-European history courses). If they do not want to do their teaching field in World History, they may pick an alternate third field in consultation with their adviser and the DGS (for more details about this option, please look under “Coursework Requirements” below).

## Research Requirement

Students are required to write a dissertation. The student will select a dissertation topic under the direction of their adviser and doctoral committee.

The first step in the dissertation project is the preparation of a prospectus. While the student and the adviser should together set specific goals for the prospectus, this document typically will be 15 to 25 pages in length. It should provide an overview of the proposed dissertation’s scope and anticipated significance, explain its relationship to the relevant historiography, and outline the primary source base for the study. A bibliography of primary and secondary sources should also be included.

Within one semester after completing their comprehensive exams, students should seek approval of the prospectus from their adviser. During the same semester, students should also submit the prospectus to their other dissertation committee members in order to solicit their feedback. Formal approval by the other committee members is not required, although committees often choose to meet collectively with the student to discuss the prospectus. Once their advisers have approved the prospectus, students should submit a copy of the prospectus, along with the accompanying **Dissertation Prospectus Form** (available on the department website), to the graduate secretary for their files.

After completing the prospectus, students will present their dissertation proposals in a department-wide Dissertation Proposal Colloquium. All faculty and graduate students are encouraged to attend this event and offer the students feedback on their projects.

A student must register for at least 24 hours of dissertation credit (History 600) before finishing the dissertation. History 600 will be open only to students who have passed their Comprehensive Examinations. A student must be engaged in some phase of **active research** to receive credit for History 600.

Once having registered for History 600, a student must continuously register for at least 3 hours each term (**including summers**) until they finish. Students who do not register and have not been granted a leave of absence from continual registration by the Graduate School will have to pay tuition and fees, plus late registration penalties, for every semester they did not register, before they will be allowed to defend the dissertation.

### **Foreign Language Requirement**

Students must demonstrate reading competency in a foreign language or languages through coursework or examination. In other words, they should demonstrate the ability to understand a scholarly text in the language in which they are being tested. Students in Premodern Europe must pass three language exams, including Latin. The other two languages are determined in consultation with the major professor. Students in Modern Europe are required to qualify in two languages, as determined in consultation with the major professor. Students in US history will be required to qualify in one language. The foreign language exam requirement must be fulfilled before taking the Comprehensive Examination.

The language exam requirement is satisfied by passing a written exam administered in the History Department. The exams are held twice yearly, once in the fall and once in the spring, on a date determined by the department and announced via email at the beginning of each semester. The selections for translation are chosen by the appropriate departmental language coordinator.

Each student will receive an exam packet with a passage to translate. For Latin and ancient Greek, the translations will be 100 words in length; for the modern languages, the passages will be 200 words.

Students will have 90 minutes to finish their translation of the assigned passage.

Students may use PAPER dictionaries, verb charts and grammar textbooks, but **MAY NOT** use any electronic resources.

Student should bring pen and paper with them to the exam.

If the student's language is French or German, he or she may also fulfill the requirement by completing French 302 or German 332 with a grade of B or higher. For other languages, coursework will not satisfy the certification requirement, though the student may take courses to develop expertise before sitting for the language exam.

To reiterate, the language requirement **must** be met before the student takes the Comprehensive Examinations, and thus must be complete during or before the semester that he or she finishes coursework.

Students who have demonstrated a reading knowledge of an acceptable foreign language in a graduate program before coming to UTK, will not be required to re-examine, **provided that they pass the Comprehensive Examinations within five years of the coursework or examination that demonstrated foreign language competence.** Students must provide to the DGS in their first semester at UTK documentation of their reading knowledge of an appropriate foreign language.

### **Coursework Requirements**

The student entering with only a BA must take sixteen 3-hour courses (48 hours). Students entering with an MA in History must complete at least eight courses, but potentially more as determined in consultation with their major professor. Students with an MA in subjects other than History should consult with their advisers and the Director of Graduate Studies about the amount of coursework to be completed.

For students who enter without an MA, a minimum of 39 of the 48 hours of course work must be graded A-F. Nine hours of course work may be taken outside the department. For students who enter with an MA, a minimum of 18 of the 24 hours must be graded A-F. Up to six hours may be taken outside the department.

All PhD students must complete at a minimum the following courses: History 510; History 512; 9 hours in the major (Group I) field; 9 hours in the teaching (Group III) field (typically, History 511 and two 500-level courses with subject matter outside of Europe and the United States); and two research (600-level) seminars. Students who have written an MA thesis need only one research seminar and History 621. When planning your coursework, please note that the Graduate School requires students to take at least two 600-level courses at the University of Tennessee in order to fulfill the requirements for the doctorate. History 600, the course number for dissertation hours, does not count for this requirement, and transfer credits cannot be used to meet this requirement. There is no course requirement for the research specialization (Group II) field, though comprehensive exam reading lists should cover this field.

In place of the standard World History Group III field, students may choose an alternative teaching field. This entails three courses in a Group I field other than the student's own Group I field and requires approval from the Director of Graduate Studies, the student's adviser, and a faculty member in charge of supervising that alternative field, and culminates in a two-hour oral exam conducted by the adviser and two course instructors. No more than one of these courses can be an independent study.

History 593 is an independent readings course. It is graded A through F. It may meet as frequently as, and assign work equal to, the reading seminars. In rare cases, the instructor and the DGS may permit a graduate student to enroll in an upper-division undergraduate course under the 593 number. See the Graduate Catalog. To register for the course,

students should fill out the [Registration for Independent Study form](#) (available on the department website) and return it to the graduate secretary.

History 621 is a directed readings course designed to fill gaps left after completing other coursework. History 621 is graded Satisfactory/No Credit. Enrollment in 621 requires the consent of the major professor. To register for the course, students should fill out the [Registration for Independent Study form](#) (available on the department website) and return it to the graduate secretary.

### **Residency Requirements**

University regulations define residence as full-time registration for a given semester on the campus where the program is located. The summer term is included in this period. During residence, it is expected that the student will be engaged in full-time on-campus study toward a graduate degree. All PhD students are required to register as full-time students for at least two consecutive semesters. This requirement must be met before coursework is completed.

### **Coursework Taken Outside the History Department**

A student may take up to 9 hours of courses in other UTK departments.

### **Formation of the Dissertation Committee**

Students should establish their dissertation committee, under the direction of the major professor, by the time they are ready to submit their Admission to Candidacy form. The doctoral committee consists of the major professor, two additional professors from the History Department, and one professor from outside the department. All must be tenured or tenure-track faculty.

At least three members of the committee, including the major professor, must be approved by the Graduate School to direct doctoral dissertations. Members of the committee are selected on the basis of the expertise they bring to the direction of the dissertation, and should be consulted throughout the student's program of study, research, and writing. After selecting a doctoral committee, the student must complete a [Doctoral Committee form and submit it to the Graduate School, with a copy to the graduate secretary](#). Subsequent changes to the doctoral committee should be filed using the appropriate form with both the Graduate School and the graduate secretary.

After completing all coursework and language requirements and passing the Comprehensive Examinations, the student must apply for admission to candidacy. The "Admission to Candidacy" form must be completed the same semester that the Comprehensive Examinations are passed. The form and instructions for its completion can be found on the Graduate School website. The completed form should be submitted to the Graduate School, and a copy submitted to the graduate secretary.

### **Timetable for Degree Completion**

Students have a total of eight years from the time of enrollment in the doctoral program to complete the PhD. Students who have not successfully defended the dissertation by



then must pass the Comprehensive Examinations again, before being permitted to defend the dissertation. If a student takes a leave of absence during this time, the time still counts towards the eight years.

The Graduate School website lists all dates and deadlines for graduation. Please check the deadlines well in advance of your planned graduation.

## **Examinations: MA Program, Non-Thesis Option**

### **The Examination**

Students who do not write a thesis will complete a written exam in their primary field. In this exam, students will explain how their current research interests fit into broader historiographical trends within their major field; they will also synthesize what they see as the most important current debates in their field. The exam should include specific references to relevant secondary literature. The graduate secretary will distribute the exam to the student, and they will have one week to complete their responses. The MA committee will grade the exam. There are only two possible grades on the examination, Pass and Fail. **Upon completion of the exam, the student and their committee should file the relevant MA examination form with the Graduate School, also providing a copy to the graduate secretary for departmental records.**

### **Scheduling the Exam**

The MA examination may occur at a mutually agreed upon time during the fall or spring semesters. MA examinations are not given during the summer. The Graduate School website lists examination deadline dates. **It is very important to observe these deadlines when scheduling the exam. If the exam is taken after the published deadline, the student will have to register for the next semester.**

Students may take the examination during the same semester they are completing the final courses for the degree. If a student passes the examination but fails to complete a required course satisfactorily, he or she must complete the course in the next semester (excluding summer). If the course is not completed by the next semester, the student will be required to repeat the MA examination.

Students must take the examination no later than the semester following the semester in which they have completed 30 graduate hours, provided that they have fulfilled the distribution requirements for the MA and have at least a 3.0 GPA. (Summer sessions are not considered semesters when making these calculations.) Any variation from this schedule requires a letter in the file, with consent from the major professor and the DGS.

### **Examination Failure and Appeal Policy**

If a student fails the MA examination, the committee will explain where the student's exam was unsatisfactory and help him or her prepare to take the exam again the

following semester (excluding summer). A student who fails the MA exam twice will be dropped from the program.

A student may appeal a grade of Fail. (Please consult the Graduate Council's website for the appeals procedure). Normally, grievances should be handled first at the department level through the faculty member, the student's academic adviser, the DGS, or the department head. Further appeal may be made to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate Council through the Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, and ultimately to the Dean of the Graduate School.

## **Examinations: MA Program, Thesis Option**

### **The Examination**

The examination consists of a two-hour oral examination that includes questions on the field and the thesis. The student must submit a copy of the thesis to the committee members **four weeks** in advance of the scheduled oral examination. **Upon completion of the exam, the student and their committee should file the relevant MA examination form with the Graduate School, also providing a copy to the graduate secretary for departmental records.**

### **Administration Procedure, Scheduling, and Grading**

The student must schedule the examination at least four weeks in advance. The student is responsible for working with the committee to schedule the examination.

The Graduate School website lists examination deadline dates. **It is very important to observe these deadlines when scheduling the exam. If the exam is taken after the published deadline, the student will have to register for the next semester. Note: MA examinations are not given during the summer semester.**

There are only two possible grades on the examination, Pass and Fail. The grade is awarded at the conclusion of the examination. The student is immediately informed of the committee's decision. **As noted above, the result of the examination must be filed with the Graduate Secretary; a copy should also go to the graduate secretary.**

### **Examination Failure and Appeal Policy**

If a student fails the MA examination, the committee will explain where the student's exam was unsatisfactory and help him or her prepare to take the exam again the following semester (excluding summer). A student who fails the MA exam twice will be dropped from the program.

A student may appeal a grade of Fail. (Please see the Graduate Council's website for the appeals procedure.) Normally, grievances should be handled first at the department level through the faculty member, the student's academic adviser, the DGS, or the department head. Further appeal may be made to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the

Graduate Council through the Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, and ultimately to the Dean of the Graduate School.

## **Examinations: PhD Program**

### **The Comprehensive Examination**

#### **The Examination Committee**

In consultation with their adviser, students should select an examination committee to administer the comprehensive examination. This committee should consist of three faculty members from the History Department. Students should begin working on assembling their examination committee about a year before they plan to sit for the exam so that they will have adequate time to plan and prepare for the test.

Since a goal of the examination is to demonstrate comprehensive knowledge in a major field, the examination committee should be designed with that purpose in mind, according to particular policies established by each caucus. The examination committee does not have to be the same as the student's future doctoral committee. After the committee has been appointed, students should meet with each member of the committee to discuss the nature of the examination. Copies of previous written exams are available from the graduate secretary. Once the committee has been finalized, **please submit a Comprehensive Examination Committee Form to Bernie Koprince for your file.** The form is available on the department's website.

#### **Content and Structure of the Exam**

The student is examined in both a major field (Group I) and a research specialization field (Group II) both orally and in writing. Together these two exams are termed the Comprehensive Examination. The teaching (Group III) field is not examined.

The first stage of the examination, the written exam, is eight hours long (8:30am – 4:30pm) and may be taken at any location on campus. Students may use notes, books, outlines, etc., during the written examination. The student must pick up the examination and return it to the departmental office.

The two-hour oral examination is taken after the student has completed the written examination. At the discretion of the committee, part of the oral examination time may be devoted to problematic issues raised in the written examination or to problems deemed insufficiently discussed. The oral examination should take place within one or two weeks after the written examination. The student should schedule the oral examination in consultation with the examination committee members.

### **Timing of the Examination**

The comprehensive examination must be taken no later than the semester following the semester in which the student completes the residency, coursework, and language requirements (summer excluded). **Any variation from this schedule requires a letter in the student's file, with consent from the major professor and DGS.**

No student will be permitted to take the Comprehensive Examinations unless he or she has an overall grade point average of at least 3.0.

The Graduate School specifies that students must take their comprehensive examinations within five years of entering the doctoral program.

Students may take the comprehensive examination during the same semester they are taking a course to fulfill the foreign language requirement. Students who fulfill the language requirement through examination, however, must pass the examination **before** taking the comprehensive examination.

Students should contact their adviser and their committee members to set dates for the written and oral segments of the exam. In some cases, the faculty may set a single date for all students in a field who are taking the written component of the exam in a given semester; in situations where faculty have decided on a single exam date, students will be given adequate advance notice of this date.

On the day of the written exam, the adviser should arrange for a copy of the exam to be distributed to the student at the appointed start time. In the event that the adviser is unavailable to distribute the exam him- or herself, Bernie Koprince is available to help. The adviser should also be sure to schedule a room for the oral component of the exam.

There are only two possible grades for the comprehensive examination, Pass and Fail. A Pass grade certifies that a student has a comprehensive knowledge of his or her chosen historical field and possesses the skills necessary to complete a doctoral dissertation.

[Results of the examination must be recorded by the committee on the Comprehensive Examination Grade form and then returned to the Graduate Secretary. You can find the form on the department's website.](#)

### **Examination Failure and Appeals Policy**

A student who fails the comprehensive examination must repeat the examination the following semester (summer excluded). Should the student fail a second time, he or she will be dismissed from the program. A student who fails to repeat the exam within the required time will likewise be dismissed from the program.

A student may petition for an extension under special extenuating circumstances that warrant a longer time than one semester to retake the exam. Written approval from the major professor, the DGS, and the department head is required for an extension.

A student may appeal a failing grade of fail (for the proper procedure, see the appeals process outlined on the Graduate Council's website). Normally, grievances should be handled first at the departmental level through the faculty member, the student's academic advisor, the DGS, or the department head. Further appeal may be made to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate Council through the Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, and ultimately the Dean of the Graduate School.

### **Dissertation Defense**

Once the dissertation is completed and has been reviewed by the full doctoral committee, the student will have a final oral examination to defend the dissertation. The student must provide all members of the committee with a copy of the dissertation **at least six weeks before the defense** so it can be carefully reviewed. The committee may require further revisions before accepting the dissertation or even, in extreme cases, reject the dissertation.

Note: Dissertation defenses are not held during the summer except in extraordinary circumstances.

## **Standards, Problems, and Appeals**

### **Required GPA**

To remain in good standing, a student must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA. Students who hold an assistantship must maintain at least a 3.25 GPA. Any student who receives two grades below B in graduate seminars (not including language courses) during their tenure as a graduate student will be dropped from the graduate program in History.

The Department of History defines grades as follows:

**A** = excellent; **B+** = good; **B** = satisfactory; **C+** or **C** = below the expected level for graduate work; **D** = poor (does not satisfy degree requirements); **F** = very poor (does not satisfy degree requirements).

**S/NC** = Satisfactory/No Credit (used in History 502, 521, and 621); has no impact on GPA.

**P/NP** = Progress/No Progress (used for History 500 and 600); denotes progress or no progress toward completion of thesis or dissertation; does not affect the GPA.

**I** = Incomplete. An incomplete is issued only when a student suffers an unusual circumstance late in the semester. Failure to complete assignments on time is not a valid reason to receive an incomplete. The student must have at least a B average in the class to receive an incomplete. Before the professor can assign a grade of **I**, he or she must compose a "contract" with the student in question. This document will clearly explain the reason for the incomplete and clearly explain the work to be done to remove the grade.

The document will also include a timetable for the completion of the work. It must be signed by the professor and the student, and a copy must be forwarded to the department head. If the work is not completed within one semester (with summer counting as a semester), the incomplete automatically converts to a grade of **F**.

#### **Fourth Semester Review and Terminal MA**

In their fourth semester, all PhD students will go through a review prior to taking their exams. By December 15<sup>th</sup> of the fall semester, the student will create a portfolio that includes the following items:

- 1) All substantial written work completed since arriving in the program. This should include all research papers, as well as historiographical papers five pages in length or longer. Students should submit copies of their papers that include grades and professorial comments whenever possible.
- 2) Their annual progress report, a written statement describing their progress in the program and detailing their plans for the coming years. This statement should not just list the courses students have taken, but describe how their activities both inside and outside of the classroom have advanced their research agenda and professional development.

The student's examination committee will review the portfolio. If the comprehensive examination committee has not yet been formed, the student and the adviser will consult to form an appropriate ad-hoc review committee consisting of three faculty members from the department. If the committee agrees that the student is ready to proceed in the program, the student will continue on to finish PhD coursework and take the comprehensive exam. If the student is not approved to continue in the doctoral program, but will have successfully completed 30 hours of graduate coursework by the end of the fourth semester, he or she will take a written MA exam with the aim of receiving a terminal non-thesis MA from the department.

#### **MA Benchmarks for Progress to Degree**

MA thesis option:

- 1) MA students doing the thesis option should have selected a permanent advisor by the end of their first semester.
- 2) They should have a thesis topic and an MA committee approved by the end of their second semester.
- 3) They should defend their thesis by the end of the fourth semester, though in unusual cases the thesis may be defended just before the beginning of the subsequent fall semester (theses may not be defended during the summer months).

MA non-thesis option:

- 1) Students doing the non-thesis option should have selected a permanent advisor by the end of their first semester.
- 2) Students should have an MA committee by the end of their second semester.

2) They should take their MA exam by the end of the fourth semester.

### **PhD Benchmarks for Progress to Degree**

- 1) All graduate students, but especially those funded through the department, are expected to communicate regularly with their advisers about their progress, participate in the intellectual life of the department, attend departmental events, and perform assigned duties. They should also submit an annual progress report every year as requested.
- 2) PhD students must select a permanent advisor by the end of their first semester.
- 3) Second-year students should successfully complete the Fourth Semester Review.
- 4) In their first two or three years in the program, students should complete the language requirement(s) and pass the comprehensive examination. At the very latest, the comprehensive examination must be taken within five years.
- 5) After passing the language exams and comprehensive exam, students should apply for admission to candidacy with the Graduate School.
- 6) Students should complete the dissertation proposal by the end of the semester following their completion of the comprehensive exam. The proposal needs to be officially approved by the adviser, and students should also participate in the department's annual Dissertation Proposal Colloquium.
- 7) After completing the proposal, students are expected to make steady progress in researching and writing the dissertation.
- 8) All requirements must be completed within eight years from the time of a student's first enrollment in the program.

The graduate committee and individual caucuses evaluate the progress of all students early in the spring semester of each academic year. These evaluations play a central role in determining funding decisions and continuations.

### **Legal Requirements for Research**

For Institutional review Board (IRB) policies on conducting oral history research, see University research policies.

### **Terms of Probation**

University regulations state that on completion of 9 hours of graduate coursework, a student will be placed on academic probation if his or her cumulative GPA falls below 3.0. A student will be allowed to continue graduate study in subsequent semesters as long as each semester's GPA does not drop below 3.0, and the student receives no more grades below B. On achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.0, the student will be removed from probationary status.

### **Academic Honesty**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all members of the academic community. An honor statement is included on the application for admission and readmission. The applicant's signature acknowledges that they will adhere to the statement, which reads: "An essential feature of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is a commitment to

maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.”

### **Termination from the Program**

If a student is on academic probation, the degree or non-degree status will be terminated by the Dean of the Graduate School if the student's semester GPA falls below 3.0 in a subsequent semester. Upon recommendation of the appropriate academic unit and approval of the Dean of the Graduate School, a student on probation whose semester GPA is below 3.0 may be allowed to continue on a semester-by-semester basis if circumstances are deemed to justify this course of action.

Any student who receives two grades below B in graduate seminars (not including language courses) during their tenure as a graduate student will be dropped from the graduate program in History. Dismissal of a student is accomplished by sending written notice to the student, with a copy to the Graduate School. In cases where the department's requirements for continuation are more stringent than University requirements for graduate programs, the Dean of the Graduate School will evaluate the student's record to determine whether the student is eligible to apply for a change of status that would allow them to register in another area of study. Registration for courses in a department from which a student has been dismissed will not be permitted, except by written authorization from that department.

### **Department and University Appeal Procedure**

The Graduate Council appeal procedure is explained on their website. Normally, grievances should be handled first at the department level through the faculty member, the student's advisor, the DGS, or the department head. Further appeal may be made to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate Council through the Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, and ultimately to the Dean of the Graduate School.

Appeals may involve the interpretation of and adherence to University, College, and department policies and procedures as they apply to graduate education and the issuance of grades based on specific allowable reasons stipulated in the Graduate Council Appeal Procedure.

Appeal procedures in regard to allegations of misconduct or academic dishonesty are presented in *Hilltopics* under "Disciplinary Regulations and Procedures." Students with grievances related to race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or veteran status should file a formal complaint with the Office of Equity and Diversity.