The requirements for the MA in History are as follows:

**HST 500: Intro to the MA Program in History**

This course is strongly recommended for all MA students beginning their graduate coursework and is required for those who have not completed HST 300: Historical Imagination or an equivalent undergraduate course in historiography.

**HST 592: Research Seminar**

Two research seminar courses are required of all MA students.

**HST 503: Thesis** (eight credits of thesis work is required of all MA students)

All MA students must be registered for at least 1 credit of thesis work during the term they intend to present their thesis to committee. Students must complete both field examinations and language examinations (or equivalent) before registering for thesis credits.

**Field courses:**

Coursework for the MA must also comprise two historical fields:

- **Field I coursework at least 12 cred**
- **Field II coursework at least 8 cred**

These fields are defined geographically, thematically, and/or by chronological delimitation by agreement between the student and the respective field examiners.

Seminar courses may also count towards these field requirements.

**Additional/Elective courses:**

Students may count a maximum of 12 combined credits of 501 (research) and 505 (reading and conference) courses and a maximum of 9 combined credits of 508 and 509 (practicum) courses towards the MA degree requirements.

With advisor approval, a maximum of 12 credits of graduate-level (500-level or higher) coursework outside the field of History may be applied towards the MA degree.

A minimum of 48 credits is required for the MA in History. All courses must be graded A through F (pass/no pass option is not acceptable). total must be at least 48 cred

**Credit Transfers:**

MA students may transfer up to 16 credits of graduate-level coursework from another university or from PSU prior to formal admission to the MA Program, by submitting a GO-21 form to the Office of Graduate Studies.
Written Examinations:
All students are required to take written examinations covering their two chosen fields of concentration. The written examination in the student’s first field should be passed before the end of the first year of graduate study (i.e., 24 credits). Students should pass the written examination in the second field before the completion of 32 credits. Examiners will generally expect you to have taken some course work and/or directed reading with them in preparation for the written examinations. Students should meet with them well in advance to discuss the examination’s scope, format, etc. Students cannot rely on non-regular faculty—including temporary faculty, part-time faculty or those outside the department—to administer a field examination. Both written examinations must be passed before a student may register for coursework relating to the thesis.

Oral Examinations:
Each student must also take a final oral examination (sometimes referred to as the thesis defense) covering all aspects of graduate work, after satisfactory completion of the written examinations and approval by the thesis advisor. The composition of an oral examination committee is very important and merits consideration early on in your program. The oral examination (thesis defense) committee should include the thesis advisor/primary field examiner, the secondary field examiner, a third faculty member from the History Department, and an outside examiner appointed by the student and thesis advisor. The two professors that administered the field examinations must be on the thesis committee. The committee will be formally appointed by filing a GO-16 form to the Office of Graduate Studies, and no thesis defense can take place without filing the GO-16 form with OGS.

Foreign Language Requirement:
The department stresses the importance of adequate preparation in foreign languages to be utilized by students in their advanced study and research. Graduate students must demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language germane to their thesis field no later than the point at which they have completed 32 credits of graduate study. Students must contact the Department of World Languages and Literatures to request documentation be sent to the History Department to demonstrate the successful completion of the language requirement for the MA degree.

Enrollment:
Continuous enrollment in the program is important. Students must register for classes in the term during which they are admitted into the program, or the admission will be cancelled by the Registrar’s Office. If a graduate student requires a leave of absence for a term or more, this must be formally requested in writing to the History Department’s Graduate Coordinator and the Office of Graduate Studies. Once a student has enrolled for any thesis credit, he or she must be continuously enrolled from that point forward until completion of the program. Additionally, a student must be enrolled for at least one credit hour during the term he or she intends to defend the thesis and graduate, even if all 48 credit hours of the MA program have been completed by that time.

Graduation Deadlines/Forms:
The Graduate Office maintains strict deadlines that must be met by graduate students during the course of their study; various forms must be filed by these deadlines in order for a student to successfully graduate. For information on these forms and deadlines, consult the Graduate Office website at www.pdx.edu/ogs/.