

# HISTORY, BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

The Bachelor of Arts in History requires a minimum of 120 credits, with at least 36 of those credits in history. Students must complete HIST 300 with a minimum grade of C prior to enrolling in more than six credits of 300- or 400-level history courses. Students in the program can take advantage of a wide range of courses with thematic, topical, national or chronological emphases to fulfill requirements and electives. Students should consult with their advisers each semester to design a program that meets these requirements and suits their interests and career objectives.

The history curriculum exposes students to a multidimensional analysis of the human past. Faculty members seek to impart to students an awareness of the forces of change and continuity; good judgment as to the appropriateness (or inappropriateness) of analogies between one set of historical circumstances and another; an appreciation of the need for skepticism and informed judgment in historical studies; and an understanding of the role of biases and frames of reference in historical research. As such, the study of history not only has the intrinsic appeal of any disciplined intellectual inquiry, but also leads to personal and social awareness within the rich tradition of the liberal arts. The B.A. in History provides students an ideal preparation for a wide range of careers and further professional study, and it constitutes an indispensable basis for active citizenship.

## Student learning outcomes

Upon completing this program, students will be able to demonstrate:

- Library and research skills.** Students should be able to locate information independently and evaluate its utility for their research purposes.
- Critical reading skills.** Students should be able to engage a wide variety of written texts and glean useful information from them.
- Critical thinking about sources of information.** Students should be able to evaluate the quality and utility of sources used to understand the past, keeping in mind their context and purpose.
- Critical thinking about logical inferences.** Students should be able to make useful connections among sources of information about history and be able to propose causal relationships based on discrete pieces of information.
- Formulation of persuasive analysis.** Students should be able to use both historical sources and logical inferences to make convincing arguments about the past.
- Writing skills.** Students should be able to write clearly, accurately, persuasively and elegantly about the past and to employ the research apparatus normative to historical writing.
- Other information presentation skills.** Students should be able to present information and arguments about the past in other formats, such as oral presentations, museum exhibits, archival guides, web-based presentations, etc.
- Interpersonal and project management skills.** Students should be able to carry out the stages of any project or assignment in an organized, proactive manner, showing independence,

timeliness, professional ethics, problem-solving skills, teamwork and collaboration, integrative learning and the transfer of skills, self-assessment, and good judgment in seeking support or resources.

## Degree requirements for History, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

Note: The history major requires students to take one course (three credits) from at least five of the following seven geographic specialties: 1) history of the United States, 2) history of Europe, 3) history of Africa, 4) history of Asia, 5) history of Latin America, 6) history of the Middle East and 7) history of the Caribbean. This geographic distribution requirement may be satisfied by any course taken for HIST credit, at any level.

Course	Title	Hours
<b>General education</b> ( <a href="http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/">http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/</a> )		
Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.		30
<b>Major requirements</b>		
• Major core requirements		
HIST 300	Introduction to Historical Study	3
• Additional major requirements		
Junior seminar (choose from HIST 401 through HIST 422)		3
HIST 490 or HIST 493	Senior Seminar in History Internship	3
• Major electives		
Historical survey courses (100-level HIST)		12
Upper-level HIST (301-499, except 490 or 493)		15
<b>Ancillary requirements</b>		
HUMS 202	Choices in a Consumer Society	1
Experiential fine arts <sup>1</sup>		1-3
Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement)		0-6
<b>Open electives</b>		
Select any course.		44-52
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>120</b>

<sup>1</sup>

Course offered by the School of the Arts

**The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.**

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

<b>Freshman year</b>		
<b>Fall semester</b>		<b>Hours</b>
UNIV 101	Introduction to the University	1
UNIV 111	Focused Inquiry I (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Play course video for Focused Inquiry I		
Experiential fine arts		1-3

General education courses	6
Historical survey (100-level HIST)	3
<b>Term Hours:</b>	<b>14-16</b>

**Spring semester**

HUMS 202	Choices in a Consumer Society	1
UNIV 112	Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Play course video for Focused Inquiry II		
General education courses		9
Historical survey (100-level HIST)		3
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>16</b>

**Sophomore year****Fall semester**

UNIV 200	Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Foreign language 101		3
General education course		3
Historical survey (100-level HIST)		3
Open elective		3
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>

**Spring semester**

HIST 300	Introduction to Historical Study (must achieve a minimum grade of C)	3
Foreign language 102		3
General education course		3
Historical survey (100-level HIST)		3
Open elective		3
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>

**Junior year****Fall semester**

Open electives		9
Upper-level HIST (301-499)		6
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>

**Spring semester**

Junior seminar (select from HIST 401 through HIST 422)		3
Open electives		9
Upper-level HIST (301-499)		3
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>

**Spring**

<b>Term Hours:</b>	<b>0</b>
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**Senior year****Fall semester**

Open electives		9
Upper-level HIST (301-499)		6
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>

**Spring semester**

HIST 490 or HIST 493	Senior Seminar in History or Internship	3-4
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Open electives	12
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<b>Term Hours:</b>	<b>15-16</b>
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<b>Total Hours:</b>	<b>120-123</b>
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The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.