

ACCELERATED PH.D. TRACK

Introduction

The accelerated Ph.D. track represents an additional offering in the graduate programs of the Department of History. The accelerated Ph.D. track will not eliminate or supersede any of the existing M.A., M.A. in Public History, or Ph.D. programs.

Two major goals will be achieved by adding this new track:

1. It will meet the demand for a graduate track in history that is competitive with many leading universities by offering promising undergraduates direct entry into a Ph.D. program.
2. It will greatly enhance the ability of full-time, funded students to complete a Ph.D. within the limits of eligibility for internal funding, a period of five years.

Admission to the accelerated track will be highly selective and limited to a few outstanding undergraduates. Students will be chosen on the basis of our regular criteria (GPA, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, writing sample) by the GPD and the three faculty members who are involved in reviewing his/her application materials. As noted below, a flexible mechanism has been created to allow students enrolled in the graduate program to transfer into and out of the accelerated track.

Required or Core Courses

Description	No. Crs.	Hrs.	Accum. Hrs.
Hist. 400	1	3	3
Major Field	5	15	18
Major Field Seminars	2	6	24
Minor Field #1	3	9	33
Minor Field #2	3	9	42
Hist. 598-Diss. Proposal	1	3	45
Dissertation Prep.	5	15	60

Elective Courses

Description	Maximum Hours Allowed
Hist. 300 level	6
Hist. 400-500 level	up to the 60 hrs. graduation
Hist. 498-Diss. Research	15
Hist. 499-Directed Study	15

Explanation of Course Requirements

Under the accelerated Ph.D. track, full-time students can fulfill all of the Ph.D. course requirements in five semesters. Students would be required to take two seminars in their major field, each with a different instructor. Under extra-ordinary circumstances, both seminars might be taken with the same instructor. Students could take their comprehensive field exams at the end of the fifth semester. More likely, they will take them in the sixth semester.

(Full-time) students who complete all requirements except the dissertation by the end of the third year (including the summer

flexibility when designing an individual course of study. At

session) will be given a waiver of six hours towards graduation. This incentive will promote a timely completion of coursework and qualifying examinations.

Students are encouraged to take courses during the summer sessions. (Funded assistants are especially encouraged since their tuition scholarships provide payment for 24 hours of course credit per academic year). Since regular 400 and 500 level courses are not offered during the summer sessions, students need to plan ahead by reserving for these sessions their elective options of 300 level history courses (up to six hours) and research tool/language courses.

Successful passage of the comprehensive examinations is a prerequisite for Hist. 498-Dissertation Research. After passage of the qualifying exam, students may take Hist. 498 up to the number of hours needed to graduate. They may also take other elective courses.

MAJOR FIELDS

1. United States
2. Medieval
3. Modern Europe
4. Britain and Ireland

MINOR FIELDS

Ancient Mediterranean; Medieval; Early Modern Europe; Modern Europe; Britain and Ireland; United States; Middle East; Public History; Women and Gender History; Imperialism/Post Colonialism.

Explanation of Major and Minor Fields

Major Fields

Definitions: A major field of study is distinguished from a dissertation field. A major field is broadly defined as embracing the entire breadth of the field in terms of various subject areas (e.g. social, economic, political) as well as its chronological coverage from beginning to end. In contrast, a dissertation field is more narrowly defined in terms of a specific topic of research (e.g. Ancient Rome, Early Modern Europe, American Urban).

Minor Fields

In consultation with their advisor, students will select two minor fields in which nine credit hours (three courses) must be completed successfully in each for a total of eighteen credit hours (six courses). These courses must be in fields other than the major field.

In consultation with their advisor and the approval of the GPD, students may also select one minor field from another discipline or create a minor field in a subject area different from those listed above (e.g. international relations, education, medicine, technology). This choice gives the individual student and the faculty advisor the greatest amount of flexibility when designing an individual course of study. At the same time, students will not be allowed to "nest" an individually created minor field within their major field.

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The intention of the minor fields is to develop some evidence of competence for teaching purposes at the undergraduate level.

With that end in view, courses and field examinations should aim at the leading questions and topics of the field (including where applicable theoretical approaches), and at the provision of working bibliography. Completion of a minor field should equip the student to teach at least basic undergraduate courses in the field in question.

EXAMINATIONS

Near the end of their doctoral studies, students must pass a four-hour written examination and a two-hour oral examination in their major field. In addition, students satisfy the examination requirements in their minor fields through earning nine credit hours with at least a B average (3.0) in one minor field and a two-hour examination in the other. Those who select a minor field outside of history must either successfully pass a comprehensive examination in that discipline or designate it as a minor field to be satisfied through nine hours of course work. Students must complete one minor field before the end of the fourth semester, i.e. their second year of study.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Other requirements such as two research tools, residency, dissertation proposal review, dissertation oral defense, etc. are the same as those listed in the Graduate Catalog.

TIME REQUIREMENTS

Students must take at least one 500 level seminar in their major field of study within the first 27 hours of coursework. Students must complete one minor field no later than the end of the second year of study. These requirements will allow the department and the student to evaluate the student's progress in the program in a timely way at the end of the second year. At that time, it will be appropriate to make a decision about continuing in the program.

Work on the Ph.D. must be completed within eight years from the time the student begins coursework.

TRANSFERS BETWEEN THE ACCELERATED PH.D. TRACK AND THE REGULAR M.A. PROGRAM

In consultation with their advisor and the GPD, students in the accelerated Ph.D. program may transfer to the M.A. program at any appropriate time. Upon entering the accelerated Ph.D. track students will be advised that it entails certain risks. In particular, students may accumulate more hours than needed to meet the requirements for the M.A. degree but end up only with an M.A. degree if they are unable to complete the entire program.

In addition, students who fail their comprehensive exams (both first and second tries), will be asked to leave the Ph.D. program. If they have fulfilled all of the requirements for a regular M.A.

degree (using a seminar paper as equivalent to an M.A. essay that is acceptable to the department), they will be granted this degree and terminated from the program.

Students in the regular M.A. program may petition the GPD for admission into the accelerated Ph.D. track after accumulating at least 18 hours in the program, including a 500 level seminar. The student must solicit two faculty members for letters of recommendation in support of her/his petition. The seminar paper and course evaluations will also be used in determining the merits of each student's petition. The decision of the GPD shall be final. Students whose petitions are denied, may apply again on a semester-by-semester basis.

MASTER'S DEGREE

Students in the accelerated Ph.D. track will be given an opportunity to obtain a Master's degree. Students who seek a Teaching Fellowship and/or Crown Fellowship from the Graduate School must obtain a Master's degree in order to qualify for the award.

The following procedures will be followed in reviewing the merits of awarding an M.A. degree to students in the accelerated Ph.D. track:

Every student will participate in a review of his/her progress during the fourth semester of study (normally, after the completion of at least 27 hours of coursework). The review will take the form of a conference with the student, the GPD, the student's advisor, and one other member of the graduate faculty. The conference will discuss the student's progress to date. It will also help to formulate plans to define a dissertation topic. In addition, the review panel will certify whether the student has fulfilled or is in the process of fulfilling the regular requirements for an M.A. degree, including 27 hours of coursework, a research tool and completion of a seminar paper in his/her major field that is acceptable to the department as equivalent to a master's essay.

The purpose of the conference is to review student progress, to advise him/her on planning for the successful completion of the program, and to certify that the requirements listed above have been met or will be completed at the end of the current semester or academic year in the case of the Spring semester/Summer sessions period. This meeting should not become an oral examination and students should not be expected to prepare for any kind of academic examination on the subject matter of their course work. At the same time, the conference will serve in lieu of comprehensive exams for purposes of awarding an M.A. degree to students who meet the requirements listed above and are making satisfactory progress toward the completion of the Ph.D. program. Students will, of course, be expected to take comprehensive examinations at a later time as a part of the requirements for a Ph.D. degree.