



History

LMU HISTORY FAQ

WHY SHOULD I MAJOR IN HISTORY?

For starters, because it's fun! Studying history is like jumping into your own personal TARDIS and traveling through time. You can discover different cultures, near and far, in time and space. Studying history helps you to understand the world around us today and how the past is reflected and refracted in the present. Studying history also helps you realize the potential for human action, showing how an individual's ideas and decisions can change the world, even as historians examine the broader social, political, and cultural contexts that make individual choices possible and influential.

The LMU History Department offers you a great community, with small classes, lots of interaction between faculty and students, and engaging programming. You will have ample opportunities to undertake independent research, do public history projects, travel abroad as part of your studies, do internships, and more.

As a History major, you will acquire valuable skills. You will learn how to find and evaluate sources of information, how to read critically and analyze a variety of sources, how to use evidence, and how to develop and present arguments. You'll search for causes and effects and change and continuity over time. You will gain perspective and make sense of complex problems – and thus become an effective decision-maker. In short, you will learn how to learn, reason, and communicate!

WHAT DOES A HISTORY MAJOR LOOK LIKE? HOW MANY COURSES? WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

The [History Major](#) is a flexible major, one that complements the University Core Curriculum and enables you to add a minor (or two!) or a second major. As a History major, you will take 42 units, which translates into ten 4-unit courses and two 1-unit courses. In your first semester, you will take HIST 1995 Introduction to History, which will introduce you to the major, to LMU, and to the many academic opportunities available to you. During your first couple of years, you will also take lower-division courses, a maximum of three, some of which will count towards the Core. In your sophomore or junior year, you'll take a 2000-level seminar, which will introduce you to historical methods and historiography. You'll also start to take upper-division courses, a minimum of five. In your senior year, then, you'll take a 5000-level seminar, where you will produce a major research or historiographical paper, and HIST 5995, a 1-unit capstone experience. Within those parameters, you have the power to shape your program of study around your interests!

STUDY HISTORY



Interested in understanding how and why things change?
Want to learn about other times and places?
Ready to make connections between the past and the present?
Want to be an informed global citizen?

THE HISTORY MAJOR

42 units total / 10 4-unit courses + 2 1-unit courses)
2 1-unit courses: HIST 1995 & HIST 5995
2 seminars: 1 2000-level seminar & 1 5000-level seminar
At least 5 additional upper-division courses
CHOOSE:
Generalist Track: 2 courses in each of 3 geographical regions
OR Specialist Track: 1 course in each of 3 geographical regions
+ 3 courses in chosen concentration

THE HISTORY MINOR

20 units total / 5 courses
At least 3 upper-division courses
CHOOSE:
Generalist Track: 1 course in each of 3 geographical regions
OR Specialist Track: 3 courses in chosen concentration

ZOOM IN ON HISTORY

SPECIALIST CONCENTRATIONS

Public and Applied History
Law, Politics, and Society
Global Economies, Encounters, and Exchange
Race, Gender, and Culture
Environment, Science, and Technology

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WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE GENERALIST AND SPECIALIST TRACKS?

Do you have broad interests and want to learn about a variety of time periods, places, and topics? Then the **Generalist Track** might be best for you. As a generalist, you'll take a wide range of courses, with the only requirement being that you take at least two courses in each of three geographical regions (World Regions, Europe, and the US). Do you want to focus your studies around a set of themes and problems? Then consider our **Specialist Track**. As a specialist, you still get geographical breadth, by taking at least one course in each of the three regions, but you also "specialize" your studies by choosing one of our **History concentrations** and taking at least three courses in it: Public and Applied History; Law, Politics, and Society; Global Economies, Encounters, and Exchange; Race, Gender, and Culture; or Environment, Science, and Technology. You can find more information at our [History Concentrations](#) page.



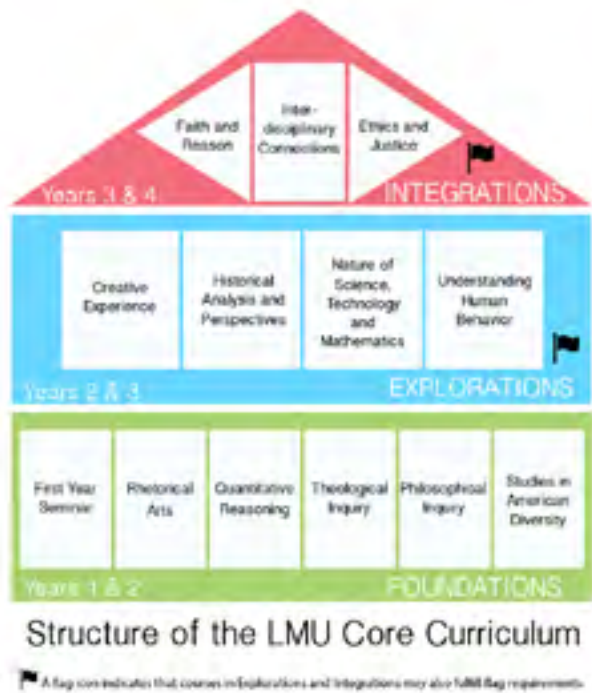
WHAT KINDS OF RESEARCH AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES DOES THE MAJOR OFFER?

You will have many opportunities to do [historical research](#) – in your classes and independently, working with a faculty member in an independent study, on a thesis project, or through one of LMU's [undergraduate research programs](#). History students have presented their research at LMU's [Undergraduate Research Symposium](#) and at regional and national conferences and have even published their research in undergraduate journals. History students have also presented their research in [less traditional forms](#), as student-curated exhibitions and as websites. Los Angeles – with its many museums, historical societies, historical sites, and archives – offers history students a variety of internship opportunities. You can also work in the department, as a History "TA" or as a Rains Research Assistant for a faculty member.
(poster: library exhibition curated by students in Professor Bittel's Civil War class)

WHAT ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDY ABROAD?

We highly encourage history majors to take advantage of opportunities to immerse themselves in another culture through [global learning opportunities](#). You can do a semester-long or summer program, offered through LMU or from one of our partners. But there are also opportunities for global learning even if you cannot go for the summer or a whole semester. BCLA offers global immersion courses, three of which have been offered in the History Department (thus far – with more to come, we hope!). Professor Woodson-Boulton took her seminar to Manchester in spring 2016; Professor Drummond took her Nazi Germany course to Berlin in spring 2017 and spring 2019; and Professor Woodson-Boulton joined the Berlin 2019 trip with her Museums and Society course.
(photo: Berlin 2019)





Structure of the LMU Core Curriculum

A flag icon indicates that courses in Explorations and Integrations may also fulfill flag requirements.

HOW DOES THE UNIVERSITY CORE CURRICULUM FIT INTO ALL OF THIS?

The University Core Curriculum (we just say “the Core”) provides all LMU students with a common intellectual experience, designed to cultivate a love of learning, a Catholic humanistic vision, and skills in writing, speaking, and quantitative and analytical reasoning. The Core is a sequenced curriculum (we sometimes call the graphic “the Core cathedral”), beginning with six foundational courses, three that focus on skills in writing, speaking, and quantitative reasoning and three that speak to LMU’s core values. Already at the Foundations-level, you will be introduced to disciplinary ways of thinking and knowing, something that continues at the Explorations-level, with courses in history, the social sciences, the arts, and the natural sciences. At the top of the “cathedral” are the Integrations-level courses, interdisciplinary courses that integrate knowledge and approaches. You’ll also complete six skills “flags.”

CAN ANY OF MY HISTORY COURSES COUNT FOR THE CORE?

Yes, many can and do! The History Department offers the bulk of the courses in the Historical Analysis and Perspectives category, as well as a couple of Studies in American Diversity courses each semester. We also generally offer one to two Integrations-level courses per semester, in the Faith & Reason and Interdisciplinary Connections categories. If you take History courses that count for the Core, then they will count both for the major and for the Core. Your First-Year Seminar might also count towards the History major, but only if you take it with a History Department faculty member – and we offer a handful of FYS sections each semester. You can also do your Core “flags” in the History Department. All of them, in fact, as we have approved courses in each of the flag categories: Writing (two flags), Oral Skills, Information Literacy, Quantitative Literacy, and Engaged Learning. You’ll get four flags – definitely one Writing flag and the Oral Skills flag, with the other two flags depending on which 2000-level seminar you take – just by completing the major, and you’ll have plenty of opportunities to get the other two.

WHAT ABOUT AP EXAM CREDITS?

Scores of 4 and 5 on the European history, US history, and world history AP exams earn you credits that count towards both the major and the Core.

WHAT’S IT LIKE IN THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT? WHAT IS THE STUDENT COMMUNITY LIKE?

We have a great community here in the History Department. Our History “TAs” are the backbone of that community. They work in the department but also become leaders among the History students, often serving as officers in our [student organizations](#), our chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the History Honors Society, and the History Students Association, which is open to all students. Those groups organize a number of events in the department, including movie nights, graduate school and career nights, “Feasts During Finals,” and more.

The department is also active in programming. Indeed, we’ve become known across campus for our events (and our posters). We have at least one History in the Headlines roundtable each semester, where we bring together students and LMU faculty, from History and other departments, to discuss something in the news and to put in a broader historical and global context. Topics have included the Confederate monuments debate, family separation at the border, gun violence, voting rights, and impeachment. We also generally bring in one visiting scholar each semester – or a pair of visiting scholars – to present their research in conversation with students. Recent speakers have focused on the Russian Revolution, the Catholic Reformation, Confederate monuments, the global plastics crisis, and the history of testosterone. Students “cover” our events, writing up summaries for our [News Archive](#).



