

## **U.S. Graduate Field Requirements UCLA Department of History**

### **MA Degree**

**(History does not grant a terminal Master's. The MA degree can be earned en route to the Ph.D.)**

### **Foreign Language Requirement**

Students in the U.S. history field must pass a departmentally-administered language exam, which will be administered by a faculty member and proctored by the History Graduate Office. The student will have 90 minutes for the exam, and they are allowed to bring their own dictionary.

### **Course Requirements**

The department requires a minimum of nine upper division and graduate courses in history (36 units), at least six (24 units) of which must be graduate courses. All students must successfully complete the 36 units (normally nine courses) taken for a letter grade (unless only offered S/U). The six graduate courses must include at least one continuing two- or three-quarter research seminar which must include the preparation of a substantial research paper. When appropriate to specific research interests and scheduling exigencies, upon successful petition to the Field Coordinator, students may substitute courses within their two-quarter seminars. A one-quarter seminar followed immediately by the next quarter with a directed studies course (HIST 596) may replace the required two-quarter seminar. The two-quarter seminar(s) (and/or seminar with course substitution) must culminate in a substantial research paper at the end of the second quarter.

History 495 and courses in the 300 series are not applicable toward course requirements. All students may use up to a maximum of two History 596 courses for both the total course requirement and the minimum six graduate (200-series) course requirement. Note: only one of the two 500-series courses may be applied toward the total degree requirements without petitioning the field coordinator or faculty advisor and when appropriate the Vice Chair of Graduate Affairs.

For students in U.S. History Field, a minimum of 10 courses (40 units) must all be taken at the graduate level (courses numbered 200 and above). The 10 courses consist of: History 246A-246B-246C; one 200-level seminar in another field within the department; one 200-level course in another department; History 204 (the departmental seminar on historiography); and at least two continuing two-quarter seminars.

### **Capstone Plan**

The U.S. field requires students to pass the written comprehensive examination following 24 months in academic residence, to earn the M.A. degree, and continue to the oral qualifying examination for admission to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. Students who fail the examination may retake it once by petition within the quarter or year. Students failing the exam a second time will not continue in the program.

### **PHD Degree**

### **Foreign Language Requirement**

U.S. history: One modern foreign language to be fulfilled through a departmental language examination. The exam will be administered by a faculty member and proctored by the History

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Graduate Office. The student will have 90 minutes for the exam, and they are allowed to bring their own dictionary.

### Course Requirements

All incoming students are required to complete History 204 (Fall seminar) and complete at least one continuing two- or three-quarter seminar, which must include the preparation of a substantial research paper (two continuing two-quarter seminars are required for students in History of Science and U.S. history). When appropriate to specific research interests and scheduling exigencies, upon successful petition to the Field Coordinator, students may substitute courses within their two-quarter seminars. A one-quarter seminar followed immediately by the next quarter with a directed studies course (HIST 596) may replace the required two-quarter seminar. The two-quarter seminar(s) (and/or seminar with course substitution) must culminate in a substantial research paper at the end of the second quarter. A maximum of eight units of HIST 596 may be used for all fields. Note: Only one of the two 500-series courses may be used without petitioning the field coordinator or faculty advisor and when appropriate, the Vice Chair of Graduate Affairs.

(1) U.S. History -- 10 courses (40 units) that must all be taken at the graduate level (courses numbered 200 and above). The 10 courses (40 units) consist of: History 246A-246B-246C; one 200-level seminar in another field within the department; one 200-level course in another department; History 204 (the departmental seminar on historiography); and at least two continuing two-quarter seminars.

### Written and Oral Qualifying Examinations

*Academic Senate regulations require all doctoral students to complete and pass university written and oral qualifying examinations prior to doctoral advancement to candidacy. Also, under Senate regulations, the University Oral Qualifying Examination is open only to the student and appointed members of the doctoral committee. In addition to university requirements, some graduate programs have other pre-candidacy examination requirements. What follows in this section is how students are required to fulfill all of these requirements for this doctoral program.*

*All committee nominations and reconstitutions adhere to the [Minimum Standards for Doctoral Committee Constitution](#).*

#### *All Fields*

Students with outstanding incomplete grades may not be permitted to sit for the written and oral qualifying examinations. The written qualifying examination must be passed before the oral qualifying examination can be taken. Students must begin the written qualifying examinations no later than the end of the ninth quarter of graduate study. To be eligible to sit for their qualifying examinations, student must have completed all their course work and language requirements.

#### *U.S. Field*

##### Written Qualifying Examination

Students must take the written qualifying examination following 24 months in academic residence. The written qualifying examination is administered once a year at the beginning of fall quarter. Students who fail the examination may retake it once by petition when it is offered again at the beginning of the next fall quarter. Students who fail the examination a second time are not permitted to continue in the program.

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The written examination is intended to test a comprehensive broad understanding of American history both before and after the independence of the U.S. All facets of history (political, social, diplomatic, etc.) are included. Therefore, an ability to synthesize factual information, sometimes across long chronological periods, is essential. Knowledge of the scholarly literature and of the principal historiographical controversies arising out of it is tested along with the student's interpretive capabilities. Passing of the examination implies that the student is qualified, in the judgment of the U.S. field, to teach courses in U.S. history at the college level. Questions related to the planning of such courses may appear on the examination.

### Oral Qualifying Examination

Students must complete all prior degree requirements before taking the University Oral Qualifying Examination. Students who have outstanding incomplete grades are not permitted to take this examination. The examination is normally taken during a student's third year of study. The examination committee must include four faculty members, including the student's adviser. Normally, two members come from the U.S. field. One member must come from a field in the department other than the U.S. field, and one must come from another department.

During the examination, students are questioned about their dissertation proposal and, in connection with the proposal and their preparation with the members of the examination committee, they also may be questioned on related fields of study. Students either pass or fail the examination. By majority vote of the committee, students who fail the examination may retake it once. Students whose committees do not agree to a repeat of the examination and students who fail the examination a second time are not permitted to continue in the program.