



Bachelor of Arts, 4-Year Major in History

Program Planning Guide 2026/2027

Program Overview

A rich and varied program, the Bachelor of Arts with a Major in History, will take you on a voyage of discovery which spans the origins of human civilization to the present day. After completing a core course on the History of Western Thought and an introductory course in historical methodology, students may choose from a variety of intermediate and senior courses. Required courses are limited to a selection of Canadian history courses, as well as our two-course sequence in Public History, which includes a practical component. In the final year, students complete a capstone course on the Historian's Craft and a senior research project.

The Major in History provides students with a broad understanding of the historical foundations and cultural dimensions of the world they live in and with the skills needed to uncover and analyze the events, processes and ideas which shape the past and to appreciate how an understanding of the past helps inform the present and the future. Through the in-depth study of change and continuity over time and place, students acquire an ability to look at the past from different angles and perspectives and to employ a variety of analytical tools and methods in interpreting human affairs and institutions.

Students in the program will have the opportunity to meet the following objectives through the History major requirements:

- establish a strong foundation in Canadian history
- know and assess historical methods and theory
- understand and apply different research methodologies and theoretical models used by historians
- gain historical knowledge across regions and nations, time periods and approaches to the study of history through completion a selection of intermediate and senior courses
- critically evaluate secondary sources and engage in major historiographical debates
- identify, analyze and interpret primary sources
- analyze complex historical problems and synthesize insights from a variety of source materials
- organize and report research and communicate findings through effective and persuasive arguments

A History Major offers excellent training in processing information, research, the technique of critical investigation and the analysis of data and provides a platform of knowledge and skills which are highly desirable in many fields of employment, including management, law, journalism, public service, archives and museums, librarianship and teaching.

Admission

New students may apply directly to the program when they apply for admission. Current students may be admitted to the program by submitting a *Change of Program Form* to the Enrolment Services Office for processing.

Program Requirements

Students are strongly recommended to meet with an academic advisor on a regular basis throughout the program. It is the student's responsibility to ensure they have met the requirements for graduation.

This planning guide is designed to help students keep track of their progress in meeting degree requirements. Course descriptions may be found in the St. Mary's *University Calendar*.

A. Liberal Arts Core (18 credits)

- _____ ENGL 200A: Studies in Literature: Middle Ages to 1660 (3 credits)
- _____ ENGL 200B: Studies in Literature: 1660 to the Present (3 credits)
- _____ HIST 200A: History of Ideas: Antiquity to the Reformation (3 credits)
- _____ HIST 200B: History of Ideas: Scientific Revolution to 20th Century (3 credits)
- _____ PHIL 351: Ethics (3 credits)
- _____ RLGS 205: Reading Biblical Texts (3 credits)

B. Special Requirements (24 credits)

- / _____ 6 credits in a language other than English (may include LING 301)
- / _____ 6 credits in the Humanities (ART, CLAS, DRAM, ENGL, FREN, GREK, INST, ITAL, LATI, LING, MUSI, PHIL, RLGS, SPAN)
- / _____ 6 credits in the Natural and Mathematical Sciences (ASTR, BCEM, BIOL, CHEM, CPSC 215, HMKN 205, MATH, PHYS, SCIE, STAT)
- / _____ 6 credits in the Social Sciences **other than History** (ACCT, ECON, FMST, GEOG, MGST, POLI, PSYC, SOCI)

C. History Requirements (45 credits)

- _____ HIST 211: Introduction to Historical Thinking and Practice (3 credits)
- _____ 3 credits in Canadian History (HIST 371, 373)
- _____ 3 additional credits in Canadian History (HIST 347, 441, 443, 445, 449, 453, 457, or HIST 371 or 373 if not used above)
- _____ 12 credits in History at the 300-level
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- _____ 12 credits in History at the 400-level
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- _____ HIST 391A: *Public History in Theory* (3 credits)
- _____ HIST 391B: *Public History in Practice* (3 credits)
- _____ HIST 401: *The Historian’s Craft* (3 credits) **To be taken in the final year of the program*
- _____ HIST 403: *Major Project* (3 credits) **To be taken in the final year of the program*

120-Credit Degree

Junior/Senior Requirements

72 credits must be taken at the **300- or 400-level**.

Directed Studies

Students are allowed a **maximum of 9.0 credits hours** of directed studies in their degree program.

Program Standing

In order to remain in the program, you must maintain a cumulative **GPA of 2.0** and a cumulative **GPA of 2.3** in senior History courses.

You may have no more than one D or D+ in senior History courses. Students who do not meet these requirements may not graduate.

Residence Requirement

All students must complete at least **60 credits** at St. Mary’s University. A minimum of 24 History credits including **HIST 391A, HIST 391B, HIST 401** and **HIST 403** must be completed at StMU.

Graduation

In your final year of study, an *Application to Graduate* must be submitted by October 1.

This guide is for your convenience only and should not replace the St. Mary’s University Calendar, which is the final authority regarding degree program requirements and academic regulations.

D. Minor Program Requirements (18 credits) *If not pursuing a minor, take 18 credits of electives.

- At least 9 credits of a minor must be taken at the 300 or 400 level
- At least 9 credits of a minor must be completed at St. Mary's University

Minor (if applicable): _____

_____ (3 credits)

E. Electives (15 credits) *be attentive to Jr./Sr. requirements

_____ elective: _____ (3 credits)

_____ elective: _____ (3 credits)