Students applying for the doctoral program who have received an M.A. in history from another university can be admitted straight into the Ph.D. program but may be required to take some additional courses to make up for any deficiencies in academic preparation. Students are generally expected to have concentrated in the same field at the M.A. level as the one that they intend to pursue in the Ph.D. program.

Upon completion of coursework and language requirements (see below), Ph.D. students will take a comprehensive examination. Reading lists for the examination are developed by the student in conjunction with the student’s mentor and examination committee.

Within a year of successfully passing the comprehensive exam, the candidate must present a dissertation prospectus for the approval of the mentor and dissertation committee. After the completion of the dissertation, its oral defense, and submission to the dean, the Ph.D. is awarded.

Requirements

Beyond the M.A. degree requirements, the following must be completed:

- Eight courses (minimum 30 credits) in addition to M.A. courses
  - Two of these eight courses must consist of the year-long proseminar/seminar sequence.
- Reading proficiency in two foreign languages (including statistics/databases). Medieval concentrators must also prove proficiency in Latin or another research language.
- Comprehensive oral examination in four fields, at least three of which must be in the area of concentration; the fourth field may be in any other historical field or in another discipline, such as art history, literature, medieval studies, philosophy, political science, or theology.
- Dissertation proposal development (1 credit) and acceptance (3 credits) to be completed within one year of comprehensive examination.
- Dissertation and defense.