

New Academic Program: MA/MS in History

Program Proposed Start Date

Fall 2020

Program Description

The Masters of History (MA/MS HST) degree program at OSU's Corvallis campus will produce graduates who, via a variety of career paths, can address society's "big problems," including racial and social injustice, violence and war, and technological and scientific developments.

History is the study of the human past as it is constructed and interpreted with human artifacts, written evidence, and oral traditions. It requires empathy for historical actors, respect for interpretive debate, and the skillful use of an evolving set of practices and tools. *As an inquiry into human experience*, history demands that we consider the diversity of human experience across time and place. *As a public pursuit*, history requires effective communication to make the past accessible, and it is essential to active citizenship. *As a discipline*, history necessitates a sophisticated use of information, evidence, and argumentation. Its rigorous professional ethics and standards call for peer review, citation, and acceptance of the provisional nature of knowledge.

Students can directly apply the knowledge learned in this history MA/MS to teaching, museum work, historic preservation, archives, or libraries. More broadly, as career preparation, this degree focuses on the underlying sets of analytical and verbal skills acquired in the process of studying history.

This degree is designed for students with undergraduate degrees in history, or related topics, including ethnic studies or gender/sexuality studies. Students will specialize in one of three transcript-visible graduate options: **1) Global Perspectives on War, Peace, and Empire**, with course work on the Holocaust, the rise of anti-Semitism, the World Wars, war in history, and empires in Latin America, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa; **2) History of Science and Technology**, concentrating on the history of the life and environmental sciences, drawing from an invaluable onsite collection of personal documents relating to Linus Pauling and other prominent scientists; and **3) Community History and Civic Engagement** with a focus on the history of race in the West, citizenship in the USA, social welfare, labor history, immigration, and social activism.

Having both an MA and an MS allows students to tailor their degree according to their career plans. The MS will generally attract students in options 2 and 3 (above), which do not require knowledge of a foreign language. Option 1 will typically attract MA students, because global history topics call for the ability to read a variety of sources in other languages. Students in option 1 might seek international employment or work in areas requiring bilingual cultural competency in the United States.

January 23-24, 2020 Board of Trustees Meetings

Program Context

Since 2000, 29 OSU students have graduated with a Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (MAIS) with a concentration in history. It is predicted that the MA/MS HST will have approximately two applicants a year, drawing from the students who currently choose to work with history faculty through the MAIS program. This new master's degree also provides general history coursework for students who may wish to apply for OSU's longstanding Ph.D. program in the History of Science.

Program Purpose/Relationship to University Mission and Strategic Plan

The three options in the new MA/MS HST program connect to OSU's mission and strategic plan. The History of Science and Technology option strongly supports the goals of knowledge creation and innovation by training students in the interdisciplinary subject of the history of science, technology, and medicine. The other two options relate directly to the goals of diversity and cultural support of Oregon and its communities. Oregon's population is becoming more international and more diverse. This program will lead students toward a more complex understanding of the historical context and heritage of that growing and diversifying population. Vitaly, this program provides a venue for students to understand the history of immigration, imperialism, and diplomacy, which have led to increasing diversity in Oregon and the United States. Advanced training in the history of currently underrepresented populations will create more opportunities for students with African American, Latinx, or Asian heritage (soon-to-be over 40% of state residents) to contextualize their identities and roles as Oregonians, and to more effectively voice their perspectives and needs as citizens of this state.

Need for the Program

To support this proposal, a survey was sent to current and past students enrolled in OSU history classes and/or history majors at OSU. Participants were asked to share their interest in obtaining a master's degree in history at OSU if it were to be offered in the fall of 2020. Out of 128 respondents, twenty-seven percent (35 respondents) were extremely interested in the master's degree. This is beyond our maximum capacity, and it suggests the potential for this program to become popular and highly competitive.

Portland State University and the University of Oregon offer History Masters degrees. OSU's proposed program is distinct from the existing degrees in several ways. OSU's focus on the history of science is unique in the state and rare in the nation. In addition, OSU faculty's four decades of education and outreach relating to Holocaust history, which is unique in the state and internationally admired, directly supports the recently passed statute mandating K-12 Holocaust education in Oregon.

Program Financials

The proposed budget is summarized in the following table. Personnel costs include one new graduate teaching assistantship each year of the MA/MS HST, culminating in a maximum of two GTAs enrolled in this program every year. Additional costs refer to recommendations drawn from the library review, printing costs or other incidental costs relating to graduate courses, and minor changes to existing offices in order to accommodate the new GTAs.

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	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Personnel				
Graduate Assistants	15,531	31,683	32,317	32,963
OPE	64	130	132	135
Tuition	14,153	28,873	29,450	30,039
Personnel Subtotal	29,748	60,686	61,900	63,138
Other Expenses				
Library, Printed	700	700	700	700
Services & Supplies	2,000	2,060	2,122	2,185
Other Resources Subtotal	2,700	2,760	2,822	2,885
Physical Facilities				
Construction	3,000	-	-	-
Physical Facilities Subtotal	3,000	-	-	-
Total Cost of Program	35,448	63,446	64,722	66,023
Resources				
Current Budget, unit	31,241	5,268	-	-
Tuition (Ecampus, differential) – Student Credit Hours	4,207	12,620	16,827	16,827
Other, describe: Graduate completion	-	45,558	91,117	91,117
Total Resources	35,448	63,446	107,943	107,943

RECOMMENDATION

All appropriate university committees and the OSU Faculty Senate have positively reviewed the proposed program. The Provost recommends that the Academic Strategies Committee approve the establishment of a MA/MS in History, effective fall 2020, pending support of the Statewide Provosts Council and the approval of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.