HISTORY - DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)

At CU Boulder, history graduate students are trained in the central principles and research methods that characterize the discipline of history through class instruction and professional development seminars. They also gain a thorough grounding in their particular geographical area of study as well as an ability to situate that area of study in a larger global context.

All PhD students focus their studies in two equally weighted fields:

- a regional/national field (i.e., American/U.S. history, European history or Asian history)
- a global/thematic field, for which students are required to take a variety of courses that examine global and transnational history through specific thematic lenses

For the purposes of the comprehensive examination (portfolio), students are expected to work with their faculty advisors to craft subfields of emphasis within both the regional/national and global/thematic fields.

Students wishing to pursue graduate work in history leading to candidacy for an advanced degree should read the Doctoral Degree Requirements (catalog.colorado.edu/graduate/degree-requirements/doctoral-degree-requirements) section carefully. For more information, visit the department’s Graduate Students (http://www.colorado.edu/history/graduate-students) webpage.

Requirements

Admission

For purposes of admission to the graduate program, the general Graduate Record Examination is required and a score in the 85th percentile or above on the verbal component is generally expected.

Prerequisites

Students who wish to work toward the PhD degree in history must indicate knowledge of certain fields of history, acquaintance with the fundamental tools of historical scholarship and the ability to do original work. The PhD program does not require the completion of a master’s degree, but directly admits those qualified applicants who hold an undergraduate history degree or who have completed appropriate undergraduate history preparation and who have been recommended by the graduate admissions committee.

Residence

At least three years of graduate study, two of which must be spent in residence, are required for the PhD degree.

Degree Requirements

A total of 45 post-baccalaureate credit hours, at least 36 of which must be taken at this university, and a dissertation are required for the degree. A minimum of one foreign language is required; however, students must be able to use those languages essential to research and advanced study in their respective fields. In addition, as required by the Graduate School, those students pursuing a PhD should complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of dissertation work beyond the minimum course work requirement.

A comprehensive written and oral examination, a dissertation that is an original contribution to knowledge and an oral examination on the dissertation must be completed successfully.