



No U.S. History?

How College History Departments Leave the
United States out of the Major

SECOND EDITION



ACTA
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF
TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI



No U.S. History?

How College History Departments Leave the
United States out of the Major

Second Edition

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI

November 2021

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

No U.S. History? was made possible by the generosity of David Bruce Smith, founder of the Grateful American® Foundation, who has steadily encouraged and supported ACTA's work to deepen civic knowledge and advance the study of American history. The report was prepared by the staff of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), primarily Dr. Jonathan Pidluzny, ACTA's vice president of academic affairs, and Alexandra Quillen, program manager for curricular improvement.

ACTA is an independent, nonprofit organization committed to academic freedom, academic excellence, and accountability at America's colleges and universities. Founded in 1995, ACTA is the only national organization dedicated to working with alumni, donors, trustees, and education leaders across the United States to support liberal arts education, uphold high academic standards, safeguard the free exchange of ideas on campus, and ensure that the next generation receives an intellectually rich, high-quality education at an affordable price. Our network consists of alumni and trustees from nearly 1,300 colleges and universities, including over 23,000 current board members. Our quarterly newsletter, *Inside Academe*, reaches more than 13,000 readers.

For further information about ACTA and its programs, please contact:

American Council of Trustees and Alumni
1730 M Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202.467.6787; 888.258.6648
Fax: 202.467.6784
GoACTA.org • info@GoACTA.org

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Instead of U.S. History . . .	6
Working Toward Renewal	9
U.S. History Requirements for History Majors	
Table 1: Top 25 Liberal Arts Colleges	16
Table 2: Top 25 National Universities	17
Table 3: Top 25 Public Universities	18
School Pages: U.S. History Courses Required in the Major or the Core Curriculum	19

FOREWORD

In 1949, the French intellectual André Malroux pronounced, “Western civilization has begun to doubt its own credentials.” What would he say today, witnessing the self-negation, fed by ignorance, at large in American society and at epidemic proportions in our colleges and universities?

The freedoms, comforts, and stability we too often take for granted are the result of labors, physical and intellectual, of millions who came before, and no one could fairly question the fact that Americans played an outsize role building the world we live in today. The ideals that informed the American Revolution and the genius that forged a new political system in 1787 have helped freedom and prosperity to spread. It is exhilarating to learn that story, an opportunity every student should enjoy.

It is also an essential story because it will be up to the current generation, and those who follow, to perpetuate our institutions and way of life. If the idea of America vanishes, other ideas will rush in to replace it, ushering in a diminished way of life. The urgent task before us is to rebuild civic understanding and historical perspective by reclaiming the study of the American story in our colleges and universities, in our high schools, around the dining table, and in our media landscape.

It is in this spirit that the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) presents this report. The findings are disturbing. At many of America’s most eminent institutions of higher learning, even students completing a history major are under no requirement to take a single course on the history of our country. It is as if the credentials of our nation are no longer of relevance to us or to the world. ACTA has long called on higher education for a recommitment to preparing college students for informed and engaged citizenship. As historian David Bruce Smith makes clear in the preface that follows, the stakes could not be higher.

Michael Poliakoff
President

PREFACE

John and Abigail Adams envisioned an America with a school in every neighborhood and a well-informed citizenry that was adept in languages, literature, and music; science, history, and religion. Their vision was practical until the ages recast it, little by little.

Then, sometime between Joseph McCarthy and Joan Baez, the status quo of the educational system came undone.

Students who had been accustomed to a traditional 50-50 humanities/sciences course of study were capsized—academically—by the surprise Sputnik launch in 1957. The country’s Race to Space sent higher education into a tizzy and fixed it on science education. In the succeeding seven decades, resources have risen—consistently—for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), a course that has been to our benefit, but it came at an unnecessary cost: The rise of the sciences has left the humanities downplayed, devalued, and dodged.

That uneven ratio has bestowed an unfortunate historic illiteracy on three generations. Most people, for example, do not know the philosophical roots of the Declaration of Independence; their rights that come from the Constitution; or the civic virtues that should have come to them from their teachers. For these three reasons, too many Americans do not vote—in local, state, or national elections.

Even in this crisis of civic illiteracy, only about 18% of colleges and universities nationwide require the study of history and government in their general education programs.¹ The same is increasingly true in the history major. In years past, when the architecture of academe was different, a plethora of institutions, such as Harvard, UCLA, Rice, Notre Dame, Johns Hopkins, and William & Mary, proffered requirements for focused classes in American history, but their phase-out—began in the 1960s—was practically completed by 2000.

Nowadays, at Columbia University, “Students must take at least nine courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Of these courses, four must be in a chosen field of geographical, chronological, or thematic specialization, and three must be outside of the specialization, including one course

removed in time and two courses removed in space.” In other words, the major requires exposure to a variety of histories—none of which need touch on this country.

That gap in its history major requirements is deeply troubling, though Columbia at least has a Contemporary Civilization requirement in its signature Core Curriculum for undergraduates that addresses Founding documents and key concepts of United States government. But meanwhile, at Colgate University, which has no such option in its general education requirements:

“Students choose one of two pathways to graduate with a B.A. in history. Both require nine courses. The Field of Focus (FoF) Pathway requires one history workshop, seven electives . . . The FoF Pathway allows students to devise individualized, intellectually coherent specializations. Possible fields of focus include environmental history, gender and sexuality, and race and racism.”

Similarly, at Brown University: “Students must take 10 courses to graduate with an A.B. in history. Of these, concentrators take two courses covering the premodern era; at least four courses in a chosen chronological, geographical or thematic field of focus . . . Concentrators must also fulfill a geographical distribution requirement by taking at least two courses in three different geographical regions: Africa, East Asia, Europe, global history, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and South Asia, and North America.”

This reorientation away from the study of American history—even as a point of reference for those focusing their studies on other parts of the world—is now the norm in the American academy. In the 2020–21 academic year, 18 of the top 25 public universities did not have a wide-ranging American history requirement for students seeking a B.A. in history in the major or core curriculum, nor did 24 of the 25 best national schools.

Even the legendary linchpins of the liberal arts—Amherst, Swarthmore, Vassar, Smith, Williams, and Pomona—fared poorly: Twenty-one out of 25 colleges examined did not have an American history requirement.

The consequences have a powerful penetration on the population. Much of what is not learned—or stays uncorrected—turns into the misinformation that is so damaging in a free and democratic society.

Ten percent of college graduates believe Judy Sheindlin—TV’s “Judge Judy”—is a member of the Supreme Court.²

When eighth graders were asked to choose a “belief shared by most people of the United States,’ a majority (51 percent) picked ‘The government should guarantee everybody a job,’ and only a third chose the correct answer: ‘The government should be a democracy.’”³

Eighteen percent of American adults think New York Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is the architect of the New Deal, a package of programs introduced by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1933. Twenty-six percent believe Brett Kavanaugh is the current chief justice of the Supreme Court, along with another 14% who identified Antonin Scalia, although he had been dead for two years at the time of the survey. Only 12% know that it was the 13th Amendment that freed the slaves in the United States. And 30% think the Equal Rights Amendment guaranteed women the right to vote. (These results, moreover, were all based on a multiple-choice survey: All the respondents had to do was select the correct option out of four possibilities.)⁴

The late Bruce Cole, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities from 2001 to 2009, admonished: “Unlike a monarchy, a democracy is not automatically self-perpetuating. History and values have to be renewed from generation to generation.”⁵ Our failure to educate future citizens for informed civic participation compromises the country. Institutions need to take this new ACTA report to heart and, starting with their requirements for the history major, embrace their obligation to address the crisis, robustly in civic education.

David Bruce Smith
Founder, Grateful American® Foundation
Co-Founder, Grateful American® Book Prize

“

To conform the principles, morals, and manners of our citizens to our republican forms of government, it is absolutely necessary that knowledge of every kind, should be disseminated through every part of the united states. For this purpose, let congress . . . [found] a federal university. In this university, let every thing connected with government, such as history—the law of nature and nations—the civil law—the municipal laws of our country—and the principles of commerce—be taught by competent professors.

—**Benjamin Rush**⁶, signer of the Declaration of Independence; founder of Dickinson College; and professor at the University of Pennsylvania



INTRODUCTION

The Massachusetts Constitution, the world's oldest and an inspiration for the U.S. Constitution, asserts that "Wisdom, and knowledge . . . diffused generally among the body of the people [is] necessary for the preservation of [the people's] rights and liberties." For John Adams, who drafted the document, there was an essential connection between liberal learning and "the principles of humanity and general benevolence."⁷ His premise was simple and irrefutable: No free society can waver in perpetuating knowledge, including civic knowledge, because shared understanding binds a people together and constitutes the animating spirit of its laws and institutions.

America's greatest leaders have reminded us time and time again of this truth.⁸ Abraham Lincoln's Lyceum Address argues that a proper understanding of the country's principles is essential for the perpetuation of its republican institutions. Theodore Roosevelt specifically looked to higher education: "The man with a university education is in honor bound to take an active part in our political life, and to do his full duty as a citizen by helping his fellow-citizens to the extent of his power in the exercise of the rights of self-government."⁹ John F. Kennedy gave a warning yet more urgent today: "There is little that is more important for an American citizen to know than the history and traditions of his country. Without such knowledge, he stands uncertain and defenseless before the world, knowing neither where he has come from nor where he is going."¹⁰

With the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence close at hand, Americans have all but lost touch with the country's Founding ideas, its core documents, and the major events that have shaped the lives

of their countrymen and ancestors for more than two centuries. A 2019 survey conducted for ACTA by the National Opinion Research Center revealed that only 18% of *college graduates* could identify James Madison as the “Father of the Constitution”—on a multiple-choice question. Fifty-one percent did not know the term lengths of U.S. Senators and Representatives.¹¹ It is hardly any wonder that a recent survey of more than 41,000 Americans found that majorities in 49 states would not pass the U.S. citizenship test.¹² The stakes could not be higher. As historian Wilfred McClay has written, “What memory is for individuals, history is for civilizations; and without the reference points provided by historical consciousness, we soon forget who we are, and we perish.”¹³

The study you are about to read reveals how even the training of those who major in history is so often devoid of that memory.

History can be taught in many places, but most roads lead back to the academy. For most of American history, university leaders understood this, as well as the profound responsibility to foster the civic-mindedness that can ennoble democracy.¹⁴ John Witherspoon, a leading educator of the Revolutionary Era who mentored James Madison and transformed Princeton University as its president, expected his students to “apply their talents to the service of the Public and the good of mankind. Education is . . . [for] the benefit of society in offices of power or trust.”¹⁵

This understanding persisted well into the twentieth century. A landmark 1945 Harvard study, *General Education in a Free Society*, presciently argued that “education for an informed responsible life in our society, has chiefly to do with . . . the question of common standards and common purposes.”¹⁶ Recognizing the importance of a “place for criticism of [the society’s] own aims,” the study nonetheless recommends courses that will help students to appreciate their common inheritance, specifically a course on the American democracy and another in Western Civilization. In a passage that should resonate especially today, the report warns that “Democracy, however much by ensuring the right to differ it may foster difference[,] particularly in a technological age which further encourages division of function and hence difference of outlook[,] yet depends equally on the binding ties of common standards. It probably depends more heavily on these ties than does any other kind of society precisely because

the divisive forces within it are so strong.”¹⁷ It is hard to imagine a faculty committee at any but a tiny handful of universities issuing a similar report today. Indeed, in sad irony, we find Harvard University’s 25th president, Derek Bok, observing: “It is widely agreed that an informed and engaged citizenry is important, many would say essential, in order for democracy to flourish or even survive. There is also abundant evidence from national assessments of civic knowledge and from studies of the attitudes and behavior of college-age adults that large numbers of students are neither very knowledgeable nor convinced that government and politics are worth much of their time and attention.”¹⁸

In this report, ACTA traces the disappearance of an American history requirement—from the history major—between 1952 and today. We reviewed the graduation requirements for students seeking a baccalaureate degree in history, as well as general education requirements, at 73 of the nation’s leading colleges and universities. ACTA relied on the 2020–21 *U.S. News & World Report*’s rankings to identify the top 25 liberal arts colleges, the top 25 national universities, and the top 25 public universities. We assessed university catalogs at four points in time covering almost 70 years: 1952, 1976, 2000, and 2020–21. And we asked whether the major required all students to complete at least one course in U.S. history. Where courses are narrow or niche in nature, for example, “History of Sexuality in America” at Dartmouth College, we made note on the school’s information page.¹⁹ (As this research was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, while campus operations were disrupted, not all institutions were willing or able to provide the documents we requested. And several institutions did not offer a history major until midway through the period we covered.)

The years we chose as markers are associated with different political moods. Catalogs from 1952, the year President Eisenhower was elected, capture the state of the history major in the aftermath of World War II (a time when colleges and universities were expanding rapidly as a result of massive, new government investment). Catalogs from 1976 reflect changes made in response to the curricular battles fought in the 1960s and early 1970s. Those from 2000, meanwhile, predate the political era that began on September 11, 2001. And the most recent set of documents

we examined, from 2020–21, reflect changes made in decades that saw political and ideological divisions deepen and our public discourse coarsen.

The report's main findings, detailed in the pages that follow, include:

- Only one of the top 25 national universities, the University of California–Berkeley, requires all history majors to complete a wide-ranging course in U.S. history. (Three additional schools require students to choose a course from a list that includes narrow and niche options.)
- Only four of the top 25 public universities require history majors to complete a wide-ranging course in U.S. history. (Eight additional schools require students to choose a course from a list that includes narrow and niche options, and three schools have a U.S. history course in the core curriculum but not in the major.)
- Only three of the top 25 liberal arts colleges require history majors to complete a wide-ranging course in U.S. history. (Three additional schools require students to choose a course from a list that includes narrow and niche options, and one school has a U.S. history course in the core curriculum but not in the major.)
- Of the 45 universities for which complete information is available (and which offered history majors going back to 1952), 32 required history majors to complete a wide-ranging course in U.S. history in 1952 (major or core curriculum), compared to only nine today.
- The trend is starkest at leading public universities. Fourteen of 16 required history majors to complete a wide-ranging course in U.S. history in 1952; only five do today.
- A majority of liberal arts colleges, 12 out of 18, required history majors to complete a course in U.S. history in 1952 (major or core curriculum); only four do today (two of which are service academies).

- Universities frequently require students to complete non-American and non-European history courses. For example, Bowdoin College requires history majors to complete three “non-Euro/U.S.” courses even though it does not require students to complete a course focusing on the United States. Many institutions require that students gain exposure to three or four regions outside of the United States and Europe without requiring coursework in American history.
- In earlier years, colleges and universities frequently espoused purposes similar to those articulated in *General Education in a Free Society*. For example, in 1952, Johns Hopkins University described the purpose of the history major as to ensure students “have a fair knowledge of some major segment of the history of Western Civilization.” Similarly, Florida State University asserted that a school “should provide the rich liberal education that marks the graduate as an educated citizen of a democracy in mid-century America.” The University of Notre Dame, in its 1976 catalog, described the purpose of the history major as providing students with “a knowledge of the past, considered as the historical background of Western and especially American culture.” Such statements are rare today.



INSTEAD OF U.S. HISTORY . . .

It is not that Americans are uninterested in their history. Every year, serious works of American history (some written by academic historians, some not) top the *New York Times* bestseller list. The smash Broadway hit *Hamilton*—one of the most talked-about in a generation—is based on an 832-page biography. In a recent survey, fully 77% of respondents expressed “a great deal” or “some” interest in learning about U.S. history.²⁰ And in legislatures and school board meetings around the country, parents and civic leaders are pushing back against efforts to politicize the social studies curriculum. The evidence all suggests that Americans care deeply about the country’s past—and want to see it conveyed honestly to the next generation.

At the same time, however, enrollments in history departments are falling—faster than in any other discipline, according to the American Historical Association.²¹ The problem is that colleges are not teaching what students yearn to learn and need to know. While there are several reasons for this, a change in the perspective of historians may be the most important. As David Kaiser has argued, the decline in history majors corresponds to academic historians’ abandonment of political history in favor of social history. When he reviewed the program for the most recent annual meeting of the American Historical Association in 2020, he found that only 15 of 300 different panels held at the meeting, or 2.5%, focused on political history. Of those, “only three panels touched on major national issues in the US.” (Five of those same 15 panels were related to gender or feminism.)²² So it is hardly any wonder that those with an

interest in their country's political history—the people and events that have shaped the world we live in today—are turning increasingly to books written by journalists and non-academic historians.²³

The neglect of U.S. history at elite institutions is quantifiable in other ways, too. Of 36 full-time faculty listed in the American Historical Association's directory of Harvard University's history faculty (not including joint, cross, or emeritus listings), only four indicate a specialization in some aspect of U.S. history that is not expressly social in orientation.²⁴ There is very little reason to expect the tide to turn anytime soon. Of the 154 dissertations completed in Harvard's Department of History since 2010, 33 focus on U.S. history. Of those, at most a dozen can be classified as political (three), economic (four), military (one), or legal (four) history.²⁵ In comparison, 21 of the 33 Americanist historians that Harvard graduated in the last decade, almost two-thirds, specialize in social history. They are tomorrow's professors, tomorrow's department chairs.

This shift is reflected in the design of the history major at the institutions surveyed in this report. While required American history courses have largely disappeared, a requirement that students complete coursework treating non-U.S. and non-Western countries and societies is almost universal. Several schools now offer “thematic” tracks as alternatives to focused regional study. At Amherst University, the options include a focus on “social justice, rights, and inequality.” Students at Claremont McKenna College can choose from “Environment, Culture, and Economics; Society, Diversity, and Inequality; or Law, Politics, and Society.” In the history department at Colgate University, possible fields of focus include environmental history, gender and sexuality, and race and racism. And that only takes us midway through colleges starting with the letter “C.”

The other major problem is specialization and incentives that prioritize research accomplishments instead of teaching excellence. Today, faculty at leading institutions generally teach (at most) two courses per term. Because of institutional pressure to publish (combined with the preference of academic journals and academic presses to publish something new,

however trivial), the courses that faculty do teach are often designed to align with their narrow research specialties. This is one of the main reasons that so few history departments today require all students to complete specific courses in American history, but instead ask students to choose some number of courses from several sprawling lists. Where students are not required to master specific content, faculty are free to teach whatever suits their research agenda.

This, too, is reflected in the design and structure of today's history majors. In 1914, 88% of universities attributed special curricular status to history and required *all students* to complete a specific history course or courses.²⁶ Today, most *history majors* do not require all students to complete even one specific course (aside, perhaps, from a history methods course). The Major Field Test—a “comprehensive undergraduate . . . outcomes assessmen[t] designed to measure the critical knowledge and understanding obtained by students in a major field of study”—is widely used in a range of disciplines, including English literature, music, political science, economics, psychology, sociology, criminal justice, and throughout the natural sciences.²⁷ One of the main reasons departments employ the Major Field Test is to assess what graduates are not learning in the major, with a view to improving the curriculum. A funny coincidence: the Educational Testing Service (ETS) discontinued the history test over a decade ago.²⁸ It is not hard to guess why demand for it was low among academic historians: In 2003, 30–35% of the assessment's 160 questions pertained to U.S. history, spanning social, political, intellectual, economic, diplomatic/military, and cultural “types of history.”²⁹ As this report makes clear, students graduating with history majors from top U.S. colleges and universities would have performed abysmally given the design of history programs today.



WORKING TOWARD RENEWAL

Renewing civic education begins in history departments. What colleges need most is to review and reform their curricula, and curricular self-examination and reform can be done at little or no financial cost.

What Trustees and Administrators Can Do

Trustees set the mission of the college or university, and it is their responsibility to ensure that the curriculum aligns with the guiding purposes of the institution. That means educating for citizenship, especially at public colleges and universities. Special attention should be paid to the history department because K-12 social studies educators receive much of their content knowledge from history courses and because colleges and universities have, until very recently, played a vitally important role in building civic literacy. Trustees and administrators should insist that departments articulate with far greater clarity what students should know. Until a college comes together as an academic institution and addresses the question of what it means to be a college-educated individual, the curriculum will continue its expensive, chaotic expansion, to the detriment of students' intellectual development.

But there are some bright signs of hope.

In 2021, the Arizona Board of Regents, which oversees three state universities that together enroll over 124,000 undergraduate students, demonstrated leadership in civic education. Its revision to the system-level general education policy is a model for the nation. When it is fully implemented, all students will be required to study “American

Institutions,” including “the basic principles of American constitutional democracy . . . the United States Constitution and major American constitutional debates and developments . . . the essential founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of American Institutions of self-governance” and “landmark Supreme Court cases that have shaped law and society.”³⁰

When reviewing the history program, trustees and administrators should not hesitate to ask the provost and the chairman of the history department to explain the department’s rationale for what it does and does not require of history majors. While respecting academic freedom, good academic governance prioritizes the need of students to have a meaningful and coherent curriculum. And that means ensuring that United States history is part of the history major’s program.

What Policymakers Can Do

Legislators can make a difference. In some states, policymakers have created strong requirements for the study of U.S. government and history. For example, South Carolina lawmakers passed the Reinforcing College Education on America’s Constitutional Heritage (REACH) Act in 2021 to revise the state’s civic requirement. From this year onward, all students will be required to complete a course designed to provide “a comprehensive overview of the major events and turning points of American history and government” that includes core documents central to the country’s political development—even history majors.³¹ Similarly, state laws in Texas, Oklahoma, Florida, and Georgia all require public universities to make completion of a course on American government and history a condition of graduation.

What Alumni and Donors Can Do

If ever there were an educational imperative that should claim the interest of alumni and donors, it is ensuring that college graduates understand our nation. Alumni outcry over deficiencies in the curricula of their institutions can be a powerful force for change. Donors, as individuals or as a

consortium, can create initiatives with incentives to add core requirements. In other words, their funding can be used to build the capacity to add sections of essential courses in American history and government, with the institution's agreement that the result would be a firm requirement for history majors to study the history of the United States, enhanced with new faculty resources. That requirement should quickly extend to every student pursuing a liberal arts degree.

Donors can also help strengthen the teaching of American history by funding (or founding) centers for the study of U.S. history and government. Dozens of such programs are thriving around the country, each with a distinctive mission and focus. For example, the Ashbrook Center at Ashland University is dedicated “to strengthen[ing] constitutional self-government by educating our fellow Americans—students, teachers, and citizens—in the history and Founding principles of our country and the habits of reflection and choice necessary to perpetuate our republic.”³² Similar programs include the Tocqueville Program at Furman University, the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University, and the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri.



NOTES

1. American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), *What Will They Learn? 2021–2022: A Survey of Core Requirements at Our Nation’s Colleges and Universities* (Washington, DC: ACTA, 2021), <https://www.goacta.org/resource/what-will-they-learn-2021-2022/>.
2. ACTA, *A Crisis in Civic Education* (Washington, DC: ACTA, 2016), 19, https://www.goacta.org/resource/a_crisis_in_civic_education/.
3. Peter Levine, “Explainer: What is wrong with America’s civic education,” May 8, 2016, *The Conversation*, <https://theconversation.com/explainer-what-is-wrong-with-americas-civic-education-56854>.
4. ACTA, *America’s Knowledge Crisis: A Survey of Civic Literacy* (Washington, DC: ACTA, 2019), <https://www.goacta.org/resource/americas-knowledge-crisis/>.
5. Rachel DiCarlo, “Oh, the Humanities!,” *Washington Examiner*, May 19, 2003, <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/weekly-standard/oh-the-humanities-3913>.
6. Benjamin Rush, “Address to the People of the United States,” January 1787, *Teaching American History*, <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/document/address-to-the-people-of-the-united-states/.6>.
7. Massachusetts Constitution, 1780, the 192nd General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, <https://malegislature.gov/laws/constitution>.
8. In his first annual address to Congress, George Washington asked Congress to establish a national university: “there is nothing, which can better deserve your patronage, than the promotion of Science and Literature,” he urged, explaining that republican government requires fostering a citizenry (and civic leaders) who can “discriminate the spirit of liberty from that of licentiousness” and who are animated by an “inviolable respect to the laws.” George Washington, “State of the Union Address (1790),” January 8, 1790, Mount Vernon, <https://www.mountvernon.org/education/primary-sources/state-of-the-union-address>.
9. Theodore Roosevelt, “The College Graduate and Public Life,” *The Atlantic*, August 1894, <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1894/08/the-college-graduate-and-public-life/304483/>.
10. “JFK Writes about Our Nation’s Memory,” *American Heritage* 59, no. 4 (2009), <https://www.americanheritage.com/jfk-writes-about-our-nations-memory>.

11. ACTA, *America's Knowledge Crisis: A Survey of Civic Literacy*.
12. The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, "Woodrow Wilson Foundation Finds Only One State Can Pass U.S. Citizenship Exam," February 15, 2019, <https://woodrow.org/news/one-state-pass-us-citizenship-exam/>.
13. Wilfred McClay, "Foreword," in Allen Guelzo, *Ten Things Everyone Should Know About American History* (Washington, DC: ACTA, 2020), <https://www.goacta.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/10-Things-Everyone-Should-Know-About-American-History.pdf>.
14. See Charles Dorn, *For the Common Good: A New History of Higher Education in America* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2017).
15. John Witherspoon, *The Works of John Witherspoon*, Volume 8 (Edinburgh: J. Ogle, 1815), 309.
16. The Committee on the Objectives of A General Education in a Free Society, Paul Buck, chairman, *General Education in a Free Society* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1945), 4.
17. *Ibid.*, 4, 12.
18. Scott Jaschik, "Higher Expectations: Can colleges teach students what they need to know in the 21st century? Derek Bok offers an answer," *Inside Higher Ed*, August 19, 2020, <https://www.insidehighered.com/digital-learning/article/2020/08/19/derek-bok-discusses-his-new-book-teaching-college-students>.
19. The document research for this project was completed in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. ACTA researchers relied on course catalogs supplied by university librarians. Where assessments are listed as not available for 1952 and 1976, librarians were unable to provide ACTA with the documents we requested (generally for reasons associated with COVID-19). In each case, we reviewed the history major looking for a required wide-ranging or foundational U.S. history course. If such a course (or courses) are required in the major or the core, we note it in summary tables and school detail pages. In some cases, history departments require completion of a course in American history but allow students to choose from a list that includes several that are overspecialized or narrow in scope. In these cases, we make note of the requirement on the school detail page.
20. Peter Burkholder and Dana Schaffer, *History, the Past, and Public Culture: Results from a National Survey* (Washington, DC: American Historical Association, 2021), 59.

21. Benjamin M. Schmidt, “The History BA Since the Great Recession: The 2018 AHA Majors Report,” *Perspectives on History*, November 26, 2018, <https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/december-2018/the-history-ba-since-the-great-recession-the-2018-aha-majors-report>.
22. David Kaiser, “Why Students Have Turned Away from History,” The James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal, June 10, 2020, <https://www.jamesgmartin.center/2020/06/why-students-have-turned-away-from-history/>.
23. Jonathan Pidluzny, “While Americans Gobble Up History Books, Colleges Shut Down History Departments,” *The Federalist*, June 19, 2019, <https://thefederalist.com/2019/06/19/americans-gobble-history-books-colleges-shut-history-departments/>.
24. American Historical Association (AHA), AHA Directory of History Departments and Organizations Institution Details, “Harvard University,” last accessed October 14, 2021, <https://secure.historians.org/members/services/cgi-bin/organizationdll.dll/info?orgcd=5087>.
25. AHA, Directory of History Dissertations, Harvard University directory search, last accessed October 14, 2021, <https://secure.historians.org/members/services/cgi-bin/memberdll.dll/info?wrp=dissertations.htm>.
26. National Association of Scholars (NAS), *The Dissolution of General Education: 1914–1993* (Princeton, NJ: NAS, 1996), 26, https://www.nas.org/storage/app/media/images/documents/report_the_dissolution_of_general_education_1914_1993.pdf.
27. Educational Testing Service (ETS), “About the ETS® Major Field Tests,” <https://www.ets.org/mft/about>.
28. ETS, “About the ETS® Major Field Tests.”
29. ETS, *Major Field Tests*, https://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/MFT/pdf/mft_testdesc_history_3zmf.pdf.
30. Arizona Board of Regents, Policy Number: 2-210, “General Education,” revised February 2021, <https://public.azregents.edu/Policy%20Manual/2-210%20General%20Education.pdf>.
31. South Carolina General Assembly, 124th Session, 2021–2022, Reinforcing College Education on America’s Constitutional Heritage (REACH) Act, https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess124_2021-2022/bills/38.htm.
32. The Ashbrook Center, “About,” <https://ashbrook.org/about/>.



U.S. History Requirements for History Majors

1952 | 1976 | 2000 | 2020

TABLE 1

U.S. HISTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR HISTORY MAJORS[†]

Top 25 Liberal Arts Colleges (as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*, 2020)

School	1952	1976	2000	2020
2 Amherst College	0	0	0	0
3 Swarthmore College	1	0	0	0
4 Pomona College	1	0	0	0
4 Wellesley College	No Major	0	0	0
6 Bowdoin College	0	0	0	0
6 Claremont McKenna College	No Major ^c	1	0	0
6 United States Naval Academy	0 ^{*c}	0	0 ^c	0 ^c
9 Carleton College	2	0	0	0
9 Hamilton College	2	0	0	1
9 Middlebury College	2	0	1	0
13 Grinnell College	0	0	0	0
15 Colby College	0	0	0	0
15 Davidson College	2	0	0	0
15 Haverford College	0	0	0	0
15 Smith College	0	0 [*]	0	0
15 United States Military Academy	1 ^{*c}	0	4	5 ^c
20 Colgate University	2	1	1	0
22 Barnard College	2	0	0	0
22 Bates College	0 ^c	2	0	0
22 University of Richmond	2	2	2	1
25 Harvey Mudd College	No Major [*]	No Major	No Major	No Major

Schools with Unavailable Catalogs

1 Williams College	n/a	n/a	0	0
9 Washington and Lee University	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
13 Vassar College	n/a	n/a	1	0
20 Wesleyan University	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
25 Colorado College	n/a	n/a	n/a	0

[†] A zero indicates that no wide-ranging or foundational course is required in the major. See school detail pages for information about schools that allow students to satisfy a U.S. history requirement with courses that are narrow or overspecialized.

^{*} If a catalog from a particular year was unavailable, we assessed a catalog from the nearest year possible.

^c Indicates that a wide-ranging or foundational history course is required in the core curriculum.

TABLE 2**U.S. HISTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR HISTORY MAJORS[†]**Top 25 National Universities (as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*, 2020)

School	1952	1976	2000	2020
2 Harvard University	2	0*	0	0
3 Columbia University	No Major	0	0	0
4 Massachusetts Institute of Technology	No Major	0	0	0
6 Stanford University	0	2	0	0
9 California Institute of Technology	No Major ^c	0	No Major	0
9 Johns Hopkins University	1	0	0	0
9 Northwestern University	1	0	0	0
12 Duke University	0	0	0	0
16 Rice University	2	2	2	0
18 Cornell University	0*	0	0	0
19 University of Notre Dame	2 ^c	2	0	0
20 University of California–Los Angeles	2	1	0	0
22 University of California–Berkeley	2	0	1	1
24 University of Southern California	0	0	0	0

Schools with Unavailable Catalogs

1 Princeton University	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
4 Yale University	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
6 University of Chicago	n/a	n/a	0	0
8 University of Pennsylvania	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
13 Dartmouth College	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
14 Brown University	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
14 Vanderbilt University	0	1	n/a	0
16 Washington University in St. Louis	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
21 Emory University	n/a	2	1	0
23 Georgetown University	n/a	n/a	0	0
24 University of Michigan–Ann Arbor	n/a	n/a	n/a	0

[†] A zero indicates that no wide-ranging or foundational course is required in the major. See school detail pages for information about schools that allow students to satisfy a U.S. history requirement with courses that are narrow or overspecialized.

* If a catalog from a particular year was unavailable, we assessed a catalog from the nearest year possible.

^c Indicates that a wide-ranging or foundational history course is required in the core curriculum.

TABLE 3

U.S. HISTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR HISTORY MAJORS[†]

Top 25 Public Universities (as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*, 2020)

School	1952	1976	2000	2020
1 University of California–Los Angeles	2	1	0	0
2 University of California–Berkeley	2	0	1	1
4 University of Virginia	0 ^c	0	0	0
5 University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill	2	0	0	0
6 University of California–Santa Barbara	2 ^c	0	3	0
6 University of Florida	0	2	2	0 ^c
8 Georgia Institute of Technology	No Major	No Major ^c	0 ^c	0 ^c
8 University of California–Irvine	5 [*]	0	0	0
11 University of California–Davis	2	0	0	0
11 College of William & Mary	2	2	2	0
15 University of Georgia	0 ^c	2 ^{*c}	0 ^c	0 ^c
17 Ohio State University	2	0	0	0
19 University of Maryland–College Park	0 ^c	0	0	0
19 University of Pittsburgh	2	0	1	1
19 University of Washington	1	1	1	0
23 Pennsylvania State University	2	1	2	0
23 University of Connecticut	0	0	1	0

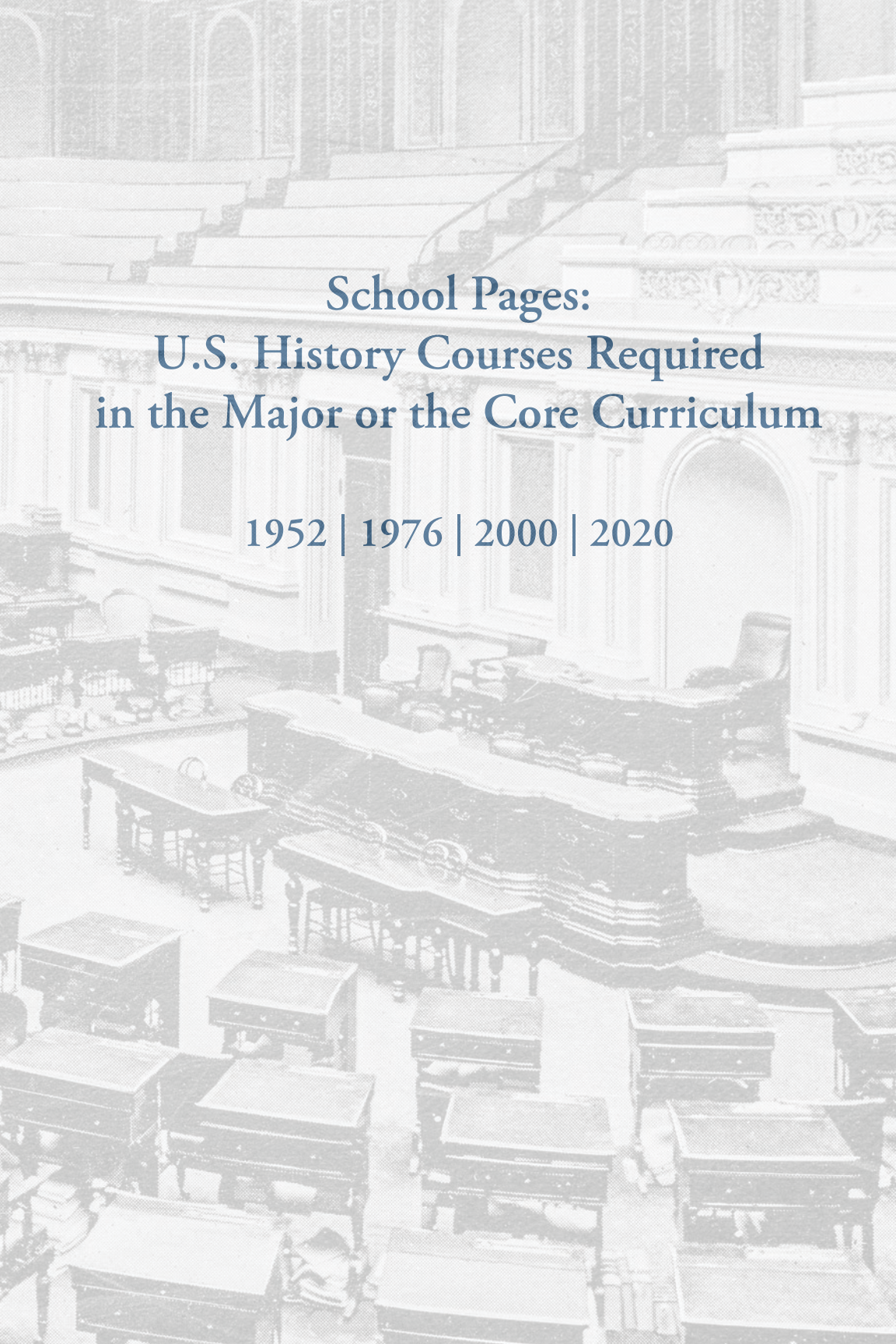
Schools with Unavailable Catalogs

3 University of Michigan–Ann Arbor	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
8 University of California–San Diego	n/a	0	0	0
12 University of Texas–Austin	n/a	n/a	2 ^c	2 ^c
13 University of Wisconsin–Madison	No Major ^c	n/a	0	0
15 University of Illinois–Urbana–Champaign	n/a	0	0	0
17 Purdue University–West Lafayette	0	n/a	n/a	0
19 Florida State University	No Major	n/a	2	2 ^c
23 Rutgers University–New Brunswick	n/a	n/a	n/a	0

[†] A zero indicates that no wide-ranging or foundational course is required in the major. See school detail pages for information about schools that allow students to satisfy a U.S. history requirement with courses that are narrow or overspecialized.

^{*} If a catalog from a particular year was unavailable, we assessed a catalog from the nearest year possible.

^c Indicates that a wide-ranging or foundational history course is required in the core curriculum.



School Pages:
**U.S. History Courses Required
in the Major or the Core Curriculum**

1952 | 1976 | 2000 | 2020

AMHERST COLLEGE

Students must take nine courses to graduate with a B.A. in history: four courses in an individually chosen area of concentration (geographic or thematic), one course each in at least three different geographical distributions, and either two courses that cover pre-1800 history or one pre-1800 history course and one comparative history course. To fulfill the geographical distribution requirement, students may choose courses in three of the following areas: the United States, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Diaspora, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East. As an alternative to the geographical distribution, students may elect one of the following thematic concentrations: Cultures, Ideas, and Emotions; Empires, Nations, and Encounters; and Social Justice, Rights, and Inequality. Majors are also required to take a research seminar as well as a history writing seminar. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	No course required in major or core.
				★	Course required in the major.
				✓	Course required in the core.
				2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952	1976*	2000	2020		

*In 1976, no information on the core curriculum was available for review.

Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** No requirement. In 1952, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, the history department required students to complete a U.S. history course that was narrow in scope (The World Crisis: 1945–50) but did not require a qualifying survey of U.S. history.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 1952, Amherst College’s general education curriculum required students to complete a course in American Studies described as “a study of selected problems in American civilization . . . treated from various viewpoints, including the political, economic, and cultural.” The course description itself notes that “this course does not provide a survey of American history.”

BARNARD COLLEGE

Students must complete at least 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history: six in an area of concentration and an additional five that may be within or outside that area. The 11 required courses should include: three introductory lecture courses (at least one 1000-level course and the two others may be 1000- or 2000-level courses); two seminars (3000- or 4000-level courses); at least one course (lecture or seminar) demonstrating temporal breadth; at least one course (lecture or seminar) demonstrating geographic range (unless the area of concentration already does so, in which case a course covering a geographical area or region outside the chosen field of study is required); and a two-semester senior research seminar (HIST BC3391 Senior Research Seminar and HIST BC3392 Senior Research Seminar). Majors may, with the approval of their advisors, include two non-history courses in their list of 11 if the subjects are closely related to their concentrations. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core



No course required in major or core.



Course required in the major.



Course required in the core.

2, 3, 4

Exponents represent the number of courses required.

1952

1976

2000

2020

Notes on Major Requirements








- 1952:** Required: 2. In 1952, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 1976, the history major at Barnard College required two Western Civilization courses that covered the “political, economic, social, and intellectual achievements from the fifteenth century to the eighteenth.”

BATES COLLEGE

Students must complete at least 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Three courses must be in an individually chosen field of concentration. In addition, students must complete one course from three chronological fields (premodern history, early modern, and modern history) and one course in four of five geographic areas (Asia, Latin America, Europe, Africa, or the United States). These courses may overlap to count toward both the chronological and the geographical requirement. A history seminar, historical methods course, and senior thesis are also required. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
					Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952	1976	2000	2020	2, 3, 4	

Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** No requirement. In 1952, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was “advised” but not required in the major.
- 1976:** Required: 2. In 1976, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 1976, the purpose of the core curriculum at Bates College was to “develop a very real sense of social and civic responsibility.”

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors may choose courses from the following fields of study: Africa, East Asia, Europe, Latin America, South Asia, the United States, Atlantic Worlds, and Colonial Worlds. However, no more than six courses in a single field of study can count toward the major nor can students count more than two courses below the intermediate level. In addition, students must take three upper-level seminars, three non-Euro/U.S. courses, and one premodern course. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

×	×	×	×	×	No course required in major or core.
				★	Course required in the major.
				✓	Course required in the core.
1952	1976	2000	2020	2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

Notes on Major Requirements





- 1952:** No requirement. In 1952, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 2020, Bowdoin College required history majors to complete three “non-Euro/U.S.” courses, but did not require completion of a course in Western Civilization or U.S. history.

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with an A.B. in history. Of these, concentrators take two courses covering the premodern era; at least four courses in a chosen chronological, geographical, or thematic field of focus; four courses below the 1000 level; and a capstone seminar. Concentrators must also fulfill a geographical distribution requirement by taking at least two courses in three different geographical regions: Africa, East Asia, Europe, global history, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and South Asia, and North America. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
				2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952*	1976*	2000*	2020		

**Relevant course catalogs were unavailable for review.*

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No curricular information available.

1976: No curricular information available.







2000: No curricular information available.

2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Students must take at least 99 units of history courses (including freshman humanities) to graduate with a B.S. in history. Of these, each history major will complete a minimum of 63 units of courses in a chosen area of concentration and 27 units in the senior tutorial (H 99 abc). Areas of concentration might include, but are not restricted to, fields such as ancient history, medieval Europe, early modern Europe, modern Europe, Russian history, American history pre-1865, American history post-1865, early modern history of science, modern history of science, or economic history. An additional 36 units must be completed outside of the student's area of concentration. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

				No course required in major or core.
				Course required in the major.
				Course required in the core.
				Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952	1976	2000	2020	

2, 3, 4

Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** No history major. In 1952, the California Institute of Technology did not offer a history major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was “well advised” but not required in the major.
- 2000:** No history major. In 2000, a history major was not offered. Students could major in the humanities, which included history courses in the curriculum, but no course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

CARLETON COLLEGE

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must choose three fields of concentration from the following list: United States, Ancient &/or Medieval, Early Modern &/or Modern Europe, Asia, Africa & its Diaspora, Latin America, the Atlantic World, and Environment and Health. Students also have the option of designing a primary thematic field in lieu of the eight offerings. Students take four courses in their primary interest field and at least two courses each in two minor fields of study. In addition, majors are required to take two research seminars, two writing courses, and a junior colloquium. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core



No course required in major or core.



Course required in the major.



Course required in the core.

2, 3, 4

Exponents represent the number of courses required.

1952

1976

2000

2020






Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** Required: 2. In 1952, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

Students must take nine courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Claremont McKenna College offers two distinct tracks. Majors completing the multi-regional track must take one course focusing on the United States, one course focusing on Europe, one course focusing on non-Western or developing areas (Asia, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East), one junior seminar, and five electives. One of those courses must cover premodern (before 1800) material. Students completing the thematic track must complete five courses treating Environment, Culture, and Economies; Society, Diversity, and Inequality; or Law, Politics, and Society. In the course of their studies, students must complete a course in each of the following regions: the United States, Europe, Asia, Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East. **Although Claremont McKenna College lists a requirement in U.S. history, some of the courses that fulfill that requirement do not have sufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
				2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952	1976	2000	2020		

Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** No history major. In 1952, Claremont McKenna College did not offer a history major. Students could major in the humanities, which included history courses in the curriculum, but no course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 1976:** Required: 1. In 1976, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.

Interesting Fact: In the 1952 catalog, Claremont McKenna College described itself as a “liberal arts college for education in business and public administration.”

COLBY COLLEGE

Students must take 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. These 11 courses (of at least three credits each) must include History 276 (Patterns and Processes in World History); two 300-level courses; a senior research seminar at the 400 level; and at least one course in each of three areas: Category I (Africa, Asia, and world history), Category II (Europe, Russia, and the USSR), and Category III (Colonial and Native America/United States). At least two courses must be in premodern history, as designated by the department. **Although Colby College lists a requirement in “Colonial and Native America/United States,” some of the courses that fulfill that requirement do not have sufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

×	×	×	×	×	No course required in major or core.
×	×	×	×	★	Course required in the major.
×	×	×	×	✓	Course required in the core.
2	3	4	4	2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

Notes on Major Requirements











- 1952:** No requirement. In 1952, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.

Interesting Fact: In 1952, two Western Civilization courses that covered the “main historical trends from the Greeks to the Romans to the present day” were required in the history major.

COLGATE UNIVERSITY

Students choose one of two pathways to graduate with a B.A. in history. Both require nine courses. The Field of Focus (FoF) Pathway requires one history workshop, seven electives (four of which should relate directly to the field of focus), and one seminar at the 400 level. The FoF Pathway allows students to devise individualized, intellectually coherent specializations. Possible fields of focus include environmental history, gender and sexuality, and race and racism. At least two of the nine courses must be designated other than “EU” or “US.” The Global Pathway emphasizes broad geographic exposure and ensures that students’ coursework, at all levels, covers different parts of the world such as Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the United States. The Global Pathway requires one history workshop, three courses at the 100 or 200 level (each must carry a different geographic designation), three courses at the 300 level (at least one of these courses must be designated other than “EU” or “US”), one additional history course at the 200 level or above (or any 300 level foreign language course), and one seminar at the 400 level. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

				 No course required in major or core.
				 Course required in the major.
				 Course required in the core.
1952	1976	2000	2020	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** Required: 2. In 1952, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1976:** Required: 1. In 1976, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 2000:** Required: 1. In 2000, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 1952, the university’s history courses were “designed to explain the development of European and American civilizations and analyze their impact upon the modern world.”

COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY

Students must complete 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to complete two courses in European history, two courses in history of the United States or early North America, two courses outside European or U.S. history, a global history survey, a research seminar, and a capstone course. In addition, students must fulfill a chronological requirement where at least one course will focus on pre-1800 history and at least one course will focus on post-1800 history. The chronological requirement may be satisfied with courses from the distribution requirements. **Although the College of William & Mary (now William & Mary) lists a requirement in U.S. history/early North America, some of the courses that fulfill that requirement do not have sufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core



1952 1976 2000 2020

2, 3, 4








Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** Required: 2. In 1952, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1976:** Required: 2. In 1976, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 2000:** Required: 2. In 2000, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.

COLORADO COLLEGE

Students must take 10–11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Of these 11 courses, one must be an intro-level course, six must be courses at the 200–300 level, one must be a junior seminar on “Studying History,” and two must be part of a senior sequence. Of the six intermediate courses, students must take at least one pre-1800 course, one post-1800 course, one U.S. history course, and at least one course in three of the following geographical areas: Africa, East Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, and South Asia. **Although Colorado College lists a requirement in U.S. history, some of the courses that fulfill that requirement do not have sufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

				 No course required in major or core.
				 Course required in the major.
				 Course required in the core.
				 Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952*	1976*	2000*	2020	

*Relevant course catalogs were unavailable for review.

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No curricular information available.

1976: No curricular information available.

2000: No curricular information available.

2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Students must take at least nine courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Of these courses, four must be in a chosen field of geographical, chronological, or thematic specialization, and three must be outside of the specialization, including one course removed in time and two courses removed in space. Finally, majors must complete two seminars, with at least one of those seminars being within the specialization. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core*

	1952	1976	2000	2020	
	×	×	×		×
					★
					✓
					2, 3, 4

×

★

✓

2, 3, 4

*ACTA grants Columbia credit for U.S. Government/History in our annual study of core curricular requirements, *What Will They Learn?*®, because the “Contemporary Civilization” course requires study of Great Books treating American government.

Notes on Major Requirements



- 1952:** No history major. In 1952, Columbia University did not offer a history major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: Since 1919, Columbia University’s “Contemporary Civilization” course has required students to read Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Machiavelli, Luther, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Smith, Mill, Marx, Nietzsche, Freud, and others.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Students are required to take nine courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. These courses must include three courses focused on history before 1800, four courses focused on history outside of the United States, and two seminar courses with one being a 4000-level seminar. No course may fulfill more than one of the requirements. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
1953*	1976	2000	2020	2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

**The 1952–53 catalog was unavailable for review. For this reason, we reviewed the 1953–54 catalog.*




Notes on Major Requirements

- 1953:** No requirement. In 1953, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with an A.B. in history. Majors must take at least one course in U.S. history; at least one course in European history; at least two courses in African, Asian, and Latin American and Caribbean history; at least one course that focuses on interregional or comparative history; at least two pre-1700 courses or three pre-1800 courses; and two courses involving advanced historical practice. **Although Dartmouth College lists a requirement in U.S. history, some of the courses that fulfill that requirement do not have sufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
1952*	1976*	2000*	2020		Course required in the major.
				2, 3, 4	Course required in the core.
					Exponents represent the number of courses required.

**Relevant course catalogs were unavailable for review.*

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No curricular information available.

1976: No curricular information available.


2000: No curricular information available.

2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.

DAVIDSON COLLEGE

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Of the 10 required courses, students must take at least one from each of the following categories: Western history (Europe and the U.S.), non-western history (Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, and East Asia), and premodern history. In addition, at least one, and not more than three, of those courses must be at the 100 level; at least one, and not more than two, must be at the 200 level; and at least one must be a 400-level topical seminar. In their senior years, majors must complete a capstone course, either HIS 480 or HIS 488-9. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
1952	1976	2000	2020	2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** Required: 2. In 1952, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

DUKE UNIVERSITY

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Of these courses, eight must be at the 200 level or above. Majors are required to take at least two courses in premodern history (pre-1800); at least four courses in a chosen thematic or geographical concentration; and one course each from three of five geographical regions: Asia, Europe and Russia, Africa and the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the United States and Canada. Finally, at least two research seminars are required: one gateway seminar and one senior capstone seminar. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

×	×	×	×	× No course required in major or core. ★ Course required in the major. ✓ Course required in the core. 2, 3, 4 Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952	1976	2000	2020	

Notes on Major Requirements




- 1952:** No requirement. In 1952, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.


Interesting Fact: In 2020, Duke University’s course catalog explained that the study of history “offers students broad exposure to the histories of our own and other societies.” The curriculum requires the study of history outside the U.S. and Europe but does not require a course in Western Civilization or U.S. history.

EMORY UNIVERSITY

Students must take 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Of these courses, at least seven must be above the 200 level, and two must be colloquia. Majors choose between a general studies concentration and a more specialized concentration. Majors who choose a general studies requirement take at least two survey courses in U.S. history. Those who elect the specialized concentration choose from among the following: United States; Europe; Latin America and the Non-Western World; Women, Gender, and Sexuality; Empires, Nations, and Citizenship; and Law, Economics, and Human Rights. Specialized concentrators who choose a geographical concentration are required to take at least one course in U.S. history. However, those who choose a thematic concentration must explore only two of the three geographical regions. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

				
1952*				
1976				
2000				
2020				

 No course required in major or core.
 Course required in the major.
 Course required in the core.
 2, 3, 4 Exponents represent the number of courses required.

*Relevant course catalog was unavailable for review.

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No curricular information available.

1976: Required: 2. In 1976, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.

2000: Required: 1. In 2000, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.

2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 1976, the history major required “one course in American history prior to the Civil War, one course in American history since the Civil War, one course in European history before 1600, and one course in European history since 1600.”

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Students must take at least 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history, four of which are required, introductory-level coursework (WOH 1023, 1030; AMH 2010, 2020). Majors are required to take at least two courses in American history and European history as well as two courses in either Latin American, Asian, African, or Russian history at the 2999 level or above. Students must also complete two upper-level elective courses in history and a senior seminar. **Two courses focused on the study of U.S. history are required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

1952	1976*	2000	2020	
		★ ²	✓★ ²	✗ No course required in major or core. ★ Course required in the major. ✓ Course required in the core. 2, 3, 4 Exponents represent the number of courses required.

*Relevant course catalog was unavailable for review.

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No history major. In 1952, Florida State University did not offer a history major. Students could major in social sciences, which included history courses in the curriculum, but no course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.

1976: No curricular information available.

2000: Required: 2. In 2000, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.






2020: Required: 2. In 2000, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 1952, Florida State University asserted that a university “should provide the rich liberal education that marks the graduate as an educated citizen of a democracy in mid-century America.”

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Students must take 11 courses to graduate with an A.B. in history. Majors take two courses from a list of core history courses: one course that exposes students to the discipline of history and one course that focuses on historical developments in various world regions. They must also complete nine additional elective courses, four either in “Group A”—Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and Asia—or in “Group B”—Russia and Eastern Europe, Europe, and the United States/North America—and at least three courses in the other group. Finally, majors must take two additional elective courses in any region. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
1952*	1976*	2000	2020	^{2, 3, 4}	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

**Relevant course catalogs were unavailable for review.*

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No curricular information available.

1976: No curricular information available.

2000: No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The Georgia Institute of Technology offers an interdisciplinary B.S. in History, Technology, and Society. Students must complete 24 credit hours in history and sociology, including at least one course in history, one course in sociology, and three courses from one of seven areas of specialization. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required, but all students are required to complete a course in U.S. history/Constitution in the core curriculum.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

Year	1952	1976	2000	2020	Legend
	✓	✓	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ No course required in major or core. ★ Course required in the major. ✓ Course required in the core. 2, 3, 4 Exponents represent the number of courses required.

Notes on Major Requirements





- 1952:** No history major. In 1952, the Georgia Institute of Technology did not offer a history major. Students could major in social sciences, which included history courses in the curriculum, but no course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 1976:** No history major. In 1976, the Georgia Institute of Technology did not offer a history major. Students could major in social sciences, which included history courses in the curriculum, but no course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 1952, the course catalog described the department of social sciences as an “integral part of the college’s general education program. To be a fully educated citizen, the engineer must have a broad background of general training in fields not specifically technical.”

GRINNELL COLLEGE

Students must take eight courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. The major requires one introductory course on historical inquiry, three 200-level courses in three different geographical locations, two 300-level seminars, and two additional history courses. Students have the option of taking U.S. history to fulfill one of the three intermediate-level courses, but it is not required. Students choose from the following geographical regions: U.S. history, Asian history, Russian history, European history, Latin American history, history of Africa and the Middle East, and transregional and comparative history. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
1952	1976	2000	2020	^{2, 3, 4}	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** No requirement. In 1952, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was “strongly recommended” but not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was “strongly recommended” but not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 1952, Grinnell College’s core curriculum required a course in Western Civilization in order to “attempt to give the American student an understanding of the origins of his own society in Europe.”

HAMILTON COLLEGE

Students must take nine courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take a writing-intensive, 100-level history course and at least two courses at the 300 level or higher. Of these two 300-level courses, one must be a historiography course and one must be a research course. In addition, majors must take at least one course focused on the United States, one course that covers the premodern era (pre-1800), and at least one course in three of the following categories: Europe and the Mediterranean; Eurasia and Russia; the Middle East; Latin America and the Cari Africa and African diaspora; Asia; and transnational. Students must also complete at least four courses that fall within one of seven thematic areas. Finally, majors must complete a senior thesis. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

				 No course required in major or core.
				 Course required in the major.
				 Course required in the core.
				^{2, 3, 4} Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952	1976	2000	2020	







Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** Required: 2. In 1952, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** Required: 1. In 2020, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to take one course on forming historical arguments, one course in U.S. or European history (western), one course beyond U.S. and European history (non-western), one course focused on a period before 1750 (premodern), four additional electives, and two seminars. Students who wish to write a senior thesis must also enroll in History 99a & 99b, which brings their total requirements to 12 courses. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
1952	1975*	2000	2020	2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

**The 1976–77 catalog was unavailable for review. For this reason, we reviewed the 1975–76 catalog.*




Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** Required: 2. In 1952, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1975:** No requirement. In 1975, students were “urged” to take a course focused on the study of U.S. history, but it was not required.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

HARVEY MUDD COLLEGE

Harvey Mudd College does not have a history department, but the history concentration in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts program requires at least four courses in history. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

				 No course required in major or core.  Course required in the major.  Course required in the core. 2, 3, 4 Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1957*	1976	2000	2020	

**The 1952–53 catalog was unavailable for review. For this reason, we reviewed the 1957–58 catalog.*








Notes on Major Requirements

- 1957:** No history major. In 1957, Harvey Mudd College did not offer a history major.
- 1976:** No history major. In 1976, Harvey Mudd College did not offer a history major.
- 2000:** No history major. In 2000, Harvey Mudd College did not offer a history major.
- 2020:** No history major. In 2020, Harvey Mudd College did not offer a history major.

HAVERFORD COLLEGE

Students must take 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take one introductory level course and eight mid- and upper-level courses, of which at least three must be upper-level seminars. Students select courses from the following fields of concentration: European history, U.S. history, East Asian history, Latin American history, and History of Science and Medicine. In addition, majors must complete three geographic, temporal, or thematic fields by taking two courses (above the 100 level) within a field. During their senior year, students write a year-long thesis. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
				2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952	1976	2000	2020		

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No requirement. In 1952, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

1976: No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

2000: No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.








2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 1952, Haverford College's course catalog described the history major as "designed to give some conception of the development of the civilizations which exist in Europe and the United States today."

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. The requirements include two introductory courses; a two-semester history seminar; six additional electives, at least four of which must be at the 300 level or above; and either a year-long thesis or two advanced history courses. Finally, majors must meet a foreign language requirement through the intermediate level. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

				 No course required in major or core.
				 Course required in the major.
				 Course required in the core.
1952	1976	2000	2020	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** Required, but number of courses undefined. In 1952, Johns Hopkins University specified learning objectives including “fair knowledge” of “some segment” of “European and American history,” but the curriculum did not stipulate any specific course requirements. Instead, students were assessed by an individualized combination of oral examinations, written examinations, and completed coursework.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 1952, Johns Hopkins University described the purpose of the history major as ensuring that students “have a fair knowledge of some major segment of the history of Western Civilization (European and American history).”

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Students must take 14 courses to graduate with a B.S. in history. Of these courses, students must take one seminar, one methods course, one thesis-tutorial course, and one thesis course. Students must also take seven restricted elective courses that are selected in consultation with a major advisor and must include subjects drawn from two geographical areas, as well as one focused on pre-1700 history and one on modern history. Three courses must come from a second discipline in Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

	1952	1976	2000	2020	
		×	×	×	×
					★
					✓
					2, 3, 4

× No course required in major or core.
 ★ Course required in the major.
 ✓ Course required in the core.
 2, 3, 4 Exponents represent the number of courses required.

Notes on Major Requirements








- 1952:** No history major. In 1952, MIT did not offer a history major. Students could major in Humanities and Social Sciences, which included history courses in the curriculum, but no course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: Although the 1976 catalog specifies that “the curriculum is centered in . . . modern American and European history,” it does not include formal requirements to complete specific courses in American and European history.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Students must take 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Of these, students must complete at least one but no more than three 0100-level courses and three courses, 0200 level or above, in three of the following seven areas: North America; Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; the Middle East and North Africa; Sub-Saharan Africa; South and Southeast Asia, including the Pacific; and North Asia, including China, Korea, Japan, and the Asian Steppes. In addition, majors must take two 0400-level reading seminars in two different geographical regions and HIST 0600. Of the 11 courses required, one must be comparative and two must deal primarily with the period before 1800. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
				2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952	1976	2000	2020		

Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** Required: 2. In 1952, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** Required: 1. In 2000, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Students must complete 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history, including History 393-Approaches to History and a History 395-Research Seminar. The remaining 10 courses must satisfy the requirements of a non-global history concentration or a global history concentration. The non-global concentration consists of six courses in a geographic concentration and four courses outside of it. The global history concentration consists of two introductory global history courses (History 250-1 and History 250-2), two additional global history courses, and two courses in three distinct geographic areas or three courses in two distinct geographic areas. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core



1952

1976

2000

2020

^{2, 3, 4}

✗ No course required in major or core.

★ Course required in the major.

✓ Course required in the core.

^{2, 3, 4} Exponents represent the number of courses required.

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: Required: 1. In 1952, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.

1976: No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

2000: No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.








2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 1952, the history major required three Western Civilization courses that covered the “classical and medieval periods, early modern history, Renaissance through the age of Napoleon, and nineteenth and twentieth centuries.”

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Students must take at least 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. These courses need to be at the 2000 level or above. All students must complete an introduction to history course (Hist 2800) and a research seminar (4000 level). Majors must take at least four courses in one of the following geographical areas: North America; Latin America; Europe (including Russia); Near East; Middle East, Central Asia, and/or South Asia; East Asia; and Africa. Students may also choose from one of eight thematic concentrations. In addition, students must take at least four courses in other areas for breadth. At least two courses of the major must cover history prior to 1750, and at least two courses of the major must cover history after 1750. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

				 No course required in major or core.
				 Course required in the major.
				 Course required in the core.
1952	1976	2000	2020	Exponents represent the number of courses required. 2, 3, 4

Notes on Major Requirements








- 1952:** Required: 2. In 1952, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 1976, the social sciences requirement emphasized “the values of a free society and the responsibility of the individual for participating actively in the issues and decisions of the day.”

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to take one seminar on historical methods and one breadth sequence (two courses in sequence on the same topic) on Western heritage, world history, or American civilization to the present. In addition, students must take four 400-level courses (at least one of which must address global history), one elective course, and one course at the 100 or 200 level from each of the following four categories: Europe, the United States, global history, and premodern history. **Although Pennsylvania State University lists a requirement in U.S. history, some of the courses that fulfill that requirement do not have sufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

 ²		 ²		 No course required in major or core.
1952	1976	2000	2020	 Course required in the major.
				 Course required in the core.
				^{2, 3, 4} Exponents represent the number of courses required.

Notes on Major Requirements








- 1952:** Required: 2. In 1952, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1976:** Required: 1. In 1976, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 2000:** Required: 2. In 2000, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.

Interesting Fact: In 2000, Pennsylvania State University’s catalog described the purpose of the core curriculum as the “cultivat[ion] [of] a knowledgeable, informed, literate human being.”

POMONA COLLEGE

Students must take 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Five of these courses must cover one of the following areas: ancient and medieval Mediterranean; Europe since the Renaissance; the United States; Asia; Latin America and the Caribbean; a self-designed comparative, transregional, and/or thematic history; Africa/African Diaspora, South Asia, and the Middle East; and environmental history. In addition, students must take three courses from at least two other geographical areas, one elective, and a two-course senior exercise. Of the required courses, at least one must concentrate on any period before 1800. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
				2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952	1976	2000	2020		

Notes on Major Requirements





- 1952:** Required: 1. In 1952, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 1952, Pomona College understood the objective of general education as cultivating an “understanding [of] the historical development of our civilization” and “the nature and operation of the American economic and political institutions.”

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Students must take 10 to 12 courses to graduate with an A.B. in history. Concentrators must pass at least two departmental courses as prerequisites, followed by at least one course in each of the following four areas: European history, U.S. history, non-Western history, and premodern history. **Although Princeton University lists a requirement in U.S. history, some of the courses that fulfill that requirement do not have sufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

				 No course required in major or core.
				Course required in the major.
				Course required in the core.
				Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952*	1976*	2000*	2020	
				2, 3, 4

*Relevant course catalogs were unavailable for review.

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No curricular information available.

1976: No curricular information available.






2000: No curricular information available.

2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY–WEST LAFAYETTE

Students must take 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to take at least two courses in U.S. history; at least two courses in European history; at least two courses in Latin American, Asian, Middle Eastern, or African history; and at least two courses in pre-1500 history. In addition, students are required to take one historical inquiry course, one research seminar, and at least three additional advanced history courses. **Although Purdue University lists a requirement in U.S. history, some of the courses that fulfill that requirement do not have sufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

						
1952						
1976*						
2000*						
2020						
			2, 3, 4			Exponents represent the number of courses required.

*Relevant course catalogs were unavailable for review.

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No requirement. In 1952, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

1976: No curricular information available.

2000: No curricular information available.




2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.

Interesting Fact: In 2021, the Purdue University Board of Trustees announced plans to reintroduce a civic literacy course as a graduation requirement, to take effect in the Fall 2021 semester.

RICE UNIVERSITY

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Of these courses, six must be electives at the 300–400 level, with a minimum of two 400-level seminars. In addition, students must take at least one course in four of the following five fields: premodern history; Europe; the United States; Asia, Latin America, Africa, Middle East; or transnational/comparative/world history. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
					Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952	1976	2000	2020	2, 3, 4	

Notes on Major Requirements




- 1952:** Required: 2. In 1952, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1976:** Required: 2. In 1976, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 2000:** Required: 2. In 2000, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 2020, Rice University described the purpose of its core curriculum as “provid[ing] students with essential knowledge and tools for thinking critically about history and culture, and for . . . informed participation in social, political, and professional life,” but the core curriculum did not require a course in Western Civilization or U.S. history.

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY–NEW BRUNSWICK

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take at least five courses at the 300–400 level; at least eight courses at the 200–400 level; a history workshop; and a history seminar. Of the 12 required courses, at least two must be in each of the following three geographic areas: Global, African, Asian, Latin American, or Native American history; European history; and United States history. Additionally, at least one course must focus on the period before 1500. **Although Rutgers University–New Brunswick lists a requirement in U.S. history, some of the courses that fulfill that requirement do not have sufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

1952*	1976*	2000*	2020	
				 No course required in major or core.  Course required in the major.  Course required in the core. 2, 3, 4 Exponents represent the number of courses required.

*Relevant course catalogs were unavailable for review.

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No curricular information available.

1976: No curricular information available.








2000: No curricular information available.

2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.

SMITH COLLEGE

Students must take 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. The major requires students to take five courses in their chosen field of concentration: Antiquity; Islamic Middle East; East Asia; Europe, 300–1650; Europe since 1650 to the present; Africa; Latin America; United States; Women’s History; Comparative Colonialism; and World History. Of the remaining six courses to complete the major, one must be an introductory history course (HST 150), and four must be in two fields distinct from the field of concentration. Students must also take at least one course in three of the following geographical regions: Africa; East Asia and Central Asia; Europe; Latin America; Middle East and South Asia; and North America. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
				2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952	1977*	2000	2020		

**The 1976–77 catalog was unavailable for review. For this reason, we reviewed the 1977–78 catalog.*








Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** No requirement. In 1952, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 1977:** No requirement. In 1977, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Students must take at least 13 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take one methods seminar; two 200-level colloquia; one small group course; one writing-intensive course; one lecture course treating U.S. or European history and a second treating African, Asian, Middle Eastern, or Latin American history; and six additional electives. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
				2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952	1976	2000	2020		

Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** No requirement. In 1952, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 1976:** Required: 2. In 1976, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 1952, Stanford University’s course catalog explained that “The Department of History . . . seeks not only to provide knowledge in special fields, but also to equip the student for his duties as a citizen.”

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

Students must take nine courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take at least one course or seminar that covers history prior to 1800 and at least one course or seminar with a focus outside Europe and the United States. In addition, students must complete a senior research seminar. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core



No course required in major or core.



Course required in the major.



Course required in the core.

^{2, 3, 4}

Exponents represent the number of courses required.

1952

1976

2000

2020

Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** Required: 1. In 1952, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

Cadets must take 13 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. History majors must choose from one of three concentration fields: American history, international history, or military history. Cadets that select the American history track are expected to complete a course on the history of military art (HI301); a colloquium in history; two out-of-stem history electives; a foreign language course; and two additional electives. In addition, cadets are expected to complete five U.S. history courses from a list of 12 electives. The international history and military history concentrations do not require a course focused on the study of U.S. history. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

1951*	1976	2000	2020	
				 No course required in major or core.
				 Course required in the major.
				 Course required in the core.
				Exponents represent the number of courses required.

*The 1952–53 catalog was unavailable for review. For this reason, we reviewed the 1951–52 catalog.

Notes on Major Requirements








- 1951:** Requirement: 1. In 1951, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** Required: 4. In 2000, four courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 2020:** Required: 5. In 2020, five courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 2020, the United States Military Academy described the purpose of the history major as “explor[ing] in depth the past of this great nation to gain an historical understanding of the United States’ role in a global context.”

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

In addition to the required core curriculum coursework (American Naval History; the West in a Global Context, Asia in a Global Context, or the Middle East in a Global Context; and the West in the Modern World), students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Two courses must be an introductory methodology seminar and a first-class capstone historiography seminar. Students must select eight courses in four of the following five fields: American history, European history, regional history, naval and military history, and thematic history. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					
1951*					 No course required in major or core.
1976					 Course required in the major.
2000					 Course required in the core.
2020					Exponents represent the number of courses required.

2, 3, 4

**The 1952–53 catalog was unavailable for review. For this reason, we reviewed the 1951–52 catalog.*

Notes on Major Requirements

- 1951:** No requirement. In 1951, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 2000, the United States Naval Academy expressed its mission as “develop[ing] midshipmen . . . to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship and government.”

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA–BERKELEY

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors have four lower-division requirements, which include one survey course on U.S. history, one survey course on European history, one survey course on the history of another world area, and one elective course. The remaining eight courses, which comprise the upper-division requirements, must include one proseminar, one research seminar, and four courses in a chosen field of concentration (a specific period, a specific geographical area, or a thematic approach). Additionally, at least one of the 12 courses must be devoted entirely to premodern history in one or more of the following areas: antiquity, the classical period, and the medieval period. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
				2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952	1976	2000*	2020		

*The 2000 core curriculum was unavailable for review.

Notes on Major Requirements








- 1952:** Required: 2. In 1952, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** Required: 1. In 2000, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 2020:** Required: 1. In 2020, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 2020, the University of California–Berkeley’s course catalog explained that “American History and Institutions (AH&I) requirements are based on the principle that a U.S. resident graduated from an American university should have an understanding of the history and governmental institutions of the United States.” However, the core curricular requirement may be satisfied by courses that are narrow in scope.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA–DAVIS

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take five courses from one of the following fields of concentration: Europe, United States history, Asian history, African history, and Latin American history. In addition, students must take five courses in two other fields of concentration, one additional course from any of the fields, and one history seminar. At least one course must focus on the period before 1800. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
				2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952	1976	2000	2020		

Notes on Major Requirements








- 1952:** Required: 2. In 1952, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 2020, the University of California–Davis explained in its catalog that the “American History and Institutions requirement ensures that every graduating student will have at least a minimum knowledge of the background of this country’s development and an understanding of the political, economic and social interrelationships of its way of life.” However, the core curricular requirement may be satisfied by courses that are narrow in scope.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-IRVINE

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take two “Problems in History” courses, choosing from the following geographical options: Asia, Europe, the United States, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa, and transregional history. In addition, students must take two lower-division history courses, four upper-division history courses, a history writing seminar, a colloquium, and two elective courses. Of those, one course must cover history prior to 1800. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
1965*	1976	2000	2020	2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

*The 1952–53 catalog was unavailable for review. For this reason, we reviewed the 1965–66 catalog.








Notes on Major Requirements

- 1965:** Required: 5. In 1965, five courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA–LOS ANGELES

Students must take 16 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. In order to apply for the major, students must first take six courses to prepare for the major. The six courses must include two survey courses of the student’s choice, one course that focuses on some sort of introduction to historical study, and three additional lower-level courses. Students then take 10 courses within the major. Majors must take two courses in U.S. history, two courses in non-western history, two courses in European history or in the history of science, and History 191. **Although the University of California–Los Angeles lists a requirement in U.S. history, some of the courses that fulfill that requirement do not have sufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
				2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952	1976	2000	2020		

Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** Required: 2. In 1952, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1976:** Required: 1. In 1976, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.

Interesting Fact: In 2020, the University of California–Los Angeles explained that the “American History and Institutions requirement is based on the principle that a U.S. citizen attending an American university should understand the history and public institutions of the U.S. under the federal and state constitutions.” However, the core curricular requirement may be satisfied by courses that are narrow in scope.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA–SAN DIEGO

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must declare a field of emphasis in a geographical, thematic, or preprofessional focus. Students must complete three lower-division courses and at least seven upper-division courses. Of the upper-division requirement, students take at least three courses in the field of emphasis, at least three courses outside of that field, and six other history electives either in the field or outside of it. In addition, at least three of the 12 courses must focus on the period before 1800. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

	1952*	1976	2000	2020	
	✗	✗	✗		✗ No course required in major or core.
					★ Course required in the major.
					✓ Course required in the core.
					2, 3, 4 Exponents represent the number of courses required.

*The 1952 catalog was unavailable for review.

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No curricular information available.

1976: No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

2000: No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.









2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 2020, the University of California–San Diego explained that “A knowledge of American history and of the principles of American institutions under federal and state constitutions is required of all candidates for the bachelor’s degree.” However, the core curricular requirement may be satisfied by courses that are narrow in scope.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA–SANTA BARBARA

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Requirements include at least one undergraduate research seminar and nine elective courses. Majors must take at least three courses in pre-1800 history and at least one course in a minimum of four of the following six categories: Africa and the Middle East, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the United States, and world history and comparative history. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

						No course required in major or core.
						Course required in the major.
						Course required in the core.
1952	1976	2000	2020			Exponents represent the number of courses required.

Notes on Major Requirements






- 1952:** Required: 2. In 1952, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** Required: 3. In 2000, three courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 2020, the University of California–Santa Barbara explained in its catalog that its “American History and Institutions requirement is based on the principle that American students enrolled at an American university should have some knowledge of the history and government of their country.” However, the core curricular requirement may be satisfied by courses that are narrow in scope.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Concentrators are required to complete six courses from their major field, which is chosen according to a geographical, chronological, thematic, or methodological focus, and four additional electives that complement the major field. One of the 10 courses must be a research colloquium. Finally, concentrators must also take two senior seminars. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

				 No course required in major or core.
				 Course required in the major.
				 Course required in the core.
				^{2, 3, 4} Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952*	1976*	2000	2020	

*Relevant course catalogs were unavailable for review.

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No curricular information available.

1976: No curricular information available.








2000: No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Students must take at least nine courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take at least one course from each of the following distribution areas: United States; modern Europe; and ancient, medieval, and early-modern history. They must also take at least two courses focused on Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. In addition, students are required to take a methods course and a senior seminar. **Although the University of Connecticut lists a requirement in U.S. history, some of the courses that fulfill that requirement do not have sufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
1952	1976	2000*	2020	2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

*The 2000 core curriculum was unavailable for review.

Notes on Major Requirements










- 1952:** No requirement. In 1952, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** Required: 1. In 2000, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.

Interesting Fact: In 1976, the University of Connecticut’s course catalog described the history major as a “combination of work in philosophy, literature, and the social sciences that provides a broad foundation for informed citizenship.”

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to take one history practicum, one history research seminar, and 10 additional courses. Of these 10 courses, at least seven must be at the 3000–4000 level, at least three must cover U.S. and European history (with at least one from each area), and at least three must cover two of the following geographical areas: African history, Asian history, Latin American history, or world history. **Although the University of Florida lists a requirement in U.S. history, some of the courses that fulfill that requirement do not have sufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement. However, all students must complete a civic literacy requirement in the core curriculum.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
					Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952	1976	2000	2020	2, 3, 4	

Notes on Major Requirements

















- 1952:** No requirement. In 1952, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 1976:** Required: 2. In 1976, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 2000:** Required: 2. In 2000, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.

Interesting Fact: In 1952, “A Professorship in the Department of History of the College of Arts and Sciences known as the ‘Chair of Americanism’ was established to present courses and lectures on American ideals, American government, American institutions, and American citizenship.”

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Majors must take at least eight courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to take one senior seminar, at least four electives from a predetermined list, and courses from three of the following geographic areas: North America, Latin America, European, Africa, Middle East, Asia, and World/Comparative. One course must be from the period before 1600, and one course must be from the period after 1600. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required of majors but is mandated by the state as a required element of the core curriculum.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

 ²	  ²				No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
1952	1974*	2000	2020	^{2, 3, 4}	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

**The 1976–77 catalog was unavailable for review. For this reason, we reviewed the 1974–75 catalog.*

Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** No requirement. In 1952, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 1974:** Required: 2. In 1974, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 2020, the University of Georgia’s course catalog specified that “Examinations on the constitutions and histories of the United States and Georgia are required of all persons receiving a degree from the University.”

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take two preliminary history courses; two courses in African, Asian, Global, Latin American, or Middle Eastern History; two European history courses; two U.S. history courses; and four history electives. Of the 12 courses, students must take two courses in a premodern period, one defined as before 1600 and one defined as before 1800. **Although the University of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign lists requirements in U.S. history, some of the courses that fulfill that requirement do not have sufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

	×	×	×	
1952*	1976	2000	2020	
				× No course required in major or core. ★ Course required in the major. ✓ Course required in the core. ^{2, 3, 4} Exponents represent the number of courses required.

*The 1952–53 catalog was unavailable for review.








Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** No curricular information available.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND–COLLEGE PARK

Students must take 13 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must complete six courses at the introductory level where one course must be Historical Research and Methods and the remaining must be selected from at least two general geographical fields. In addition, majors are required to choose a geographical or thematic area of concentration and complete at least five courses in the chosen field. Students must also complete at least two courses in two major areas outside the area of concentration; two supporting courses outside of history at the junior and senior level; and a seminar course. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

				 No course required in major or core.
				 Course required in the major.
				 Course required in the core.
1952	1976	2000	2020	<small>2, 3, 4</small> Exponents represent the number of courses required.

Notes on Major Requirements







- 1952:** No requirement. In 1952, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 2020, one of the goals of the University of Maryland–College Park’s core curriculum was to “broaden knowledge of civilizations past and present,” but the core curriculum does not require a course in Western Civilization or U.S. history.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-ANN ARBOR

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to take one foundations course, two courses that complete a survey sequence, one course covering history prior to 1800, and a capstone colloquium. In addition, the 10 courses must cover four of the following world regions/categories: North America, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East/Central Asia, Africa, Asia, and Transregional/Global. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

				 No course required in major or core.
				 Course required in the major.
				 Course required in the core.
1952*	1976*	2000*	2020	Exponents represent the number of courses required.
				2, 3, 4

*Relevant course catalogs were unavailable for review.

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No curricular information available.

1976: No curricular information available.








2000: No curricular information available.

2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA–CHAPEL HILL

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to choose a concentration from the following fields and to take four to six courses within it: African, Asian, and Middle Eastern history; ancient/medieval history; gender and women’s history; global history; Latin American history; modern European history; Russian, Eurasian, and Eastern European history; U.S. history; and thematic history. Students must also complete four to six courses in fields outside of the concentration. In addition, at least one course must be in the area of African, Asian, and Middle Eastern history or in Latin American history. Each major must also take an undergraduate seminar. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

 ²					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
1952	1976	2000	2020	^{2, 3, 4}	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

Notes on Major Requirements









- 1952:** Required: 2. In 1952, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 1952, the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill described the purpose of the core curriculum as providing students with “experience in a sufficient variety of basic and liberal subjects to constitute the foundations of that general education which is regarded as essential to balanced development and intelligent citizenship.”

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to take one introductory seminar and one course from four of six fields: Africa/Asia/Middle East; Pre-Modern Europe (to 1500); Modern Europe (from 1500); United States; Latin America; and Special/Thematic. Majors must also declare a concentration consisting of three courses and take one additional elective in any field they choose, a departmental seminar, and one course in premodern (pre-1500) history. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

						No course required in major or core.
						Course required in the major.
						Course required in the core.
						Exponents represent the number of courses required.
1952	1976	2000	2020		2, 3, 4	

Notes on Major Requirements





- 1952:** Required: 2. In 1952, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1976:** Required: 2. In 1976, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 1976, the University of Notre Dame described the purpose of the history major as providing students with “a knowledge of the past, considered as the historical background of Western and especially American culture.”

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take two pre-1800 courses and two upper-level history seminars. Moreover, they must take at least one course from four of the following five geographical areas: the United States and Canada, Europe and Australia, Africa and the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, and East Asia and South Asia. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
1952*	1976*	2000*	2020	2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

**Relevant course catalogs were unavailable for review.*

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No curricular information available.

1976: No curricular information available.

2000: No curricular information available.

2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must complete at least one course covering a period prior to 1800, at least one survey course in U.S. history, and at least one course in four of the following six categories: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and world/comparative history. Students must also take at least three additional courses in a chosen area of chronological, geographical, or thematic concentration; an introductory seminar; a capstone seminar; and a final elective course. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core



*The 1976 and 2000 core curricula were unavailable for review.

Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** Required: 2. In 1952, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** Required: 1. In 2000, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 2020:** Required: 1. In 2020, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 1952, the University of Pittsburgh described the purpose of the core curriculum as providing “every student [with] a general education that will prepare him . . . to perform his duties as a citizen with intelligence, tolerance, and conviction.”

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Of these 10 courses, one must be in United States history; one in European history; and one in the histories of Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, or Africa. In addition, students must take two courses at the 300 level, three additional history electives, and one seminar course. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core



Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** Required: 2. In 1952, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 1976:** Required: 2. In 1976, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 2000:** Required: 2. In 2000, two courses focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major.
- 2020:** Required: 1. In 2020, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 2020, the University of Richmond described the objective of the university's faculty as educating "independent, responsible, and contributing members of society."

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. These courses must include three lower-division survey courses, one methods seminar, and six upper-division courses. Majors complete at least one course covering each of the following time periods: pre-1300, 1300–1800, and post-1800. Of the three lower-division courses, majors take at least one course in each of the following three geographical areas: Asia and Eurasia, Europe, and Latin and North America. At least one survey course must have a temporal span and at least one must have a thematic perspective. Of the six upper-division courses, at least three must be in a chosen area of concentration—which develops a thematic, temporal, or geographical focus—and at least two must be 400-level seminars. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	No course required in major or core.
✗	✗	✗	✗	★	Course required in the major.
✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	Course required in the core.
1952	1976	2000	2020	2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** No requirement. In 1952, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-AUSTIN

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to take two courses in U.S. history as a part of the Texas legislative core requirement; two courses in European history; and two courses in African, Asian, Latin American, or Middle Eastern history. Students must also take three additional electives and one seminar course. As a general education requirement outside of the major, each student must take a survey course on American government and institutions. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is required in the history major, but courses fulfilling general education requirements may be double counted to satisfy history major requirements.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

1952*	1976*	2000	2020	
		✓ ² ★ ²	✓ ² ★ ²	✗ No course required in major or core. ★ Course required in the major. ✓ Course required in the core.
				2, 3, 4 Exponents represent the number of courses required.

*Relevant course catalogs were unavailable for review.








Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** No curricular information available.
- 1976:** No curricular information available.
- 2000:** Required: 2. In 2000, six credit hours of coursework focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major, but students were allowed to double count general education requirements.
- 2020:** Required: 2. In 2020, six credit hours of coursework focused on the study of U.S. history were required in the major, but students were allowed to double count general education requirements.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Students must take 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to take one course in pre-1700 European history, one course in post-1700 European history, one course in U.S. history, one major seminar or colloquium, and two courses from the following fields: Africa, East Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and South Asia. Five additional elective courses within the department complete the major. **Although the University of Virginia lists a requirement in U.S. history, some of the courses that fulfill that requirement do not have sufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
1952	1976	2000	2020	2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

Notes on Major Requirements








- 1952:** No requirement. In 1952, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 1976:** No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 2000:** No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.

Interesting Fact: In 2000, the University of Virginia’s course catalog described the purpose of the history major as providing “an outstanding preparation for informed citizenship in an increasingly complex and interdependent world and a firm foundation for many career objectives.”

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to take one course each in four of the following six areas of study: Asian history, European history, Latin American and Caribbean history, Middle Eastern and African history, U.S. and Canadian history, and comparative and transregional global history. Of the 12 courses, students must take at least two courses covering the premodern period, at least two courses covering the modern period, one junior seminar, and one senior seminar. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
1952*	1976	2000	2020	2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

*The 1952 core curriculum was unavailable for review.







Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** Required: 1. In 1952, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 1976:** Required: 1. In 1976, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 2000:** Required: 1. In 2000, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

Students must take eight to 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. (Courses range from three to four credits for a total requirement of 30 credits.) Students must take one course either in ancient or medieval Europe/Mediterranean or in pre-European-contact Africa/Asia and one course in at least four of the following breadth areas: the United States, Europe, Africa, Central and East Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia, and transnational history. In addition, students must complete a methods course and an advanced seminar. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

	 ²				No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
1952	1976*	2000	2020	^{2, 3, 4}	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

*The 1976 major information was unavailable for review.

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No history major. In 1952, the University of Wisconsin–Madison did not offer a history major.

1976: No curricular information available.

2000: No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was required, but some of the courses satisfying the requirement had insufficient breadth to stand as adequate fulfillment of a U.S. history requirement.







2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

Interesting Fact: In 1952, the University of Wisconsin–Madison described courses in the humanities as “the study of a great regional culture, classical or European, in various interrelated aspects: language, literature, geography, history, social institutions, art, and philosophy.”

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Students must take at least 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take a history workshop, a capstone course, at least two elective courses, and five courses in one of the following concentrations: Asia; Latin America; Europe; Early America and the United States; the Middle East and Africa; global and transnational history; science, medicine, and technology; or comparative history/special topics. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

1952	1976	2000*	2020	
				No course required in major or core.
				 Course required in the major.
				 Course required in the core.
				Exponents represent the number of courses required.

*The 2000 course catalog was unavailable for review.





Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** No requirement. In 1952, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.
- 1976:** Required: 1. In 1976, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required within the 12-credit-hour subfield requirement.
- 2000:** No curricular information available.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

VASSAR COLLEGE

Students must take 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take, at the mid or upper levels, at least one class in pre-1800 history and at least one class in four of six distinct geographical areas: Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the United States. In addition, students must complete two upper-level seminars and a year-long senior thesis. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					
1952*					
1976*					
2000					
2020					
			2, 3, 4		Exponents represent the number of courses required.

**Relevant course catalogs were unavailable for review.*

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No curricular information available.

1976: No curricular information available.





2000: Required: 1. In 2000, one course focused on the study of U.S. history was required in the major.

2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Students must take at least two intro-level courses, of which U.S. history is an option but not a requirement. At least five courses must be in one of the following three areas of emphasis: European and Russian history, American history (with approval, this includes Latin American history), and global history. At least three additional courses must fall outside the area of emphasis. Finally, students must take at least two additional electives to complete the major. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					No course required in major or core.
					Course required in the major.
					Course required in the core.
1952*	1976*	2000*	2020	2, 3, 4	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

*Relevant course catalogs were unavailable for review.

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No curricular information available.

1976: No curricular information available.




2000: No curricular information available.

2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Students must take nine courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors take two introductory courses and at least six courses listed at the 300–400 level. Of the upper-level courses, majors must take at least one course covering premodern history; at least one course covering modern history; at least one course from three of the following geographical regions: Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, the United States, or transregional history; a methods course; and a capstone experience. The capstone experience consists of a senior honors thesis, an advanced seminar, or an independent research project. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

	1952*	1976*	2000*	2020	
					 No course required in major or core.  Course required in the major.  Course required in the core. Exponents represent the number of courses required.

*Relevant course catalogs were unavailable for review.

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No curricular information available.

1976: No curricular information available.

2000: No curricular information available.

2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

WELLESLEY COLLEGE

Students must take nine courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to take at least one course in the history of Africa, China, Japan, Latin America, the Middle East, or South Asia; at least one course in the history of Europe, the United States, or Russia; and at least one course in pre-modern history. In addition, students must complete at least one seminar of at least two 300-level units. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

	1952	1976	2000	2020	
	×	×	×		×
					★
					✓
					^{2, 3, 4}

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No history major. In 1952, Wellesley College did not offer a history major.

1976: No requirement. In 1976, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.






2000: No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Students must take nine courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to take an introductory history elective and a course focused on historiography. Additionally, at least eight courses must be in two modules, each composed of four courses with a thematic, geographic, or chronological unity. Of these eight courses, two must be seminars, two must be at the 300 level or higher, and one must focus on a time period prior to 1800. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

					
1952*	1976*	2000*			No course required in major or core.
1952*	1976*	2000*			Course required in the major.
1952*	1976*	2000*	2020	2, 3, 4	Course required in the core. Exponents represent the number of courses required.

**Relevant course catalogs were unavailable for review.*






Notes on Major Requirements

- 1952:** No curricular information available.
- 1976:** No curricular information available.
- 2000:** No curricular information available.
- 2020:** No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

WILLIAMS COLLEGE

Students must take nine courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take one major seminar, at least one advanced seminar, and seven additional electives. Among the electives, students must take a course or courses in at least three of the following areas: history of Africa, history of Asia, history of Europe and Russia, history of Latin America and the Caribbean, history of the Middle East, history of the United States and Canada, and global history. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

				No course required in major or core.
				Course required in the major.
				Course required in the core.
1952*	1976*	2000	2020	Exponents represent the number of courses required.

2, 3, 4

**Relevant course catalogs were unavailable for review.*

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No curricular information available.

1976: No curricular information available.




2000: No requirement. In 2000, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.

YALE UNIVERSITY

Students must take 11 to 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must complete at least two courses covering pre-industrial history (before 1800), and at least two courses must be departmental seminars. Majors choose between a global track and a specialist track. Students electing the former take five courses, one each from six distinct areas: the United States, Europe, Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Those electing the specialist track take at least five (and up to eight) courses that focus on one of the five geographical regions or on one of the 12 thematic pathways. Regardless of the chosen region or pathway, at least three geographical regions must be covered. In addition, specialist track history majors must complete two courses outside of their chosen field of specialization. Finally, all history majors must complete a senior essay requirement, choosing between a year-long thesis and a one-semester seminar. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

U.S. History Course(s) Required in the Major or Core

1952*	1976*	2000*	2020	
				
				
				
				2, 3, 4

No course required in major or core.
 Course required in the major.
 Course required in the core.
 Exponents represent the number of courses required.

*Relevant course catalogs were unavailable for review.

Notes on Major Requirements

1952: No curricular information available.

1976: No curricular information available.

2000: No curricular information available.

2020: No requirement. In 2020, a course focused on the study of U.S. history was not required in the major.



ACTA
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF
TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI

American Council of Trustees and Alumni
1730 M Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036
P: 202.467.6787 • F: 202.467.6784
info@GoACTA.org • GoACTA.org