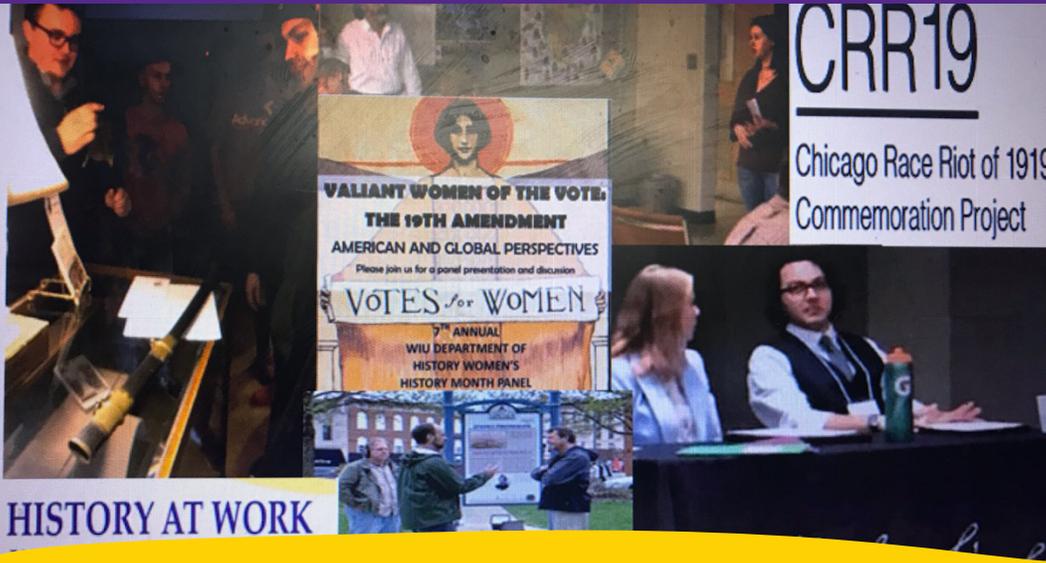


# Master of Arts in History



The Department of History at Western Illinois University offers a program of study culminating in a Master of Arts Degree. The History graduate program trains students in acquiring historical knowledge and applying the historical discipline's methods and theories to the study of the past. As such, the program prepares students for careers in teaching, academia, law, public history, and other professions that value data interpretation and narrative writing expertise. The program focuses on Illinois, American, and world history. It also assists in the professional development of educators who have started their careers, yet seek to further their expertise.

## Admission Requirements

To be admitted to the History graduate program at Western Illinois University, students must meet the admission requirements of the WIU School of Graduate Studies, and should have completed a minimum of 18 semester hours of undergraduate coursework in History. In addition, applicants must have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 2.75 (based on all hours attempted) or a GPA of at least 3.0 for the last two years of undergraduate study. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required as part of an application for admission to this program.

## Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts degree in History is earned through one of the following three plans of study: (1) general coursework; (2) applied project or (3) thesis. In all cases, the courses chosen to fulfill the student's major, minor and elective requirements must include at least one reading seminar in the major field and two research seminars.

## Career Opportunities

The graduate program serves the needs of various students seeking advanced training in the discipline of History. Some graduate students in the program take classes part-time in conjunction with full-time employment in secondary education. Others seek to teach at the community college level, admission to doctoral programs, or other professional positions requiring critical reading and writing skills. A graduate degree in History is especially advantageous for the following careers:

- Higher education professional
- Museum or historical site curator
- Editor of historical manuscripts, journals or newsletters
- Archivist or public records keeper

- Historical preservationist
- Government, private or non-profit researcher

## Graduate Assistantships, Scholarships and Awards

- History graduate students are invited to apply for a Teaching Support Assistantship. These positions are awarded to full-time students through a competitive application process. Teaching Support Assistants receive a tuition waiver and a stipend in exchange for up to 20 hours of work per week.
- New and returning graduate students with a Bachelor of Arts in History and a GPA in History of at least 3.25 may also apply for the Darrell and Virginia Dykstra Memorial Scholarship, which grants a stipend available for up to two years.
- Secondary education teachers working toward a master's degree are also eligible to compete for the David P. Pasquini Award and the Pasquini Research/ Conference Travel Fund.
- History graduate students may apply to the department Graduate Committee for awards from the Professor Emeritus Fund, which helps pay expenses incurred while conducting historical research for coursework or a thesis. They may also apply for Professor Emeritus Awards to help pay travel expenses for presenting research papers at academic conferences.
- Information about additional graduate awards and honors is available online at [wiu.edu/cas/academics/scholarships/History.php](http://wiu.edu/cas/academics/scholarships/History.php).

## Faculty Expertise

All department faculty possess doctoral degrees in History earned at distinguished American and foreign universities. Faculty members have teaching and research expertise in their geographic and thematic areas of specialization and are nationally

**Program Location:**  
Macomb

## Contact Information

### Questions about the program:

Department of History  
Professor Tim Roberts,  
graduate director  
(309) 298-1053  
[TM-Roberts@wiu.edu](mailto:TM-Roberts@wiu.edu)  
[wiu.edu/cas/history/graduate.php](http://wiu.edu/cas/history/graduate.php)

### General admission questions:

School of Graduate Studies  
(309) 298-1806 or (877) WIU GRAD  
[Grad-Office@wiu.edu](mailto:Grad-Office@wiu.edu)  
[wiu.edu/grad](http://wiu.edu/grad)

 [facebook.com/dr.timroberts](https://www.facebook.com/dr.timroberts)

*Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability and veteran status.*

  
**Western Illinois  
University**

and internationally recognized for their scholarly research and publications. Faculty areas of geographical expertise include the United States, the Ancient Mediterranean, Germany, France, the Atlantic World, South Africa and East Asia. Particular areas of research expertise are in American history, the Civil War era's conflict of democracy and slavery; organized labor and anarchism; Illinois history; Western environmental history; the presidency, political parties and U.S. diplomacy during the Cold War; and women in World War I. Areas of research expertise in modern European history include religious culture and the public sphere in France during the Revolution and women in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Germany. Our ancient European research focus is in Roman military history during the late republic and early empire, and in Greek numismatics. Areas of research expertise in Asia include women's education and public health in Japan and the Philippines, and the social history of disease in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Our faculty also study transnational and comparative history, including the ancient Mediterranean world; Atlantic history in the age of revolutions; workers and civil rights in the United States and South Africa, and U.S. imperialism in the Philippines.

## Distinctive Features

- The history department at Western offers graduate courses at the University's Macomb campus, and is a recognized regional leader in quality and value.
- Graduate students have ample opportunity to work closely with the faculty members and develop strong, mentored relationships.
- Graduate students are able to present their research at regional academic conferences, such as the Missouri Valley Conference, the



WIU Annual Graduate Research Conference, the Illinois History Symposium and Phi Alpha Theta regional conferences.

- Graduate students can apply for internships at regional historical sites and institutions, including the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library in Springfield, IL, the Rock Island Arsenal, the Putnam Museum in Davenport, IA, the Des Moines County Historical Society in Burlington, IA, the Western Illinois Museum in Macomb and other institutions.
- Western Illinois University is home to the Omicron Omicron chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the American honor society of history. The society includes both undergraduate and graduate students in History. Each year it sponsors a number of activities for its members and the community at large. It also sponsors an online journal of student research, the *Western Illinois Historical Review*.
- The history department sponsors the organization, Associated Students of History (ASH), which is open to both undergraduates and graduates. ASH hosts history-oriented social events, including guest speakers, film screenings, trivia contests, and field trips to local historic sites.
- Graduate students may have the opportunity to study history on site through the history department's travel-study abroad courses. Past travel has included trips to Greece, Italy, Germany, Northern Ireland, England and Turkey.
- Many graduate classes are available via distance learning, either online or through Zoom video conferencing.

*"The professors really pushed me to develop my own ideas and research topics, allowing me to pursue things I was interested in, allowing me to develop professionally as an academic, and as a historian."*

— Frank Kalisik, MA, 2019