



No U.S. History?

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



ACTA
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF
TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI

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United States out of the Major

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July 2016

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report was prepared by the staff of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), primarily ACTA's president, Dr. Michael Poliakoff, and Drew Lakin, with the assistance of Marya Myers.

ACTA is an independent, nonprofit organization committed to academic freedom, 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 more than 1,100 colleges and universities, including over 21,000 current board members. Our quarterly newsletter, *Inside Academe*, reaches nearly 13,000 readers.

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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. With such knowledge, he is no longer alone but draws a strength far greater than his own from the cumulative experience of the past and a cumulative vision of the future.

—President John F. Kennedy, 1962



INTRODUCTION

High Stakes for Limited Learning

Should America's colleges and universities feel a duty to ensure that the citizens and leaders of the future have a robust understanding of the history of the nation? It would be reasonable to expect that a college education would include a mature and balanced study of the story of our nation, the high and low points in our history, our successes and failures. That, after all, is an indispensable foundation for meaningful participation in a democratic republic.

We would also expect that students who major in history would receive particularly rigorous instruction in the history of the United States and the development of its institutions of government.

It is common sense. Maintaining our form of government requires knowledge of our institutions of government, how they evolved over time, the strengths and weaknesses they have shown.

Our Founders knew this. James Madison wrote that such learning is “the best security against crafty and dangerous encroachments on the public liberty.” Thomas Jefferson, in planning the University of Virginia, considered it a legislative mandate “to form the statesmen, legislators, and judges, on whom public prosperity and individual happiness are so much to depend.” It would be an obligation for the new university “to expound the principles and structure of government.”¹

Although it is reasonable to assume that at America's top-ranked colleges and universities, education for meaningful citizenship would be a priority, that is a false assumption.

The American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) has delved into the requirements and course offerings in history departments at 76 of the nation's leading colleges and universities to see how U.S. history fits into their programs. To do so, ACTA relied on the *U.S. News & World Report's* rankings of the top 25 liberal arts colleges, the

top 25 national universities, and the top 25 public institutions. (These rankings include ties.) Our findings in this report demonstrate that the overwhelming majority of America's most prestigious institutions do not require even the students who major in history to take a single course on United States history or government.

Disregard for the importance of United States history in the undergraduate history major is matched by the overall disappearance of United States history requirements from general education, the core curriculum that should be part of every student's education. ACTA's annual *What Will They Learn?* survey shows that only 18% of the over 1,100 four-year colleges and universities in the study, public and private, require a foundational course in United States history or United States government.²

The consequences of these weak academic standards are clear. ACTA's surveys of college graduates reveal year after year deep and widespread ignorance of United States history and government. In 2012, 2014, and 2015, ACTA commissioned the research firm GfK to survey college graduates' knowledge of American history. ACTA sees the same dispiriting results each time:

- Less than 20% could accurately identify—in a multiple-choice survey—the effect of the Emancipation Proclamation.
- Less than half could identify George Washington as the American general at Yorktown.
- Only 42% placed the Battle of the Bulge in the history of World War II.
- One-third of college graduates were unaware that FDR introduced the New Deal.
- Nearly half did not know that Teddy Roosevelt played a major role in constructing the Panama Canal.
- Over one-third of the college graduates surveyed could not place the American Civil War in its correct 20-year time frame.
- Nearly half of the college graduates could not identify correctly the term lengths of U.S. senators and representatives.

Reputation and high tuition are no guarantee that students will know the history of their nation. When ACTA commissioned a Roper survey

of seniors at the “Top 50” colleges and universities, those holding the most prestigious positions in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, it found that only 29% could identify—once again, in a multiple-choice survey—the definition of “Reconstruction.” Little more than half could identify the purpose of the *Federalist Papers*. Only 23% could name James Madison as the Father of the Constitution. And only 22% could match the phrase “government of the people, by the people, for the people” with the Gettysburg Address.³

Bottom line: No college or university can assume that students have even an elementary grasp of the important moments in United States history in the absence of a requirement for its study.



INSTEAD OF U.S. HISTORY. . .

Given what we know about the historical illiteracy of young Americans, it would seem irresponsible not to make the study of our history and government mandatory for all students. Not to require students *majoring* in history to take, at a minimum, a course with reasonable chronological and thematic breadth on the history of the United States would be a truly breathtaking abandonment of intellectual standards and professional judgment.

To determine the status of United States history in today's history majors, ACTA researched the requirements for the major at history departments of leading colleges and universities, a full listing of which can be found in the appendix. We find in our study of the top 25 liberal arts colleges, the top 25 national universities, and the top 25 public institutions that only 23 programs out of 76 require a course on our nation's history.* That's less than one-third.

Top 25 Liberal Arts Colleges: 7 require U.S. history

Top 25 National Universities: 4 require U.S. history

Top 25 Public Institutions: 14 require U.S. history

Of the 23 programs that do list a requirement for United States history, 11 allow courses so narrow in scope—such as “History of Sexualities” or “History of the FBI”—that it takes a leap of the imagination to see these as an adequate fulfillment of an undergraduate history requirement.

* The number of schools reflects the rankings in *U.S. News & World Report*, as well as two schools—UCLA and UC–Berkeley—that appear in lists for both the national universities and public institutions.

Why top undergraduate departments behave this way is unclear. Perhaps it is from fear of seeming to endorse “American exceptionalism.” Or perhaps it comes from a naïve belief that American students already have a firm grasp of their nation’s history. Either way, the damage is real. Virtually all institutions offer comprehensive courses on America’s past, but the overwhelming majority do not take the vitally important next step of ensuring that all graduating majors have taken one of these courses. This only-if-you-want-to approach will undoubtedly lead scores of history majors to graduate without ever taking a course on United States history beyond the high-school level.

Yale University exemplifies this desire to maximize student choice at the cost of essential requirements. It recently implemented a “specialist track” that allows history majors beginning with the class of 2017 to forgo a requirement in U.S. history whereas previous students were required to take at least two courses in the history of the United States or Canada. According to the department’s website, this new option was “created in response to students’ desire to focus in particular areas of interest earlier in the History major.”⁴ Likewise, Rice University required students who matriculated before fall 2014 to take one course in United States history, but their new set of requirements makes it merely optional.

It is not the case that history departments refuse to set any requirements for the major. Although a large majority of schools fail to require even a single course in U.S. history, as noted above, many do have geographical-distribution requirements *excluding the United States*. Of the schools without a U.S. history requirement, five explicitly require taking a course in non-U.S. history. Cornell University, for example, has only three requirements for their history majors: Two of the required nine courses must be seminars on various topics, three courses must focus on history before 1800, and four courses must be categorized as “outside of U.S. History.”⁵ Similarly, Bowdoin College, Swarthmore College, and Northwestern University all require courses focused outside the history of Europe and the United States without requiring courses within these regions.

Another eight schools list requirements in courses covering other specified regions outside the United States. Among these, for instance, Bates College requires two courses on either East Asia or Latin America but not on the United States or any other region. And at the University of North Carolina, students similarly must take at least one course either

in African, Asian, and Middle Eastern history or in Latin American history. Finally, 34 schools in total have general geographical-distribution requirements in which students may freely opt out of taking any courses in U.S. history altogether.

Some strange topics can take the place of United States history. Of the schools that do not require a single course in U.S. history, majors have free-range to choose from niche courses such as “Soccer and History in Latin America: Making the Beautiful Game” (Williams College), “Modern Addiction: Cigarette Smoking in the 20th Century” (Swarthmore College), “Lawn Boy Meets Valley Girl” (Bowdoin College), and “Witchcraft and Possession” (University of Pennsylvania).

Of the schools that do require their history majors to take at least one course focused on the history of the 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. It is frustrating that these schools found it important to create the requirement but remained lax in defining the actual courses that could fulfill it. At these schools, we find that majors can fulfill their U.S. history requirement with such courses as, “Mad Men and Mad Women” (Middlebury College), “Uncovering Early UVA” (University of Virginia), “Hip-Hop, Politics, and Youth Culture in America” (University of Connecticut), and “Jews in American Entertainment” (University of Texas).

Although microhistories can illuminate a topic and have an important place in historical understanding, it is intellectually and educationally unsound for narrowly focused courses to displace substantive experience in fundamental areas of history. There is a price to pay for letting trendy, highly specialized courses fulfill requirements. As KC Johnson, senior professor of history at Brooklyn College and the CUNY Graduate Center, has pointed out, core areas of unquestionable importance for historical perspective are not required and sometimes not even represented among course offerings. Professor Johnson causes us to ask: What happened to fields such as military, constitutional, and diplomatic history?⁶

Likewise, world history is of course an essential part of an undergraduate history-major program. Before the United States became a nation, it was part of an Atlantic world, and no region in modern times can appropriately be studied in isolation. That gives, however, all the more reason to include a sound understanding of America as a requirement

for the major and, in turn, an understanding of its significance for global history.

Let's consider for a brief moment what is missing when the study of the United States disappears from the study of history. "Men are born and remain free and equal in rights." That is from the 1789 French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen. Fast-forward to the twentieth century: "All men are created equal. They are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among them are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." So Ho Chi Minh quoted in 1945 in the draft of the Proclamation of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. A student without knowledge of the American Founding—and, as ACTA's surveys noted above demonstrate, there are plenty of them—would simply be adrift. And he or she would be unable to understand why it is significant that our Declaration was so influential, even removed in time and space from its origin, among our allies and among nations with which we have struggled.

Harvard's mission statement declares, "The mission of Harvard College is to educate the citizens and citizen-leaders for our society." Carleton College aspires to develop "qualities of mind and character that prepare its graduates to become citizens and leaders, capable of finding inventive solutions to local, national, and global challenges." Georgetown University wants its graduates "to be responsible and active participants in civic life." University of Michigan aims at "developing leaders and citizens who will challenge the present and enrich the future."⁷ These storied institutions express inspiring and wholly appropriate goals. But in the absence of requirements even for history majors for the study of our own nation's past and the development of our form of government, these noble aspirations ring hollow.

In short, requirements within a major showcase what knowledge a school deems vital to the comprehensive understanding of a particular field of study. Without requiring a course focused on the history of the United States and the development of its institutions, these schools either assume students will take such a course of their own volition or don't believe such a course is necessary for their history majors. Either way, America's past is being passed over.



FACING THE PROBLEM & TAKING ACTION

As we have seen, far too many colleges and universities allow students, including those who major in history, to graduate without taking a single course on American history or government. We have also seen through survey evidence the consequences of the failure to establish such requirements. Higher education leadership needs to face the problem squarely and take action.

Our colleges and universities, whether in the name of “inclusion” or globalism or a debased hope that they will attract more students by eliminating requirements, have created a vicious circle of historical illiteracy and the civic illiteracy that accompanies it. This illiteracy extends to the troubling way that students view fundamental aspects of our nation’s structure of law and government. A 2016 Gallup poll showed that 27% of college students supported “restricting the expression of political views that upset or offend certain groups.” Another 49% believed it is right to prevent reporters from covering protests held on college campuses if they believe the reporting will be “unfair.”⁸

Those who do not know the history of the nation are, of course, much more likely to view its constitutional freedoms with nonchalance.

If our colleges and universities seek to retain public support of their work, they must understand that a high-quality curriculum comes from informed choices, developed through the reason, professional training, and good sense of faculty and college leadership. Faculties have the right to pursue personal intellectual interests, but they also have an obligation to address what students need to learn. If faculty will not distinguish between the essential and the not-so-important, then how can we justify ever-increasing tuition bills?

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 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. It is totally appropriate for trustees to insist upon a requirement for every undergraduate to study the history of the United States and its institutions.

In 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 needs 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 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. Such donations would be a contribution not only to the alma mater but also to the nation as a whole.

NOTES

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4. "Class of 2017 & beyond," Yale University Department of History, accessed April 2016, history.yale.edu/academics/undergraduate-program/requirements-major/class-2017-beyond.
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6. See *Full Committee Hearing: "Is Intellectual Diversity an Endangered Species on America's College Campuses?" Before the U.S. Senate Comm. on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions*, 108th Cong. (2003) (witness testimony of Robert David Johnson, professor at Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York); and KC Johnson, "Are Military and Diplomatic History Making a Comeback?," *Minding the Campus*, July 25, 2011, www.mindingthecampus.org/2011/07/are_military_and_diplomatic_hi/#more-8126; see also Gordon S. Wood, "The Founders Rule!," review of *The Failure of the Founding Fathers: Jefferson, Marshall, and the Rise of Presidential Democracy*, by Bruce Ackerman, *The New Republic*, November 7, 2005.
7. "Mission, Vision and History," Harvard College, accessed June 2016, college.harvard.edu/about/history; "Our Mission," Carleton College, accessed June 2016, apps.carleton.edu/about/mission/; "Governance: University Mission Statement," Georgetown University, accessed June 2016, governance.georgetown.edu/mission-statement; and "Leaders & Best: About," University of Michigan, accessed June 2016, leadersandbest.umich.edu/contact/about.
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**U.S. History Requirements
for History Majors**

CHART 1

U.S. HISTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR HISTORY MAJORS

Top 25 Liberal Arts Colleges (as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*, 2016)

	Requires	Does not Require
1 Williams College		●
2 Amherst College		●
3 Swarthmore College		●
4 Bowdoin College		●
4 Middlebury College*	○	
4 Pomona College		●
4 Wellesley College		●
8 Carleton College		●
9 Claremont McKenna College*	○	
9 Davidson College		●
9 United States Naval Academy	●	
12 Haverford College		●
12 Vassar College		●
14 Hamilton College	●	
14 Harvey Mudd College		●
14 Smith College		●
14 Washington and Lee University		●
14 Wesleyan University		●
19 Colby College		●
19 Colgate University	●	
19 Grinnell College		●
22 United States Military Academy	●	
23 Macalester College		●
23 Oberlin College		●
25 Bates College		●
25 Bryn Mawr College		●
25 Colorado College	●	
25 Kenyon College		●

* A hollow dot indicates that though the history major requires a course in U.S. history, one or more of the courses that satisfy the requirement are overspecialized or narrow in scope.



CHART 2

U.S. HISTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR HISTORY MAJORS

Top 25 National Universities (as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*, 2016)

	Requires	Does not Require
1 Princeton University*	○	
2 Harvard University		●
3 Yale University		●
4 Columbia University	●	
4 Stanford University		●
4 University of Chicago		●
7 Massachusetts Institute of Technology		●
8 Duke University		●
9 University of Pennsylvania		●
10 California Institute of Technology		●
10 Johns Hopkins University		●
12 Dartmouth College		●
12 Northwestern University		●
14 Brown University		●
15 Cornell University		●
15 Vanderbilt University		●
15 Washington University in St. Louis		●
18 Rice University		●
18 University of Notre Dame		●
20 University of California-Berkeley	●	
21 Emory University		●
21 Georgetown University		●
23 Carnegie Mellon University		●
23 University of California-Los Angeles*	○	
23 University of Southern California		●

* A hollow dot indicates that though the history major requires a course in U.S. history, one or more of the courses that satisfy the requirement are overspecialized or narrow in scope.

CHART 3

U.S. HISTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR HISTORY MAJORS

Top 25 Public Institutions (as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*, 2016)

	Requires	Does not Require
1 University of California-Berkeley	●	
2 University of California-Los Angeles*	○	
3 University of Virginia*	○	
4 University of Michigan		●
5 University of North Carolina		●
6 College of William & Mary	●	
7 Georgia Institute of Technology	●	
8 University of California-Santa Barbara		●
9 University of California-Irvine		●
9 University of California-San Diego		●
11 University of California-Davis		●
11 University of Illinois*	○	
11 University of Wisconsin		●
14 Pennsylvania State University*	○	
14 University of Florida*	○	
16 Ohio State University		●
16 University of Texas	●	
16 University of Washington		●
19 University of Connecticut*	○	
19 University of Maryland		●
21 Clemson University*	○	
21 Purdue University*	○	
21 University of Georgia	●	
24 University of Pittsburgh	●	
25 University of Minnesota		●

* A hollow dot indicates that though the history major requires a course in U.S. history, one or more of the courses that satisfy the requirement are overspecialized or narrow in scope.



APPENDIX
What *Is* Required?

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

AMHERST COLLEGE

Students must take nine courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Four courses must be in an individually chosen area of concentration, one course each in at least three different geographical areas, 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 three of the following areas: the United States, Europe, Asia, Africa and its Diaspora, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East. 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.**

BATES COLLEGE

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history: one methods course, five courses in a chosen area of concentration (East Asia, Latin America, Europe, the United States, or premodern history), two courses in the geographical locations of either East Asia or Latin America, and two history courses of choice. Included in these courses is a senior-thesis seminar. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors choose from one of the following fields of study: Africa, East Asia, Europe, Latin America, South Asia, the United States, Atlantic worlds, and colonial worlds. No more than six courses in a single field of study can count toward the major. In addition, students must take three upper-level seminars (one of which must be a capstone seminar), three non-European/U.S. courses, and one premodern course. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

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.**

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

Students must take 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. The major requires two methods courses and nine courses across different fields or within one specific field. Of these nine courses, at least two must be 300-level seminars, and at least one must focus on the period before 1800. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Students must take 11 courses (including freshman humanities) to graduate with a B.S. in history. Of these 11 courses in history, seven courses must be in an area of concentration with three courses in a senior tutorial in which students identify, research, and write a paper on a historical subject of particular interest to them. The remaining four courses of history must be in areas other than the area of concentration. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

CARLETON COLLEGE

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Students must choose three fields in which to concentrate. Majors choose from the following available fields: the United States, ancient and/or medieval history, early-modern and/or modern Europe, Asia, Africa and its Diaspora, Latin America, the Atlantic world, and environment and health. Students take four courses in their primary-interest field, then at least two courses each in two minor fields of study. In addition, majors are required to take two seminar courses and two writing courses. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

Students must take 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. or B.S. in social and political history. Majors must complete two research-training courses and a course on global histories. Moreover, students choose between a general history program and an in-depth regional concentration, further selecting among Asia, Europe, the United States, African Diaspora, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Russia. In the general history option, students take a survey course on U.S. culture, a non-U.S. survey course, and six elective courses. In the latter, students must take three to four courses covering their chosen geographical region and four to five additional elective courses. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

Students must take nine courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors 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 course as a junior seminar, and five electives. One of those courses must cover premodern (before 1700) material. **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.**

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Students must take 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to take two semesters of a survey course (“The West and the World”), a sophomore methods seminar, and a senior seminar or honors thesis. Furthermore, students must take at least one course on U.S. history, at least one on European history, and at least one on non-Western history; they must also take at least one 4000-level course. **Although Clemson 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.**

COLBY COLLEGE

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take at least six courses across three geographical distributions, with two classes per area, one in early history and one in modern history. The three areas are Africa, Asia, and world history (Category I); Europe, Russia, and the USSR (Category II); and the Americas (Category III). In addition, students must take two intro-level courses (“Introduction to History” and “Patterns and Processes in World History”), two mid-level courses, and a senior research seminar. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

COLGATE UNIVERSITY

Students must take nine courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Of these nine course, three must be taken at the intro/intermediate level, one in each of the three following areas: the United States, global, and Europe. In addition, students must take a history workshop, three courses at the 300 level (no geographical specification), one seminar course, and an additional history course above the intro level. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is required.**

COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY

Students must take 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to complete two courses in European history, two courses on the history of the United States or early North America, two courses outside of European or U.S./early North American history, one course on global history, at least one course focusing on pre-1800 history, and at least one course focusing on post-1800 history. Additionally, students must complete a capstone seminar. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is required.**

COLORADO COLLEGE

Students must take 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 levels, 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, and at least one course in the following three geographical areas: the United States, Europe, and the world (Africa, East and South Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East). **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is required.**

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 courses being within the specialization. As a general education requirement outside of the major, each student must take a course on “Introduction to Contemporary Civilization,” which includes analysis of Locke, Tocqueville, the American Revolution, and Founding texts. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is required.**

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Students must take nine courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. These courses must include three focused on history before 1800, four focused on history outside of the United States, and two seminar courses with one being a 4000-level seminar. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with an A.B. in history. Beginning with the class of 2018, majors must take at least one course in U.S. or Canadian 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. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

DAVIDSON COLLEGE

Students must take 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take at least three courses divided among at least three of the following areas: premodern Europe; modern Europe; the United States; and Latin America, Africa, South Asia, the Middle East, and East Asia. In addition, students must take one or two mid-level courses, three to six upper-level courses, and a senior seminar. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

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 the 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.**

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 from among the United States; Europe; Latin America and the non-Western world; women, gender, and sexuality; empires, nations, and citizenship; and law, economics, and human rights. Majors who choose a general-studies requirement take at least two survey courses in U.S. history, and majors 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.**

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 an additional two elective courses in any region. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Students must take nine courses to graduate with a B.S. in history, technology, and society. This undergraduate program departs from offering a traditional degree in history since its focus is primarily on technology. Majors are required to take three courses chosen from 22 courses within the department, two upper-level seminars, and four elective courses. As part of the general education social-studies requirements, students must take a survey course in U.S. history or a course in U.S. government. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is required.**

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.**

HAMILTON COLLEGE

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take a writing-intensive 100-level history course and at least four courses at the 300 level or higher. Of these four 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, at least one course focused on Europe, at least three courses focused on areas outside the United States and Europe, and at least one course in premodern history. Finally, majors must complete a senior thesis. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is required.**

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Students must take 10 to 12 courses to graduate with an A.B. in history. Concentrators are required to take a tutorial on historical analysis, two seminars, one course in U.S. or European history, one course in non-Western history, one course focused on pre-1750 history, and four additional electives within the department. Also, concentrators may elect to pursue a year-long senior thesis. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

HARVEY MUDD COLLEGE

Harvey Mudd College does not have a history department, but the history concentration of 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.**

HVERFORD COLLEGE

Students must take 10 to 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take two intro-level courses and seven mid- and upper-level courses, of which at least two must be upper-level seminars. To meet that seven-course requirement, students must complete three geographical, temporal, or thematic fields, taking at least two courses in each field. The optional geographical fields listed are early European history (pre-1763), modern European history, U.S. history, East Asian history, Latin American history, and history of science and medicine. During their senior year,

students may opt for either a semester-long or a year-long senior thesis. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

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.**

KENYON COLLEGE

Students must take 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take four classes within their defined field within the major, choosing from the Americas (Latin America and/or the United States), Asia, Europe, Africa, African American history, medieval history, women's and gender history, and colonial/imperial history. In addition, students must take one advanced seminar, one senior seminar, a course on the "Practice and Theory of History," and four elective courses. Of the four elective courses, one must be in premodern history, one in modern history, one in the history of Asia and/or Africa, and one in the history of the Americas and/or Europe. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

MACALESTER COLLEGE

Students must take 10 to 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to take a course on "The Study of History," a second 300-level course, an advanced-study seminar for the senior capstone, and three courses in three of the following geographical areas: the United States, Europe, Latin America, Africa, East Asia, and the Middle East/ Islamic world. At least one course must be in global and/or comparative history. Finally, one course must cover history prior to 1800, and one course must cover post 1800. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

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 to be selected in consultation with an 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 humanities, arts, and social sciences discipline. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Students must take 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Of these 11 courses, students must take at least one course at the intro level, at least one course in European history, at least one course in U.S. history, and at least one course in the history of Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, or Russia/Soviet Union. Courses fulfilling the geographical distribution requirement must be at the 200 level or above. In addition, students must take a reading seminar, a research seminar, and two courses for their senior thesis. Two courses out of the 11 required must focus on the period before 1800. **Although Middlebury 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.**

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Of these courses, one must be a methods seminar, one must be a research seminar, and at least two must be in fields other than modern (post-1800) European or U.S. history. Moreover, students choose between a geographical concentration and a global-history concentration. For the former, concentrators take six 200–300-level courses in the chosen geographical concentration—history of the Americas, English/European history, African/Middle Eastern history, or Asian/Middle Eastern history—and four additional 200–300-level courses outside of the concentration. For the latter, concentrators take two survey courses in

global history; two additional global-history courses (from a choice of five thematic courses); and six additional 200–300-level courses outside of global history, either two each in three geographical areas or three each in two geographical areas. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

OBERLIN COLLEGE

Students must take nine courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take two 100-level survey courses in two different geographical areas, at least one course at the 300 level, and at least one course at the 400 level. Of the nine courses, at least one course must be in premodern history, at least one course in European (including Russian/USSR) history, at least one course in North American/U.S. history, and at least one course in global/comparative history. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

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 intro-level course, an advanced-level reading seminar, and an advanced-level research seminar. Majors must take at least four courses in one of the following six geographical areas: North America; Latin America; Europe; the Near East, the Middle East, Central Asia, and/or South Asia; East Asia; and Africa. Alternatively, students may instead opt to take four courses in one of eight available 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.**

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 100–200 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.**

POMONA COLLEGE

Students must take nine 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; and Africa/African Diaspora, South Asia, and the Middle East. In addition, students must take three courses from at least two other geographical areas, one elective, and a two-course senior exercise. Of the nine courses, at least one must concentrate on any period before 1800. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

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.**

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

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.

RICE UNIVERSITY

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Of these courses, six must be at the 300–400 level, and two must be devoted mainly to writing and discussion. Beginning with the class of 2018, students must take at least one course in four of the following five fields: premodern history; Europe; the United States; Asia, Latin America, and Africa; or transnational/comparative/world history. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

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, the Islamic Middle East, East Asia, medieval/early-modern Europe (300–1650), modern Europe (1650–present), Africa, Latin America, the United States, women’s history, and comparative colonialism. Of the remaining six courses required, four must be in two fields distinct from the field of concentration. Of the 11 required courses, there must be at least one course each in three of the following geographical regions: Africa, East Asia and Central Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and South Asia, and North America. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

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; two lecture courses on both U.S. or European history and 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.**

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

Students must take nine courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. At least six of these nine courses need to be taken at Swarthmore. Majors must

take at least one course or seminar that covers history prior to 1750 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.**

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

Students must take 10 courses in their major to graduate with a B.A. in history. In addition, all students, regardless of their major, must take a course in American history and one in American politics. History majors choose from one of three concentrations for their major: American history, military history, or international history. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is required.**

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

Students must take 10 courses, on top of the three history courses required by the core curriculum, to graduate with a B.A. in history. The program requires an introductory methodology seminar and a 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. (History majors must also complete four semesters of a foreign language.) In addition, a course on “U.S. Government and Constitutional Development” is required as part of the core curriculum. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is required.**

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.**

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA–DAVIS

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take four courses from one of the following fields of concentration: Europe, the United States, Asia, Africa, Latin America, or a more specifically defined region/era. In addition, students must either (a) take four courses in at least two other fields, plus one more course from any of the fields and one methods course or history seminar in the primary field; or (b) take three courses in one other field, one methods course, and two history seminars in the primary field. At least one of the 10 courses must address premodern history. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

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.**

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA–LOS ANGELES

Students must take 16 courses (on the quarter system) to graduate with a B.A. in history. In order to apply for the major, students first take six courses in preparation. Of the six courses, three premajor courses must include two in either Western Civilization or world history in addition to a historical-methods course. Students must take three additional lower-division courses to complete the premajor. Students then take 10 courses within the major. Majors must take two courses in U.S. history, two courses in non-Western history from the same field (Asia, Africa, Latin America, or the Near and Middle East), two courses in European history, and a capstone seminar. **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.

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 among a geographical, thematic, or preprofessional focus. Students take at least three courses in the field of emphasis, at least three courses outside of the field, and six other history electives either in the field or outside. 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.**

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.**

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; four additional electives that complement the main field; and a third-year colloquium. Finally, concentrators must also take two senior seminars. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

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—and 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.**

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 of them 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.**

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Students must take 13 courses to graduate with an A.B. in history. Majors are required to take one senior seminar, four elective courses from a predetermined list, and one course each in three of the following geographical areas: North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and world/comparative history. Of these courses, at least one must cover the period before 1600, and at least one must cover the period after 1600. (Majors must also complete a foreign-language requirement through the intermediate level.) As a general education requirement outside of the major, each student must satisfy a United States and Georgia history requirement, which can be met by passing an exam or taking a survey course on U.S. history. **All the courses, or equivalents, offered to fulfill the general education U.S. history requirement stand as appropriate fulfillment of the U.S. history requirement for the major.**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history.

Requirements include two intro-level history courses; two courses (one at the 200 level or above and one at the 300 level) on African, Asian, global, Latin American, or Middle Eastern history; two courses (one at the 200 level or above and one at the 300 level) on European history; and two courses (one at the 200 level or above and one at the 300 level) on U.S. history. One of the courses on U.S. history must address U.S. minority history. Additional requirements include a course on historical interpretation, a seminar on research and writing, and at least two additional elective courses (at the 200 level or above). At least two of the 12 courses must cover premodern history (one on pre-1600 history and one on pre-1800 history). **Although the University of Illinois 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.**

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Students must take 13 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. At least four courses must be at the introductory level from at least two geographical fields—Latin America, the Middle East, Britain and Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Russia, the United States, East Asia, and Africa—and must include a methods course. Of these four courses, at least two need to be in a sequence, at least one must focus on history before 1500, and at least one must focus on history after 1500. Additionally, majors are required to choose an area of concentration that is geographical, chronological, or thematic: At least five courses must be within this area of concentration, and at least three courses must be in two areas outside of the area of concentration. A capstone seminar is also required. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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: Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East/Central Asia, Latin America, the United States/Canada, and transregional/global history. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Students must take 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Requirements include at least two courses in pre-1750 history; at least two courses in post-1750 history; at least one course in U.S. or European history; at least one course in Asian, Middle Eastern, African, or Latin American history; at least one course in world history; and at least three upper-division courses in a chosen area of concentration. In addition, students must take at least three writing-intensive courses, including a research seminar. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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.**

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to take one history workshop and four elective courses as part of a concentration. They also take one course from four of the following six breadth areas: Africa, Asia, and the Middle East; ancient and medieval Europe; modern Europe; Latin America; the United States; or a special (e.g., global, topical) field; at least one of these must cover premodern

history. Finally, majors must complete a research capstone course. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors must take two pre-1800 courses, two upper-level history seminars, and one research requirement. Moreover, they must take at least one course from four of the following five geographical areas: the United States and Canada, Europe (including Britain 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.**

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Students must take 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Of these courses, students must take 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.**

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 take 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 with a temporal span; and at least one survey course with 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, geographical, or interdisciplinary focus—and at least two must be 400-level seminars. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Students must take 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to take two courses in U.S. history; 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.**

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.**

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.**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

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.**

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Students must take at least 10 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Of these courses, 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.**

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 out of the following five geographical areas: Africa and 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.**

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; and at least three courses must be outside of their area of emphasis. Finally, students must take at least two more electives to complete the major. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

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 each 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.**

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 premodern history. Majors must include at least one seminar. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Students must take 11 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Majors are required to take a class on historiography. Additionally, at least eight courses must be in two modules (or fields of concentration). Of these eight, two must be seminars. Students choose four courses from each of their two focus modules. There are over 29 modules to choose from, of which U.S. history is not specified. **A course focused on the study of U.S. history is not required.**

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 courses in at least three of the following groups: 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.**

YALE UNIVERSITY

Students must take 11 to 12 courses to graduate with a B.A. in history. Of these courses, at least two must be courses covering preindustrial history (before 1800), and at least two must be departmental seminars. Beginning with the class of 2017, majors choose between a global track and a specialist track. Students electing the former take five courses, each covering a different area—the United States, Europe, Latin America, Asia, and 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 13 thematic pathways; regardless of the chosen region or pathway, at least three geographical regions must be covered. Finally, 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.**

At a time when the nation's colleges and universities too often allow students to graduate without a basic understanding of the U.S. past, ACTA's voice is all the more important. Trustees should exercise their proper oversight role to ensure that our nation's institutions of higher learning provide graduates with the tools necessary to become knowledgeable U.S. citizens.

—Robert "KC" Johnson, Professor of History at Brooklyn College and CUNY Graduate Center

Democratic institutions are not self-sustaining. Free citizens must renew their understanding of our history and values from one generation to the next. Only by understanding America's past—its high points and its low points—are citizens empowered to make the sound decisions on which our nation's future depends. ACTA's new report warns higher education that it must do a much better job of preparing the next generation of citizens and leaders.

—Bruce Cole, former Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities; Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, Washington, DC

There was a time when colleges could assume high schools had educated students in American history and government. No longer. That responsibility has fallen to colleges. But as this startling ACTA study finds, even college history departments fail to include among their other requirements even a single semester's study of American history or government. As a historian of constitutional law and history, I am dismayed at the ignorance this report reveals of the most basic aspects of our system of government and our history. Unless this changes, our basic freedoms are in serious danger.

—Joyce Lee Malcolm, Patrick Henry Professor of Constitutional Law and the Second Amendment at George Mason University School of Law



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