

History (M.A.) Graduate Program

Howard's graduate program in African-American History is ranked third in the nation by U.S. News and World Report. The Master of Arts (MA) in History at Howard's College of Arts and Sciences, prepares students to pursue a doctorate or a career in education, public history, archives administration, law, public affairs, or research in the public and private sectors. The MA in History is noted for its strengths in regional, traditional, transnational, and comparative historical study. The program is defined by a spirit of collaborative inquiry and students benefit from the close mentorship of faculty. Our graduate faculty is notable for its wide-ranging research in the areas of social, economic, intellectual, and cultural history of the African diaspora as well as transnational, urban, and gender history. MA in History students may specialize in six distinct subfields: United States, African-American, African, African Diaspora, Latin American and Caribbean, or Public history. Students shape their course of study and pursue original research in a chosen subfield, sharpening their analytical skills. Students may select between the thesis or non-thesis program of study which requires the completion of a seminar paper. Students also benefit from quick access to the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and the Smithsonian, located just ten minutes away from Howard's campus, and can draw on extensive archival collections, library resources, and coursework across our regional academic consortium.

Program Snapshot

4-6 semesters to
degree completion

30 credit hours

Full-time

On campus format

Admissions Information

Application deadlines:

Fall entry only

Fall entry deadline:
January 15, 2022

Hard deadline with rolling
admissions decisions



Application for Admission

- 1 Online GradCAS application
- 2 Statement of purpose/ Statement of academic interest (**500-1,000 words**)
- 3 Critical writing sample of best academic research or historical analysis
- 4 GRE scores **not required**
- 5 Official transcripts sent to **GradCAS**
- 6 3 letters of recommendation
- 7 Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution
- 8 Resume or Curriculum Vitae
- 9 Autobiographical statement (**500-750 words**)

International Students

- 1 English Language Test for non-native English speakers (waived for applicants with a U.S. degree)

TOEFL: 90 iBT (internet-based) or 233 CBT (computer-based)
IELTS: 6.5 Overall Band Score

Send official TOEFL scores to Howard (reporting code 5297)
- 2 Statement of Financial Resources (if admitted)
- 3 WES, IEE, or ECE transcript evaluation required for foreign transcripts? **YES**

GRE Preferred Minimums

GRE Verbal Reasoning	N/A
GRE Quantitative Reasoning	N/A
GRE Analytical Writing	N/A

GPA Required Minimums

Overall GPA minimum	3.0
Undergrad GPA minimum	N/A

Reference Requirements

☒ Evaluator type accepted

☒ Evaluator type not accepted

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Professor (Required)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Supervisor/Manager
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Friend
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Family Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coworker
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clergy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other

Degree Requirements

1	Qualifying examination
2	Foreign language proficiency
3	GSAS writing proficiency requirement
4	GSAS Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Workshop
5	Thesis or Seminar paper
6	Final oral examination

Admission to Candidacy

Students are admitted to formal candidacy by the Graduate School when they have completed required coursework, passed the qualifying examination and shown evidence of proficiency in one foreign language, submitted an approved topic for research, and been recommended by the Department. Candidates must have also satisfied the GSAS writing proficiency requirement and GSAS Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Workshop requirement.

Research Specializations

- United States History
- African-American History
- African History
- African Diaspora History
- Latin American & Caribbean History
- Public History

Current Research

- Citizenship and repatriation as it relates to displaced African people during the Civil War and Reconstruction
- Women's history and cultural praxis
- Pan-Africanism and the African diaspora
- Africana women and their contributions to Hip Hop culture
- Impact of image, representation, and perception of race and culture in the United States from the end of slavery through the early twentieth century
- Historical and theological connections between the African Diaspora and the motherland

- Collecting and preserving Black queer
- DC history
- Black colonial resistance and Black Power movements
- Toussaint, Christophe, and Louverture networks in Great Britain, France, and the United States revealing Haitian satellite communities across transnational borders
- Indexical meanings of the American flag and how various contemporary Black artists interpret it during the Civil Rights Movement and by comparison the Black Lives Matter Movement
- Intersections of nineteenth and twentieth century African-American intellectual, political, and religious history
- Religious and political history of Liberia, which includes African American emigration, race and religion in the U.S., and the missionary impulses of the emerging black church
- U.S. colored troops who served at the Union prisoner of war camp at Point Lookout, Maryland, during the American Civil War
- Spiritual practice of Black women in the 20th century who engage in both Black American Christianity and traditional African spiritualities
- Relevance of 'Global Africa' in the construction of the black international
- Slavery, emancipation, Black Power as a global phenomenon
- Transnational political/social movements
- Memorialization of the Atlantic slave trade and slavery
- Public memory, heritage, visual culture, and the material culture of slavery
- Long history of demands of reparations for slavery and colonialism
- Transnational connections between African American and British abolitionist movements

Graduate Assistantships

Admitted students are eligible to compete for graduate research or teaching assistantships which provide tuition remission and a stipend during the academic year. Teaching assistants work about 20 hours a week under the direction of the program, usually in support of assigned courses.

Program of Study

CORE COURSE 3 CR	
HIST 200	Historiography
MAJOR FIELD COURSES Thesis Option 15 CR	
Readings Courses (12 CR)	
Seminar Course (3 CR)	
MAJOR FIELD COURSES Non-Thesis Option 18 CR	
Readings Courses (12 CR)	
Seminar Courses (6 CR)	
ELECTIVE COURSES (in major field) 6 – 9 CR	
THESIS or SEMINAR PAPER 3 – 6 CR	

Sampling of Courses

United States History	
HIST 175	Women in American Society since 1890
HIST 223	Jacksonian Era, Reform, and Sectionalism
HIST 227	U.S. Reform Movements
African-American History	
HIST 324	Readings in Afro-American History
HIST 312	Afro-American Social Institutions and Culture
HIST 177	Afro-American History since the Civil War
African History	
HIST 382	Colonialism in Africa
HIST 235	West Africa Since 1800
HIST 387	African Americans and Africa
African Diaspora History	
HIST 173	Comparative Slavery in the Americas
HIST 193	Pan-Africanism
HIST 385	Readings in the African Diaspora
Latin American & Caribbean History	
HIST 340	Race Relations in Latin America and Caribbean
HIST 444	Seminar in the History of Afro-Latinos
HIST 241	History of the Caribbean II
Public History	
HIST 403	Archives and Film
HIST 402	Museums and Archives
HIST 408	Historical Editing