

Q. What is the “Minor Requirement”?

A. It depends on “for whom”

The purpose of the minor field is to give breadth to the Ph.D. major. This is important to bear in mind in selecting a minor field. The minor should expose you to subjects and methodologies that provide a strong counterpart to your historical studies, thus imparting the desired breadth to your overall course of study. By definition, no course in your major area of study may be used to meet the minor requirement.

For students in other departments (non-majors)

- A History faculty member serves as the student’s minor advisor
- This faculty member approves an appropriate course of study
- For non-majors, the minor in History requires nine credits of graduate-level work
- The minor agreement form for non-majors is [available on the web](#).
- The student’s minor agreement must be approved by the Graduate Program Coordinator and Director of Graduate Studies *prior to coursework*

For students in History

This summary reflects revisions to the minor requirement eff. 12/5/2016. They are optional for current students.

The minor agreement form for History graduate students is [available on the web](#).

For full details, see the [Grad Handbook](#).

A minimum of nine graduate-level credits are needed to complete the minor. The minor field should be selected in consultation with your advisor.

The minor requirement may be satisfied either by credits taken wholly in a degree program other than History (Option A, external minor) or by credits taken in more than one degree program that form a coherent topic (Option B, distributed minor).

Some of History’s **fields of study and thematic concentrations** recommend or require specific minors for their students:

- African History – Three courses in African Studies comprising two fields other than History. Students may, in close consultation with their major professor, choose an alternative minor.
- Latin American and Caribbean History – At least nine credits of interdisciplinary training in Latin American and Iberian Studies divided between two fields other than History.
- Thematic Concentrations:
 - Program in Gender and Women’s History (PGWH) – Students must follow the minor requirements of their primary field of study and are encouraged to include courses emphasizing women, gender, or sexuality.
 - Program in Jewish History (PJH) - In consultation with PJH faculty members, students will design an interdisciplinary “Jewish Studies” distributive minor by completing courses in the Center for Jewish Studies.
 - War in Society and Culture Program (WISC) - Students must follow the minor requirements of their primary field of study and are encouraged to include courses emphasizing war, society, and culture.