

## Proposal for Accelerated MA in History

### **Rationale:**

Many R1 and regional comprehensive universities are now offering accelerated BA/MA programs (also known as integrated or 4+1 programs). Typically in these programs, a student who is on track to graduate with the BA in 4 years applies for admission to that institution's MA program in the spring of their junior year. In their senior year, the student takes 6-12 graduate credit hours that double count toward both the BA and the MA. Taking the prescribed coursework, the student then completes the degree by the end of the fifth year (the first post-bac year.) Accelerated programs benefit students by saving them time and tuition resources. They benefit the programs by encouraging strong students to stay and complete their degrees at their home institution.

Other programs that offer accelerated programs in history include:

Appalachian State University: <https://graduate.appstate.edu/faculty/program-director-handbook/admissions/accelerated-admission>

Western Illinois University:

[http://www.wiu.edu/graduate\\_studies/catalog/integrated\\_programs/hist\\_integrated.php](http://www.wiu.edu/graduate_studies/catalog/integrated_programs/hist_integrated.php)

Vanderbilt University:

<https://as.vanderbilt.edu/academics/specialdegree/4plus1.php>

University of Louisville: <http://louisville.edu/history/undergraduate-studies/ba-ma-accelerated>

University of Akron:

[https://www.uakron.edu/academics\\_majors/graduate\\_programs/grad-program-details?programId=ae27c275-fd28-4bf7-9631-f378bf587636](https://www.uakron.edu/academics_majors/graduate_programs/grad-program-details?programId=ae27c275-fd28-4bf7-9631-f378bf587636)

University of Arizona:

<https://history.arizona.edu/http://history.arizona.edu/content/accelerated-masters-program-amp-history>

The EIU history department has had a number of very strong undergraduates move on to its MA program. This accelerated program would make it possible for them to reduce time toward their second degree without minimizing the quality of either of their programs.

### **Proposed admissions requirements:**

1) A student may apply to the program during the semester they complete 60 c.h.

2) To begin the program, a student must have completed 60 c.h. of undergraduate work, 12 of which must be history courses taken at EIU. Student must have completed HIS 1101 or SOS 2400 and HIS 2500 and two of the following courses required for the major: HIS 2010 or 2020, HIS 2560, HIS 3555, HIS 3600.

[Note: We have a high number of transfer students who would arrive here with as many as 60 credits. We are thus requiring 12 credits in history at EIU so that we can be sure the students are adequately prepared for the rigor of advanced study.]

2) Student must have 3.25 cumulative and 3.5 history GPA at EIU to be accepted to the program and to begin the accelerated MA program. Students apply to the program during the semester they are completing their 60 c.h. Students must maintain a 3.25 cumulative and 3.5 history GPA in order to remain in the program. [Note: EIU BAs who have completed our program in the last three years have had a mean GPA of 3.56 and mean history GPA of 3.58. The median GPA for those students is 3.7/3.7. The range of GPA requirements at other institutions is rather broad: 3.25 at WIU, 3.5/3.7 at North Carolina State; 3.4 at Appalachian State; 3.3 at University of Arizona; 3.35 at University of Louisville. The graduate school requires a 3.25 CUM GPA; a major 3.5 GPA seems reasonable given the performance of past graduate students.]

3) To apply, students must submit all the materials required for admission to the MA in History.

### **Program Requirements:**

- 1) To complete the BA and MA in 5 years, students must take 1 credit their first year (year 3), 9 in the senior year (year 4), 1 in the summer before year 5, and 18 during the 5<sup>th</sup> year. (Students pursuing the thesis track need only 30 credits)
- 2) Students in the accelerated program must take HIS 5000 in the fall of their senior year. In subsequent semesters they must take two proseminars (HIS 5800, HIS 5810, HIS 5820.) These proseminars will determine their areas of concentration.
- 3) Students in the accelerated program who take the non-thesis option must take written and oral exams in their areas of concentration. Students in the accelerated program who choose to write a thesis must take written and oral exam (the latter being the thesis defense.) Students pursuing the thesis option may choose to take only one course during the summer session between fourth and fifth years.
- 4) Students seeking teacher licensure should note that because of the demands of their program (i.e., student teaching), the accelerated degree may take one to two additional semesters.
- 5) Students may not take thesis credits, independent study, or internship as part of the accelerated program while still completing requirements for the B.A.

### **Sample accelerated degree plan (shared and graduate courses highlighted in yellow)**

	Fall	Spring	Summer
<b>Year 1</b>	HIS 1101 (1 cu) *HIS 15xxG EIU 1111 (2 cu) ENG 1001G CMN 1310G BIO gen ed. (with/wo lab)	**HIS 2010G/2090G or HIS 2020G/2091G ENG 1002G Phys Sci. gen ed. (with lab if haven't) Soc./Behav. Gen ed. #1 Elective	

Year 2	HIS 2500 HIS 2560 Fine Art gen ed. Soc./Behav. gen ed. #2 Elective (or Foreign Language #1)	HIS 3555 ***HIS 3600G Elective Math gen ed. Elective (or Foreign Language #2)	
Year 3	U.S. History elective (above 3000) Non-U.S. History elective (above 3000) Elective Elective Elective	(one shared credit course): U.S. History elective (above 3000 <b>or HIS 4XXXZ</b> )* Non-U.S. History elective (above 3000 <b>OR 4XXXZ</b> )* Elective Elective Elective *Only one shared credit necessary. Student may choose to take HIS 58XX in this semester, depending on chosen area of concentration	
Year 4	(One or two shared credit courses) History elective: <b>HIS 5000Z (3c.h.)</b> History elective: <b>HIS 4XXXZ or *HIS 58XXZ(3 c.h.)</b> Senior Seminar Elective: Elective *Depending on student's chosen areas of concentration	(Two shared credit courses) HIS 4375 (capstone) History elective: <b>HIS 5XXXZ or HIS 58XXZ (3 c.h.)</b> Elective: <b>HIS 4XXXZ</b> Elective: Elective	(One graduate course) <b>HIS 5XXX (3 c.h.)</b> [Thesis students will not need a summer course]
Year 5	(Three graduate courses) <b>HIS 58XX or HIS 5XXX (3 c.h.)</b> <b>*HIS 5xxx (3 c.h.)</b> <b>HIS 5XXX(3 c.h.)</b>	(Three graduate courses) <b>HIS 58XX or HIS 5XXX (3 c.h.)</b> <b>*HIS 5XXX(3 c.h.)</b> <b>HIS 5XXX (3 c.h.) or HIS 4XXXZ</b>  *Thesis students may take 6 credits of thesis hours, HIS 5950.	

Date approved by the department or school: 2/16/18

Date approved by the college curriculum committee:

Date approved by the Honors Council (if this is an honors course):

Date approved by CAA: CGS: