

Liberal Arts Specialization (LBAZ) Plan A: Thesis

Date of Admission: _____

Advisor: _____

I. Required History Courses: (22 credits total at the 500-level or above)

Credits _____ Date Completed _____

A. HIST 501 / Historical Methods: Historiography (first fall) _____

B. Select four (4) Reading Seminars. Take at least 1 reading seminar in thesis field, at least 1 reading seminar outside thesis field, and select remaining seminars in consultation with advisor. Indicate the course number, the number of credit hours taken, and the semester taken.

- HIST 511 / US to 1877 (every fall) _____
- HIST 512 / US since 1877 (every spring) _____
- HIST 520 / Europe to 1815 _____
- HIST 521 / Europe since 1815 _____
- HIST 530 / Africa _____
- HIST 531 / Latin America _____
- HIST 532 / Middle East _____
- HIST 533 / East Asia _____
- HIST 534 / South Asia _____
- HIST 539 / World Environmental _____
- HIST 516 / Public History (even springs) _____

C. Select one (1) research seminar in thesis field. Indicate the course number, the number of credit hours taken, and the semester taken. _____

- HIST 611 / Research Seminar: US (every spring)
- HIST 621 / Research Seminar: International (usually odd falls)
- HIST 640 / Research Seminar: Public History (even falls)

D. Select one (1) additional History course at the 500-600-level. Indicate the course number, the number of credit hours taken, and the semester taken. _____

Possibilities include but are not limited to:

- HIST 503 / Historical Methods: Preservation (odd springs)
- HIST 505 / Historical Methods: Digital History (every fall)

E. HIST 579 Professional Development Seminar – 1 credit (first fall) _____

II. Elective Courses: Choose in consultation with advisor (6 credits minimum). We encourage students to take as many graduate level courses as possible, you may not use more than 9 credits of undergraduate level course toward your degree program.

- Select one (1) HIST 300-600 level course. Indicate the course number, the number of credit hours taken, and the semester taken. _____
- Select one (1) Non-HIST 300-600 level course. Indicate the course prefix and number, the number of credit hours taken and semester. _____
- Other electives. Indicate the course prefix and number, the number of credit hours taken and semester. _____

III. Thesis: Written in consultation with advisor. (3-6 credits total). Indicate the number of credit hours and the semester taken.

A. HIST 699 / Thesis _____

IV. Foreign Language: See page 2 for options to fulfill this requirement. Indicate the language of study, the semester of the exam taken or the course prefix and number, the number of credit hours and semester taken.

Language of Study: _____

- Fulfilled by Examination: _____
- Fulfilled by Course: _____

Total Minimum Credits Required: 34 credits

**Effective starting fall 2026*

Other requirements: Thesis and Oral Examination/Thesis Defense and Language Requirement

Thesis and Oral Examination/Thesis Defense

A thesis, defined as a work of original historical research, is required of all graduate students on Plan A during the semester in which they apply for graduation. The thesis should contain multiple chapters, an introduction, and a conclusion. Students should consult their primary advisor and recent theses produced by History MA students available through [Mountain Scholar](#) for examples. Students should follow the [Graduate Thesis and Dissertation Policy](#) and ensure the thesis is properly formatted using the CSU thesis and dissertation [formatting guidelines](#).

Students will present and discuss their thesis with their GAC in an oral examination/thesis defense. Students should work with their GAC to schedule a final oral examination/thesis defense in accordance with current Graduate School deadlines. The final oral examination/thesis defense may take up to two hours and will be built on the material presented in the student's thesis. At the end of the oral examination/thesis defense, the student's committee will excuse the student and then decide by majority vote if the student has failed or passed. A student who fails the final oral examination/thesis defense may be required to take extra course work or to complete additional readings, as determined by the GAC. A second unsatisfactory performance may constitute grounds for academic probation or dismissal from the program.

When scheduling the oral examination/thesis defense, the student and her or his GAC must keep in mind [form and graduation deadlines](#). The student and GAC should schedule a sufficient interval between delivery of the thesis and the oral examination/thesis defense to allow the GAC time to evaluate the thesis, provide guidance to the student for the oral examination/thesis defense, and allow the student time to prepare for the oral examination/thesis defense (typically 1-2 weeks).

Before the final examination/thesis defense, the student should prepare the GS24 form. Immediately following successful completion of the oral examination/thesis defense, the student's GAC members will sign the GS24 form attesting to satisfactory completion of the oral examination/thesis defense. The student and committee must submit the GS24 form to the Graduate School according to the date stipulated on the form. Plan A Thesis also requires submission of the GS30 form attesting to the submission of the thesis. All Graduate school forms and instructions are found on the Graduate School's [webpage for Forms](#).

*** Please consult with your primary advisor before beginning work on your thesis. ***

Language Requirement

Historical research and practice is increasingly transnational and often requires the use of multiple languages. Being able to at least read, if not speak, another language opens up a window onto other societies, cultures, and worldviews that cannot be gained by other means. A professional understanding of the broader social frame of other societies through language is part of the academic study of history and the engagement of diverse audiences in the public sphere. All graduate students should have some exposure to multiple languages, but students on the Master of Arts in History, Liberal Arts Plan A degree at Colorado State University are required to demonstrate reading knowledge of a foreign language appropriate for the student's historical studies.

Students on the Plan A Thesis track should work closely with their advisors to complete the foreign language requirement. For students with little experience in a language other than English, we suggest starting work on this requirement in the first semester at CSU, because language acquisition is a gradual process. This requirement may be fulfilled in one of the following ways:

1. A language exam. The language exam shall require the student to translate one or more passages of a primary historical document or secondary work of history from the selected language, totaling approximately 250 to 300

words, into English. The translation must be completed within one hour. The student's use of a print dictionary is permitted. The text to be translated may be chosen by a faculty member of the Department of History or the CSU Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures (LLC). The student is not permitted to participate in the selection of the text and will not be given the text before the exam. Students are strongly encouraged to contact the faculty member who will administer exam during their first year in the MA program. The faculty member and student may agree to a practice exam at any time to gauge the student's progress in the language, but the text will not be repeated on a later exam used to fulfill the requirement. Students who fail the exam may repeat it after waiting at least two weeks. Students who dispute a failing grade on the exam may appeal the grade to the History Department chair, who will select another faculty member from the History or LLC Departments to regrade the exam. Individual exemptions or modifications to this policy may be granted by the Graduate Studies Committee, subject to approval by the department chair, if circumstances warrant (e.g., due to faculty availability, the nature of the language included in the exam, student accommodations specified by the Student Disability Center, etc.).

2. Completion of a language course.

- A grade of B or better in a college language course at the second-year level (L 200 series) or above offered by the Colorado State University Department of LLC. Students must also earn a grade of B or better in any first-year level (L 100) courses taken at CSU to meet pre-requisites.
- A grade of B or better in an upper-division course offered by the Colorado State University Department of LLC on the culture and literature associated with the language selected (L 300, L 400 series). The work in this course must be primarily in the foreign language, not in English.
- A grade of B or better in a fourth semester (2nd year) college level language course at another academic institution.

Students should email the Graduate Studies Committee Chair upon completion of the translation or coursework to ensure the requirement is noted in the student file.

A student whose native language is not English may use her/ his native language to satisfy the requirement. In accordance with Colorado State University policy, the student will, however, be required to demonstrate his/her proficiency in the English language. Students must provide scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), International English Language Testing System (IELTS), Duolingo, or Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic. For more information on the English language requirements, see the Graduate School's [English Proficiency](#) website.