

History Major

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About

The History Department at Villanova offers students a dynamic liberal arts education with courses that span from antiquity to the modern world and traverse every region of the globe. The undergraduate History program focuses on the attainment of deep historical knowledge and a critical understanding of the enduring influence of the past on contemporary societies. The Faculty members of the History Department work closely with our students and prioritize individual development. Our courses provide the essential transferable skills that make our students competitive on the job market after graduation, prepare them for graduate and professional training, and stimulate the intellectual curiosity our students need to become engaged citizens of the world.

History seeks to understand and to explain the story of human experience, since the past provides the only laboratory of human experience actually lived. Historical study complements and builds on the foundational courses in the core through its appreciation of the complexity of humankind, recognizing in the people who make history the intellectual, the material, social, and spiritual diversity of the human condition. History further advances the goals of the core curriculum through an interdisciplinary methodology that seeks to reconstruct our collective past. It is the story of individuals, and the story of the political, religious, economic, and social ideologies and institutions they create in their search for identity, purpose, and value. History recognizes both the commonality of the human experience and the reality of cultural, class, racial, and gender distinctions that enrich that experience.

Program: [History](#)

Type: Bachelor of Arts

PRIMARY MAJOR (122 credits)

Required Major Courses (33 credits)

Program Notes:

- The major is 33 credits and consists of 10 courses in history and one in art history.
- Majors must complete at least 18 credits/6 courses at Villanova.
- The Art History course required for the History major does not satisfy the Core Fine Arts requirement unless the History major is the student's secondary or tertiary major. Students for whom History is the primary major need to take an Art History course for the major and a different course with the Fine Arts attribute for the Core.

Required Major Courses:

Course	Title	Credits
	Core History Course	3
	HIS 2000 or HIS 2001	3
HIS 5001	Junior Research Seminar	3
	HIS 5501 or HIS 5515	3
	History: Art History Elective	3
	HIS Electives	18

Core Curriculum Requirements (41 credits)

History Majors meet the following core requirements in the major and therefore are omitted from the summary below:

- History (3 cr)

The Art History course required for the History major does not satisfy the Core Fine Arts requirement unless the History major is the student's secondary or tertiary major. Students for whom History is the primary major need to take an Art History course for the major and a different course with the Fine Arts attribute for the Core

Course	Title	Credits
ACS 1000	Ancients	3
ACS 1001	Moderns	3
THL 1000	Faith, Reason, and Culture	3
PHI 1000	Knowledge, Reality, Self	3
ETH 2050	The Good Life:Eth & Cont Prob	3
	Mathematics or Statistics (1 course)	3
	Natural Science (2 courses with laboratory)	8
	Literature and Writing Seminar (1 course)	3
	Social Sciences (2 courses)	6
	Fine Arts (1 course)	3
	Upper-Level Theology (1 course)	3
	Language Requirement (Proficiency)	
	Diversity Requirement (2 courses)	

Free Elective Requirement (48 credits)

Students with a History primary major have forty-eight (48) required free elective credits.

Degree Credit Summary

- **Major Credits:** 33 credits
- **Core Credits:** 41 credits
- **Free Electives Credits:** 48 credits
- **Total Required Credits:** 122 Credits

Note: The above credit totals are based on the minimum number of required credits in each degree area. The minimum number of required credits in each area listed above must be met. Credits taken beyond the required minimum for one area may not be applied to another area.

SECONDARY MAJOR

Students who declare History as a **secondary major** must complete the Required Major Courses to achieve this major. Students are able to count any eligible course taken in their primary major, the core curriculum, minors, concentrations, or free electives toward these requirements.

PRE-LAW CONCENTRATION (19 credits)

Students majoring in History can choose to add a pre-law concentration to focus their studies. Courses taken in the Concentration that also count toward the History Major will count toward both the History major and the Pre-Law Concentration.

The Pre-Law concentration enables history majors additional opportunities to hone their expository writing skills, strengthen their ability to construct and present persuasive written and oral arguments, and engage in the type of analysis needed for success as legal professionals. In addition to specific courses offered by the Department of History, the Pre-Law concentration requires students to select from a set of distinctive courses regularly offered by the Departments of Political Science, English, Communication, Philosophy and Sociology/Criminology and Arts and Science Professional Development. 19 Credits in all are required, at least 9 credits of which must be completed within the Department of History.

Course	Title	Credits
	Pre-Law History Electives	9
	Pre-Law Electives	9
ASPD 2029	Applying to Law School	1

Category Descriptions

Core History Course

Credits: 3

Choose one of the specially designated core history courses (HIS 1060 through HIS 1250).

HIS 2000 or HIS 2001

Credits: 3

Course	Title	Credits
HIS 2000	Investigating U.S. History I	3
HIS 2001	Investigating US History II	3

HIS 5501 or HIS 5515

Credits: 3

Course	Title	Credits
HIS 5501	Sem in Historical Methodology	3
HIS 5515	Independent Research	3

History: Art History Elective

Credits: 3

1 Class in any course of 3 credits or more in AAH 0000:9999.

* This course does not fulfill the Fine Arts requirement.

HIS Electives

Credits: 18

6 Classes in courses of 3 credits or more in AAH 1101, 1102, HIS 0000:9999 (18 cr), or any course with the HIS attribute

Mathematics or Statistics (1 course)

Credits: 3

Students must take one course in either Mathematics or Statistics. Any course offered by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics fulfills the Core Curriculum requirement. Certain courses offered by other departments (e.g., Computer Science and Philosophy) also fulfill the requirement. These courses are designated by the Mathematics A & S Core attribute.

Natural Science (2 courses with laboratory)

Credits: 8

Non-science majors meet the Core Curriculum Natural Science requirement by taking two semesters of Mendel Science Experience (MSE), thematically-based lecture/laboratory courses designed for non-science majors; or two semesters of lecture/laboratory courses designed for science majors.

Science (AST, BIO, BIOC, CHM, CBN, CSC, ENV, MAT, PHY - B.S. only, PSY - B.S. only) majors meet the science requirement through the regular program of study in their major.

Pre-Law History Electives

Credits: 9

Choose any course from the list below or any course with the HIS subject code and the Pre-Law (PLAW) attribute.

Course	Title	Credits
HIS 1250	Top in Ancient Civilizations	3
HIS 2161	Revolutionary & Fed Amer	3
HIS 2171	Building a Nation 1800-50	3
HIS 2181	Civil War & Reconstruct	3
HIS 2292	African Amer His since Emancip	3
HIS 2998	Topics in American History	3
HIS 4499	Topics in World History	3

Pre-Law Electives

Credits: 9

Three courses from the list below or any course with the Pre-Law attribute (PLAW). Three ASPD courses can be bundled together to satisfy one of the elective requirements.

ENG 1975 may count toward this elective requirement if it has the Pre-Law attribute (PLAW).

Course	Title	Credits
COM 3203	Communication Law & Policy	3
COM 3204	Rhetoric and Democracy	3
CRM 1001	Introduction to Criminology	3
CRM 3001	Justice and Society	3
CRM 3100	Juvenile Delinquency	3
CRM 3300	Criminal Courts	3
CRM 3350	The Supreme Court	3
CRM 3700	White Collar Crime	3
CRM 5100	Criminological Theory	3
HIS 1250	Top in Ancient Civilizations	3
HIS 2161	Revolutionary & Fed Amer	3
HIS 2171	Building a Nation 1800-50	3
HIS 2181	Civil War & Reconstruct	3
HIS 2292	African Amer His since Emancip	3
HIS 2998	Topics in American History	3
HIS 4499	Topics in World History	3
PA 2000	Public Policy	3
PHI 2010	Logic & Critical Thinking	3
PHI 2300	Philosophy of Law	3
PJ 5100	Discrimination, Justice & Law	3
PSC 2140	US Con Law I: Powers&Struct	3
PSC 2145	US Con Law II:Rights&Lib	3
PSC 2220	International Law	3
SOC 3300	Sociology of Law	3
SOC 3400	Health, Medicine & Society	3

ASPD Bundle Option

Course	Title	Credits
ASPD 2002	The Legal Profession	1
ASPD 2030	Introduction to Law School	1
ASPD 2031	LSAT Prep	1