

## Transfer Guide Leading to a Bachelor's Degree in History

All degree requirements are subject to the provisions and notices in the [NIU Undergraduate Catalog](#). Information is valid through **August 2016**.

### Courses Highly Recommended Prior to Transfer:

**How to Choose Between a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.)** History majors may choose to pursue either a B.A. or B.S. degree, depending upon whether they are more interested in the humanistic or the social science aspects of the discipline. The department recommends that students who plan to pursue graduate study in history a B.A. degree. The B.A. degree requires competence in a foreign language equivalent to that attained in two years of college instruction. The B.S. in history requires competence in an approved math/science or math/computer science/statistics sequence. See the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences requirements for the B.S. degree in the NIU *Undergraduate Catalog*.

Please refer to the [Articulation Handbook](#), available at community college counseling offices, to determine the local equivalents of required courses.

The history major at NIU requires 12 semester hours of lower-division history survey courses. To meet this requirement, choose 6 semester hours of either Western Civilization or Asian History or World History (equivalent to HIST 110, 111, 112, 140, 141, 170 or 171 at NIU) and 6 semester hours of either U.S. or African-American history (equivalent to HIST 260, 261, 270, or 271 at NIU).

Other history courses taken at a community college will transfer into the program as history electives. They will count toward the overall hours needed for graduation but not toward the department's upper-division field requirements.

### Suggested Semester Plans

The outline presented below represents the most efficient course sequence for a student who wishes to graduate from NIU at the end of four years. The 2 + 2 plan assumes that the student has received an associate's degree from an Illinois community college.

#### First Year (Community College)

*Include the following in your course of study:*

One US History or African-American History survey  
One Western Civilization, World History, or Asian History Survey  
ENGL 103 and ENGL 203  
One MATH (Quantitative Literacy) course  
Two courses toward BA/BS Requirement  
Three general education courses

*For those interested in teacher licensure see below.*

#### Second Year (Community College)

*Include the following in your course of study:*

One US History or African-American History survey  
One Western Civilization, World History, or Asian History Survey  
COMS 100  
Two courses toward BA/BS Requirement  
Four-Five general education courses

*For those interested in teacher licensure see below.*

### Courses to be completed at NIU:

The third and fourth year sequences should be planned with the aid of a Department of History Advisor. History majors are strongly encouraged to earn a minor(s) and/or second major; history majors pursuing teacher licensure are required to earn two minors in social studies fields. Generally students should expect to take the following in order to graduate within four years:

### **Third Year**

HIST 295

Four or five 300- and 400-level history courses (which should include HIST 359 for teacher licensure students)

### **Fourth Year**

Two or three 300- and 400-level history courses (which should include HIST 496 for teacher licensure students)

HIST 495

**Minimum 120 total; 40 at the 300-400 level**

#### **Interested in Teacher Licensure for grades 9-12?**

History and social science majors (the latter include the disciplines of anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology, and sociology) interested in a career in secondary teaching complete the same degree and discipline requirements as other history and social science majors, but with additional requirements for the Illinois Professional Educator License (PEL). Although community college transfer students can normally complete a history major after two years of full-time study at NIU, they can expect to take three or more years to complete both the degree and PEL requirements. Because planning is crucial, students should contact the department's History & Social Sciences Secondary Teacher Education Program at [historyteachercert@niu.edu](mailto:historyteachercert@niu.edu) as soon as possible.

In planning your pre-NIU semesters, students interested in secondary teacher licensure should keep the following in mind:

- The community college grades you earn in your major discipline (either history or one of the other social sciences) *will* count toward the required discipline GPA of 3.0;
- All degree requirements must be met with a grade of "C" or better.
- Students pursuing teacher licensure are required to meet the university's core math requirement with a grade of "C" or better.
- Broad knowledge of the social sciences beyond the major is required for licensure. . Therefore, when planning your social science general education courses, you should include introductory courses in the following areas: , micro and macroeconomics, cultural and physical geography, American government and foreign policy, United States and world history, sociology, and psychology.
- Students should refer to the program's website for additional preliminary details and information ([http://www.niu.edu/history/teacher\\_licensure/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/history/teacher_licensure/index.shtml)).
- Once a student has decided to pursue this course of study he or she should contact the History & Social Sciences Secondary Teacher Education Program at [historyteachercert@niu.edu](mailto:historyteachercert@niu.edu) , even before arriving on campus.

#### **About the Department**

For students interested in a strong liberal arts education, history represents a fascinating, flexible major that permits study of the broadest possible range of human experience. Majoring in history allows students to explore the past and gain insight into how societies change over time. A history degree prepares students well for diversity in the workplace and provides them opportunities to sharpen vitally important and widely applicable reading, writing, and research skills.

Students who major in history enter a great variety of professions. Some of NIU's history majors become secondary teachers. Others go on to graduate or professional schools. Our majors have gained admission to some of the best law and graduate schools in the nation. NIU history majors currently work in such diverse fields as insurance, financial services, non-profit administration, research analysis, communications, government service, broadcasting, museum and archival work, and business in Illinois and throughout the nation.

NIU's history department has a well-balanced program that covers essentially all time periods and most geographic areas. Students in the department can study United States, European, British, Russian, Latin American, Asian, African, Ancient, Medieval, and Global history.

#### **Faculty:**

The department's faculty of 29 represents a favorable mix of established scholars with national and international reputations and recently hired junior faculty bringing new ideas and methodologies from the major universities where they were trained.

**For More Information**

Department of History

Northern Illinois University

Zulauf Hall 715

DeKalb, IL 60115-2854

Phone: (815) 753-0131 Fax: (815) 753-6801

E-mail: [history@niu.edu](mailto:history@niu.edu) Web address: <http://www.niu.edu/history/index.shtml>