



MA IN HISTORY  
PHD IN HISTORY

DEPARTMENT OF  
HISTORY



The Graduate Program in history is designed to train students to think historically, to conduct research effectively, and to write lucidly. For many graduate students, MSU's unique setting in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in the Rocky Mountain West offers a valuable historical laboratory. Combining outdoor and indoor archives, our program embraces and encourages innovative research methods, hands-on discovery, community engagement, and unconventional sources that enable students to write histories that are relevant and meaningful to the contemporary world. We see historians as change-makers whose research, teaching, and scholarship are vital to building a sustainable and equitable future.

The Department offers concentrated training in four particular areas: the history of science, technology, and society; environmental history; the history of the American West; and public history. In addition, the Department offers opportunities for individualized graduate training in the history of various parts of the globe, including the Middle East, Russia, China, Japan, Latin America, and Europe. Our faculty's commitment to innovative historical methods and to close, one-to-one mentoring makes our program stand out from other history graduate programs nationwide. Further, our interdisciplinary department allows students to engage with faculty in other areas - for example, graduate students often collaborate with philosophy faculty on topics like environmental ethics.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- [Official transcripts](#) from all universities attended
- Minimum [3.0 GPA](#)
- [A two-page personal statement](#) addressing the applicant's areas of intended study and qualifications for graduate-level work
- [Three letters of recommendation](#) written by individuals in a position to assess your potential for success in a graduate course of study
- [A 15-20 page writing sample](#), preferably from a history related course

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs) are available and are awarded based on merit, departmental funding, academic performance prior to entering the program and prior performance as a GTA (for current GTAs seeking continuing funding), and are determined by the faculty and the Graduate Committee as a whole. Occasionally, Graduate Research Assistantships are available, some of which include a tuition waiver.



## PROGRAM FEATURES

Students have many opportunities to collaborate with faculty and with prestigious visiting scholars brought in by the annual Wallace Stegner lecture, the Ivan Doig Center, the Montana Institute on Ecosystems, the Center for Science, Technology, Ethics, and Society, and Michael P. Malone Memorial Conference. The department organizes colloquia, workshops, and informal interactions between faculty and graduate students that stimulate creative, interdisciplinary, and provocative scholarship.

Students can gain valuable professional experience at local and regional venues, including:

- The Museum of the Rockies
- The Gallatin History Museum
- The Montana Historical Society
- Yellowstone National Park
- The C.M. Russell Museum
- The Buffalo Bill Historical Center