

HISTORY

Undergraduate Study

Bachelor of Science in History (Course 21H)

The program leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in History (<https://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/history-course-21h>) is designed to encourage students to discover and reconstruct the past, to confront and understand the complexity of past human behavior for itself, and to inform their sense of the historical present. The curriculum includes the selection of at least one subject taken from the curriculum's 21H undergraduate seminars. Students are expected to take seven additional subjects of their own choice, selected in consultation with a major advisor. These must include subjects drawn from at least two geographical areas, as well as one pre-modern (before 1700) and one modern subject.

During the junior year, the history major is required to take subject 21H.390 Theories and Methods in the Study of History, which is intended to develop skills for independent research and writing, followed in the senior year by 21H.THT History Pre-Thesis Tutorial and 21H.THU History Thesis. Subjects 21H.390 Theories and Methods in the Study of History and 21H.THU History Thesis satisfy the CI-M component of the Communication Requirement. This program is intentionally flexible; the relatively large number of electives and unrestricted time allows for the design of a course of study that meets individual needs and interests.

Joint Degree Programs

Joint degree programs are offered in history in combination with a field in engineering or science (21E, 21S). See the joint degree programs (<https://catalog.mit.edu/schools/humanities-arts-social-sciences/humanities/#undergraduatetext>) listed under Humanities.

Minor in History

The goal of this minor is to lead the student from basic survey subjects into more focused studies of individual countries or periods of time, and to encourage thinking about broader analytical and comparative issues in historical study.

The Minor in History consists of six subjects, which must include:

21H.390	Theories and Methods in the Study of History	12
Select five subjects as follows: ¹		51-60
Select at least one 21H seminar, excluding 21H.390		
²		
Select four introductory or intermediate subjects from the history curriculum		
Total Units		63-72

¹ At least two temporal periods—one pre-modern (before 1700) and one modern—must be covered by these five subjects. For a list of available subjects, consult the History website (<http://history.mit.edu/subjects>).

² Select from 21H subjects for which the first digit after the decimal is 3.

Minor in Applied International Studies

A range of subjects in history can fulfill requirements for the interdisciplinary Minor in Applied International Studies (<https://catalog.mit.edu/interdisciplinary/undergraduate-programs/minors/applied-international-studies>). For more information, see the program description (<https://catalog.mit.edu/interdisciplinary/undergraduate-programs>) under Interdisciplinary Programs.

Inquiries

Further information on subjects and programs may be obtained from the History Office, Room E51-255, 617-324-5134.