

## **B.A./M.A. Shared-Credit Degree Program in History**

### **THE PROGRAM**

B.A./M.A. Shared-Credit Degree Program in History is designed for outstanding undergraduate history majors to obtain a BA and an MA in five years. Students are allowed to apply up to 18 credit hours of shared coursework to both their Bachelor's and Master's degrees. All courses must be taken at the graduate level and must comply with their programs of study at both the Bachelor's and Master's levels.

The program is designed for the student who is considering attending graduate school in history, as well as for the student who wishes to continue her/his education in history past the undergraduate level. Advanced training in history can provide students with the intellectual tools needed for success in a wide variety of careers. The graduate training that the student receives will be commensurate with that of a graduate student who enters our MA program after attaining a BA.

### **SUMMARY**

The Department of History offers a Shared Credit Program designed to allow students to complete a BA and MA in five years (depending upon the student's preparation upon entering UNM as a first-year student). To accomplish this, some courses are counted towards both the Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

The History BA requires a minimum of 120 undergraduate credit hours and the MA requires 30 graduate credit hours. Traditionally, students are not able to begin the MA program until the BA degree is completed. In this Shared-Credit program, 6-18 of the MA graduate credits (2-6 courses) are taken during the senior year of a student's BA degree program and are applied to both the BA and MA degree requirements. This reduces the time needed to complete the two degrees by a full academic year, compared to the traditional model, and results in significant savings.

### **FUNDING THE SHARED-CREDIT PROGRAM**

Students in this program will be eligible for one year of departmentally controlled graduate funding in their fifth year of the program. Until they receive their BA, students will continue to have undergraduate status and, thus, will continue to be eligible for undergraduate scholarships or Pell Grants

## **APPLICATION TO SHARED-CREDIT DEGREE PROGRAM (Junior Year)**

Admission to the shared-credit degree program is competitive. Students must have a History GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Schedule an appointment with the History undergraduate advisor by **mid-Fall semester**.

Students wishing to be considered for admission will apply to the Department by **February 15** of the Spring semester of their Junior Year (sixth semester).

Students must have completed **History BA's lower-division requirements (12 credit hours)** and **four history upper-division courses, including History 491 or History 492 (12 credit hours)** by the **BEGINNING** of their senior year (seventh semester).

- Students must earn a "B" or better in History 491 and/or History 492.
- The student must be on track to **have a minimum of 90 credit hours** completed toward their undergraduate degree at the beginning of their seventh semester.

Students must submit to the History department graduate secretary by February 15 the following:

- A Shared-Credit Application (obtain from History Department)
- A 500-word letter of intent
- An unofficial transcript
- Two letters of recommendation from History faculty members.
  - Ask faculty for recommendation and they will submit the recommendation directly to the department graduate secretary.

After a thorough review, the Department will extend offers of admission to the Shared-Credit program **no later than April 1 of their junior year**.

- Admission to the Shared-Credit program is provisional until review of Spring transcripts (Junior Year) at the beginning of the Fall semester of the senior year (year 4).

## SHARED CREDIT-PROGRAM AND SENIOR YEAR

- Students **must** complete a **minimum of two graduate seminars** (History 664, and one additional graduate-level seminar) by the end of their BA course work.
- To receive **graduate** credit, the student must earn a B or better in all graduate-level courses.
- Students **may** elect to complete up to 4 additional dual-numbered lecture courses at the graduate level or graduate seminars during their senior year.
  - These credits cannot replace History 491 (Historiography) or History 492 (Senior Seminar)
- Students **must** begin coursework or requirements for MA language requirement.

### FALL SEMESTER

- Students begin the Shared-Credit program after review of transcript by **undergraduate advisor**.
- The student will bring a current Lobtrax Report to the **undergraduate advisor**
- Students consult with the **undergraduate advisor no later than the first week of the Fall semester in the senior year (year 4)**. The meeting is to review the previous Spring semester transcripts in order to assess candidly the student's readiness to move forward.
- Students **must** maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 in all coursework and earn a B or better in all graduate course work during their senior year.
- Students **must** enroll in History 664, "Advanced Historiography" (3 credits) in **Fall of their senior year**.
- Begin fulfilling graduate language requirement (See Language Requirement)
- Students **must** complete online application for the University of New Mexico's Graduate School by **December 15** in order to be admitted to UNM's Graduate School upon BA graduation.
  - Upload **same** materials used to apply to Shared-Credit program.
  - GRE SCORES ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED
- **Safety valve:** If the student's academic progress appears to fall short of the standards necessary for successful completion of the Shared-Credit program, the **Undergraduate Advisor** will inform the student in writing, copying the Graduate Advisor, that the student will return to the regular BA or honors BA program, as appropriate.
  -

### SPRING SEMESTER

- Students **must** submit a financial aid form by January 15 to be eligible for a graduate assistantship during their fifth year.
  - The financial aid form is available here:  
<http://history.unm.edu/graduate/graduate-pdf-files/Financial%20Aid%20App.pdf>
  - Other graduate funding opportunities:  
<http://history.unm.edu/graduate/funding.html>
- Students complete course work for their BA requirements

- The BA will be awarded after the successful completion of 120 hours of university course credit as a History major, including up to 6-18 shared undergraduate/graduate credit hours.

### **Fifth Year and MA Program**

As graduate students, shared-credit students must meet all master's degree requirements, including the two to six graduate courses (6-18 credits) they completed as undergraduates. **See Appendix C for MA program requirements.**

Students must begin their master's program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree.

## **Appendix A: SHARED-CREDIT PROGRAM IN HISTORY: ROADMAP**

### **Junior Year**

#### **Semester 5 – Fall Semester**

- Two history courses (300-level or above)  
(Total UG hours: 15 hours)
- Meet with Undergraduate Advisor by mid-semester

#### **Semester 6 – Spring Semester**

- Two history courses (300-level or above)  
(Total UG hours: 15 hours)
  - **Student must complete History 491 or History 492 before beginning of senior year (Semester 7).**
  - **Student applies for entry to Shared-Credit Program. Application materials due February 15.**

### **Senior Year: Enter Shared-Credit Program (Minimum Requirements)**

#### **Semester 7 – Fall Semester**

- History 664 (Advanced Historiography)
- One history course (300 level or above, or a Graduate-numbered upper-division lecture course)  
(Total UG/GR hours: 15 hours)
  - **Form Committee on Studies by Week 9 (Three History Faculty). Form available from Graduate Secretary**
  - **Submit online application to Graduate School by December 15**
  - **Application for Graduate Funding, January 15**

#### **Semester 8 – Spring Semester**

- At least one graduate history seminar
- One history course (300-level or above, or a Graduate-numbered upper-division lecture course)  
(Total UG/GR hours: 15 hours)
  - **End of Spring Semester: Obtain BA – 120 hours (including shared undergraduate and graduate credit)**

**Graduate Year: (Enter Graduate School)**

If you followed the minimum requirement of 6 shared credits, then you must take 12 credit hours each semester).

**Semester 9 – Fall Semester**

- Meet with graduate advisor
- Consult requirements for MA program
- Earn in up to 12 Hours of history graduate courses

**Semester 10 – Spring Semester**

- Up to 12 Hours of history graduate courses

**Total Credit Hours: 132-144 (102-114 Undergraduate Level and 30 graduate hours, including 6-18 UG/Grad Shared credits).**

The student attains the required 30 course credit hours and graduates with a non-thesis MA at the end of Spring Semester of the fifth year. All the department's standing regulations regarding requirements for the degree will be in effect. Questions about this program should be referred to either the Undergraduate or Graduate Advisor.