

UMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: History

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Specifics (see instructions):

Change the History major to require at least three 400 level elective courses (other than HIST 496 or 497 as Core Requirements). The current requirement is at least five 400 level elective courses.

This recommendation keeps the total number of credits and all other requirements needed for the major unchanged.

This change will be retroactive for current students.

And remove the section stating:

The only 100-level courses that may be included are HIST 103, and either HIST 101 or 102.

The current requirements for the HISTORY Major as outlined in the Undergraduate Catalog:

The Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in History consists of 39 credits distributed as follows:

Required courses

(15 credits)

HIST 110

Western Civilization to
1700

OR

HIST 111

Western Civilization 1700
to the Present

HIST 101

American History to 1877

OR

HIST 102

American History: 1877 to
the Present

HIST 103

East Asian Civilization

OR

HIST 200

Themes in World History

HIST 201

Introduction to the Study of
History

HIST 496

Historical Research

(American)

OR

HIST 497

Historical Research

(non-U.S.)

Elective Courses

(24 credits)

Electives must be distributed in such a way that each student has a minimum of nine credits in American history and a minimum of 12 credits in European, Asian, Latin American or African history. At least 15 of the 24 elective credits must come from history courses numbered 400 and above. The only 100-level courses that may be included are HIST 103 and either HIST 101 or 102. No grade lower than "C" in any course will be counted toward the major with the exception of HIST 391 (a P/F course). Students may apply up to three credits earned in HIST 391 as elective credits for the history major.

The CEEB Advanced Placement Examination allows students achieving a minimum score to be exempted from the corresponding required 100-level courses and to receive credit toward both the history major and the university's graduation requirements.

The requested change is in the section of the requirements posted above that read:

1) At least 15 of the 24 elective credits must come from history courses numbered 400 and above. The new wording to replace this section should be:

At least 9 of the 24 elective credits must come from history courses numbered 400 and above.

2) And remove the section stating:

The only 100-level courses that may be included are HIST 103, and either HIST 101 or 102.

This statement is an error. It makes no sense since the only 100 level courses taught by the department are 103, 110, 111, 101, and 102 which are listed in the core requirements.

Rationale (see instructions):

1) This change will make the History major more consistent with upper-level (esp. at the 400 level) requirements in other UMBC majors. In addition, last year's curriculum assessment review suggested that history majors need more 300 level courses to serve as a bridge from 100 and 200 level courses to the more writing and research intensive courses taught at the 400 level. Most 400 level courses are directed at upper-level history majors.

Consequently, the department is also planning to shift a few 400 level courses to the 300 level and propose some additional 400-level courses to meet the needs of students.

2) We anticipate this change will make 300 level courses more appealing to non-history majors and help promote history courses at the UMBC Shady Grove program.