Bachelor of Arts in History

Howard University

College of Arts & Sciences

Catalog: Fall 2023 – Present

Quick Summary - What You Need to Graduate

Total Credits	Minimum GPA	History Credits	Last 30 Credits
120	2.0	31	At Howard

Your Degree Breakdown:

- Major Requirements: 31 History credits (11 courses)
- General Education: 50+ credits (approximately 20 courses)
- Math Requirements: 3-4 credits (1 course)
- Free Electives: Remaining credits to reach 120 (General Electives)
- Complete all 7 ELOs (can overlap with courses)
- COAS Experiential Learning (2 courses) & COAS Innovative Learning (1 course)
- Undergraduate Comprehensive Exam

Important: Double-Dipping Made Simple!

One course can fulfill BOTH a General Education requirement AND an Essential Learning Outcome (ELO) at the same time. You don't need separate courses for each! This helps you graduate efficiently without taking extra classes.

Major credits **cannot** be double dipped with minor credits. While students are not required to declare a minor, those who choose to do so must complete **15–18 credits that are not applied toward their major requirements**. Minor coursework must remain distinct and separate from major coursework.

University-Wide Requirements

- **Minimum GPA:** 2.0 for all undergraduate coursework
- **Residency:** Complete last 30 credits at Howard University
- **Exit Requirement:** Undergraduate Comprehensive Exam
- **Total Credits:** 120 credits required

General Education Requirements (50+ Credits / ~20 Courses)

Essential Learning Outcomes (ELOs)

Students must complete courses covering all seven outcome areas. Remember, these can overlap with other requirements!

- **ELO 1:** U.S. and Global African Diasporic Developments
- **ELO 2:** Human Cultures and Creative Expression
- **ELO 3:** The Physical and Natural World
- **ELO 4:** Intellectual and Practical Skills
- **ELO 5:** Social Responsibility and Political Institutions
- **ELO 6:** Leadership and Applied Learning
- **ELO 7:** Comprehensive Wellness Practices

Note: ELO courses are tagged in Bison Hub under the course description

Freshman Experience (1 Credit / 1 Course)

- **FRSM 001** - Freshman Seminar (1 credit)

Core Writing & Communication (12 Credits / 4 Courses)

- **ENGW 101, 102, or 104 -** First-Year English Writing I (3 credits)
- **ENGW 103 or 105 -** First-Year English Writing II (3 credits)

- **Third Writing Course** - Upper-level writing (3 credits)
- **Communication** - Principles of Speech (3 credits)

Mathematics (3-4Credits / 1 Course)

- **MATH 005 or higher** - College Algebra I or higher (3 credits)

Health & Wellness (2 Credits/ 1 Course)

- **HHPL –** Activity/Health Course (2 credits)

Cultural and Global Awareness (12 Credits / 4 Courses)

- **African American Cluster Course** - (3 credits)
- **Foreign Language -** 3 courses (9 credits total, same language)
    - 1 course can be an Intercultural Knowledge course

Humanities & Social Sciences (15 Credits / 5 Courses)

- **PHIL - Philosophy Course** (3 credits)
- **Two Humanities Courses** - (3 credits each)
- **Two Social Science Courses** - (3 credits each)

Natural Sciences (6-8 Credits / 2 Courses)

- **Two Science Electives** - (3-4 credits each = 6-9 credits)

COAS Special Requirements

Experiential Learning (1 course required)

Examples of COAS Experiential Learning Course but are not limited to:

- ☐ History Internship
- ☐ Any 890 course
- ☐ Study abroad

Innovative Learning Requirement (1 course required)

- ☐ Complete at least one course marked as 'innovative'

Note: COAS Special Requirements courses are tagged in Bison Hub under the course description

History Major Requirements (31 Credits)

Foundation Course (3 credits/ 1 Course)

Required for all History students

- HIST 003 - Introduction to History (3 credits)

History Colloquium Course (3 credits/ 1 Course)

- One Colloquium in any field of study: Pre-Law, Africa, African Diaspora, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Public History or United States (3 credits)

History Seminar Course (3 credits/ 1 Course)

- One Seminar in any field of study: Pre-Law, Africa, African Diaspora, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Public History or United States (3 credits)

History of Africa or the African Diaspora Course (3 credits/ 1 Course)

- One Course (Lecture, Colloquium or Seminar) on the history of Africa or the African Diaspora (3 credits)

Pre-Law/Europe/Latin America/Public History Course (3 credits/ 1 Course)

- One course (lecture, colloquia or seminar) in Pre-Law, Europe, Latin America, or Public History (3 credits)

History Major Electives (15 credits/ 5 Courses)

Take five additional courses in any field of study and at any level (lecture, colloquium, seminar)

- HIST Major Elective - (3 credits)
- HIST Major Elective - (3 credits)
- HIST Major Elective - (3 credits)
- HIST Major Elective - (3 credits)
- HIST Major Elective - (3 credits)

Senior Colloquium Course (1 credit/ 1 Course)

- HIST 082 - Senior Colloquium (1 credit)
- Completed in final year

Free Electives (15 Credits/ 5 Courses)

- **Free Elective** (3 credits)
- **Free Elective** (3 credits)
- **Free Elective** (3 credits)
- **Free Elective** (3 credits)
- **Free Elective** (3 credits)

Sample Degree Progress Checklist

Freshman Year (33-35 Credits)

Fall Semester (16 -17 Credits / 6 Courses)

- ☐ FRSM 001 - Freshman Seminar (1 credit)
- ☐ ENGW 101/102/104 - First Year Writing I (3 credits)
- ☐ Foreign Language 1 (3 credits)
- ☐ Free Elective - (3 credits)
- ☐ Social Science Course - (3 credits)
- ☐ Science Course - (3-4 credits)

Spring Semester (17-18 Credits / 6 Courses)

- ☐ ENGW 103/105 - First Year Writing II (3 credits)
- ☐ Science Course - (3 credits)
- ☐ Free Elective (3 credits)
- ☐ Foreign Language II (3 credits)
- ☐ MATH 005 or higher - (3-4 credits)
- ☐ HHPL Activity/Health Course (2 credits)

Sophomore Year (30 Credits)

Fall Semester (15 Credits / 5 Courses)

- ☐ HIST 003: Intro to History (3 credits)
- ☐ Intercultural Knowledge Course - (3 credits)
- ☐ HIST Major Elective (3 credits)
- ☐ Humanities Course (3 credits)
- ☐ Foreign Language III/Intercultural Knowledge (3 credits)

Spring Semester (15 Credits / 5 Courses)

- ☐ African American Cluster Course (3 credits)
- ☐ Humanities Course (3 credits)
- ☐ 3rd Writing Course (3 credits)
- ☐ HIST Major Elective (3 credits)
- ☐ Communication – Principles of Speech (3 credits)

Junior Year (31-33 Credits)

Fall Semester (15 Credits / 5 Courses)

- ☐ HIST Major Elective (3 credits)
- ☐ HIST Seminar Course (3 credits)
- ☐ Social Science Course (3 credits)
- ☐ Experiential Learning Course (3 credits)
- ☐ General Elective (3 credits)

Spring Semester (15 Credits / 5 Courses)

- ☐ HIST Colloquium (3 credits)
- ☐ Concentration Introductory Course (3 credits)
- ☐ Free Elective (3 credits)
- ☐ Innovative Learning Course (3 credits)
- ☐ Free Elective (3 credits)

Senior Year (31-28 Credits)

Fall Semester (16 Credits / 6 Courses)

- ☐ HIST 082 - Senior Colloquium (1 credit)
- ☐ HIST Major Elective (3 credits)
- ☐ Free Elective (3 credits)
- ☐ Free Elective (3 credits)
- ☐ Free Elective (3 credits)
- ☐ Experiential Learning Course (3 credits)
- ☐ Complete Undergraduate Comprehensive Exam

Spring Semester (15 Credits / 5 Courses)

- ☐ HIST Major elective (3 credits)
- ☐ (3 credits)
- ☐ Free elective (3 credits)
- ☐ Free elective (3 credits)
- ☐ Free Elective (3 credits)
- ☐ Free Elective
- ☐ Apply for graduation

Key Requirements

- **Minimum Major GPA**: 2.0
- **Credits in History: 30+ minimum** (including foundation, major electives, seminar, and senior colloquium)
- **Foreign Language**: 9 credits in the same language required
- **Mathematics**: MATH 005 or higher (3-4 credits)
- **Residency**: Last 30 credits at Howard University
- **General Education**: Must span at least 4 different disciplines

Important Notes

- **Introduction to History:** HIST 003 is required for all History majors and should be taken in the first semester.
- **Senior Colloquium:** HIST 082 integrates your learning and should be taken in your final year.
- **Seminar Course:** Complete the required BA in History Seminar Course to develop advanced research and writing skills.
- **Foreign Language:** All 9 credits must be in the same language. Complete consecutively.
- **Experiential Learning:** Two courses required. Can be satisfied through research assistantships, internships, practicum courses, or study abroad. Plan early with your advisor.
- **Course Sequencing:** Many upper-level HIST courses require HIST 003 as a prerequisite. Plan accordingly.
- **Graduate School Preparation:** Students planning for graduate school should consider additional research experience and advanced coursework in their area of interest.
- Consult with your academic advisor each semester for course planning.

Resources

- **Academic Advisor**: Contact Office of Undergraduate Studies for assignment
- **Department Office**: History Department, College of Arts & Sciences
- **Research Opportunities**: Speak with faculty about research positions and independent study
- **Experiential Learning**: Connect with the Career Center and department for internship opportunities
- **Graduate School Advising**: Meet with faculty advisors if considering graduate programs in history