

**LEHMAN COLLEGE
OF THE
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

CURRICULUM CHANGE

Name of Program and Degree Award: History MA – Master of Arts

Hegis Number: 2205.00

Program Code: 02678 – HIS-MA

1. **Type of Change:** Degree Requirements, Admission Requirements, Adding distance-education track

2. **From:**

Major Requirements - Admission

Type: Prerequisite

Additional Comments:

- Possess a bachelor's degree (or its equivalent) from an accredited college or university.
- ~~Have demonstrated the potential to successfully pursue graduate study—that is, have attained a minimum undergraduate grade average of B in History courses and a minimum grade average of B in the undergraduate record as a whole.~~
- Have taken a minimum of 18 credits of coursework in History, acceptable to the department.
- ~~Submit two letters of recommendation.~~
- Submit a 1-2 page essay consisting of responses to application packet questions.
- ~~Submit a sample of college-level writing.~~
- ~~If conditionally admitted, satisfy the conditions within one year.~~

Major Requirements – Overall

Type: Completion requirement

Earn at least 30 credits

Major Requirements —Core Courses

Type: Completion requirement

Fulfill ALL of the following requirements:

Complete ALL of the following Courses:

Require Courses

- HIS 780 – Seminar in History
- ~~HIS 781 – Advanced Tutorial Project in History~~

~~HIS 780 is a seminar that focuses on historical methods and historiography. HIS 781 is a supervised individual tutorial to prepare for the thesis or capstone project.~~
and

~~Other graduate-level coursework~~

~~In addition to the required courses, students must take an additional 6-7 graduate-level courses in History (18 credits for students who choose to write a thesis, 21 credits for students who choose the capstone project). Graduate-level courses in other departments may be taken with the permission of the History graduate adviser.~~
and

~~Thesis or Capstone Project~~

~~Complete ANY of the following Courses:~~

- ~~• HIS 797 — Master's Thesis Preparation OR HIS 796 — Capstone Project~~

~~Students may choose to write a master's thesis (6 credits) or capstone project (3 credits).~~

~~Additional Comments:~~

- ~~• After successfully completing 24 credits of coursework with a 3.0 average, candidates for the M.A. degree who plan to write a thesis must then present a master's thesis prepared under the direction of a thesis supervisor from the Department of History and an approved second reader, and accepted by the thesis supervisor.~~
- ~~• Students who plan to do a capstone project first must successfully complete 27 credits of coursework with a 3.0 average and then present an approved capstone project prepared under the direction of an adviser from the Department of History.~~

~~Existing track: Middle High School Education~~

3. To:

The Master of Arts in History degree offers students two options for the culminating project that is required to complete the degree: (1) a portfolio of graduate work, or (2) a master's thesis. The thesis option is intended for students who plan to pursue a doctoral degree and/or work as professional historians.

In addition to choosing between the portfolio and thesis options, students may also select the online option to complete the degree 100% online. Students who do not choose the online option choose from course offerings in various modalities (in person, online, and hybrid).

Major Requirements - Admission

Type: Prerequisite

Minimum requirements:

- A bachelor's degree (or its equivalent) from an accredited college or university.
- Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher.

- 18 or more credits of undergraduate coursework in History.

Application materials:

- Two letters of recommendation, preferably from History professors or other faculty familiar with the applicant's academic work. Applicants who completed their undergraduate degrees some years ago may submit letters from professional references instead.
- Statement of purpose (approximately 500 words) explaining your academic background and interests and why you wish to pursue a master's degree in History at Lehman College.
- Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended.
- Qualified applicants who have passed an initial application review will be invited to schedule a brief interview (online or in person) to discuss their educational goals and the Lehman MA in History program.

Admissions deadlines:

- For Fall enrollment: April 15 (priority), May 15 (regular), June 15 (final)
- For Spring enrollment: October 15 (priority), November 15 (regular), December 15 (final)

Major Requirements – Overall

Type: Completion requirement

Earn at least 30 credits

Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0

Major Requirements – Portfolio Option

Type: Completion requirement

Fulfill ALL of the following requirements:

Complete the following required course:

- **HIS 780 – Seminar in History (3 credits)**

and

- **27 credits in electives:** Nine graduate courses in History. Students are encouraged to take at least one course in historiography (HIW 533 and/or HIU 534) among their electives. Graduate-level courses in other departments may be taken with the permission of the History graduate adviser.

After successfully completing 30 credits of coursework, students who select this option present a portfolio consisting two 20-page papers (or the equivalent) for review by the History graduate adviser.

Major Requirements – Thesis Option

Type: Completion requirement

Fulfill ALL of the following requirements:**Complete ALL of the following required courses:**

- HIS 780 – Seminar in History (3 credits)
- HIS 781 – Advanced Tutorial Project in History (3 credits)
- HIS 797 – Master's Thesis Preparation (6 credits)

and

- **18 credits in electives:** Six graduate courses in History. Students are encouraged to take at least one course in historiography (HIW 533 and/or HIU 534) among their electives. Graduate-level courses in other departments may be taken with the permission of the History graduate adviser.

In their final semester of coursework, students who opt to write a thesis enroll in HIS 781, a one-on-one thesis preparation tutorial, with their intended thesis adviser. The thesis adviser must be a member of the History department's full-time faculty. After successfully completing HIS 781, students enroll in HIS 797 and write the master's thesis, which is a work of original scholarship (approximately 50 pages or longer) based on research in primary sources. The thesis must be approved by the thesis adviser and an approved second reader.

4. Rationale:

- In the current program, students choose to write a master's thesis or a capstone as their final project, but these are not formally designated as subplans. By designating the portfolio and thesis as official subplans (options), it will be much easier to track students' progress in DegreeWorks. The requirements for the thesis option are unchanged, but they are explained more clearly than before; the capstone is being replaced with a portfolio, as explained below.
- The capstone project is being eliminated and replaced with a portfolio, which is the culminating project in other CUNY MA programs in History (such as City College and Brooklyn College). This change clarifies the distinction between the two options to the degree and will significantly reduce the time-to-graduation for students who choose the portfolio option, since they will no longer have to take two consecutive semesters of independent studies (HIS 781 and HIS 796).
- The fact that courses are offered in various modalities has been added to the program description.
- A new distance-education program is being created as a separate subplan (option) to meet the needs of a much larger group of students, primarily school teachers, who need online courses (either asynchronous courses or synchronous courses offered in the evening). Students enrolled in this option will choose the online option and then a second subplan (option) of either portfolio or thesis.
- The requirements for admission have been divided into sections (minimum requirements and application materials) and edited for greater clarity and specificity. The requirement for a B average in History courses has been eliminated, since the GPA requirement is sufficient. Instructions for application materials have been expanded to explain the expectations more clearly and thoroughly. The requirement for a writing sample has been eliminated now that AI has rendered it impossible to judge the originality of the work. The need to

provide official transcripts has been added (this is already required by Graduate Admissions but was missing here). A requirement to meet with the Graduate Advisor has been added to provide applicants with complete information about the program, its requirements, and the different paths to the degree; this will also give the graduate advisor an opportunity to ask applicants about any issues of concern prior to making an admissions decision. Existing admissions deadlines have been added to this document.

- A recommendation has been added for all MA students to take HIW 533: World History and Historiography and/or HIU 534: U.S. History and Historiography, in order to encourage all History MA students to take at least one course in historiography.
- An inactive track with no students enrolled in it, "Middle High School Education," is being deactivated in order to clean up the program information in the CUNY system.

5. **Date of departmental approval:** April 22, 2026