

## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENT PLAN FOR FULFILLING REQUIREMENT IN LANGUAGE(S) OTHER THAN ENGLISH

Please refer to the relevant Department of History Graduate Handbook for information about minimum modern and/or ancient language requirements for each History graduate degree program, field, and option. If students have prior background in a language they should take a *Placement Exam* prior to or in their first semester of graduate study. Online placement exams are offered by the Departments of World Languages and Literatures and Spanish in French, Spanish, and German and may be taken at any time. The Department of World Languages and Literatures administers a sit-down Latin placement exam in late August before classes begin which students must register for in advance. **Placement exams are for placing a student in an appropriate level of a language course, *not* to demonstrate proficiency.**

Students may demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English by taking a course at WMU or another institution at or above the level and grade based on the student's degree program, field, and option (see below). Students who feel that they already possess proficiency in a language may, in place of taking courses, demonstrate proficiency by taking a *Graduate Reading Proficiency Exam* given in the fall and spring. Deadlines for registering for those exams are September 5 and February 5. Further information on Graduate Reading Proficiency Exams are outlined in the Handbook's Appendices. In some cases, a language requirement may be waived by the DGS for an incoming student who, in the year before beginning graduate study, completed an undergraduate major or did substantial work in that language. See the DGS for more information.

**This plan must be submitted to the DGS with the first-year Graduate Student Activities Report (GSAR) for both MA and PhD students.**

*Minimum* language requirements are as follows:

### **MA General Option:**

The SP and Examination Committee may require a student to demonstrate facility in at least one language other than English appropriate to that student's course of study. The selection of that language is to be determined in consultation with the SP and in concurrence with the Examination Committee. Students specializing in Medieval History are required, at a minimum, to demonstrate proficiency in reading Latin and one apposite modern language. Students in Ancient History are required, at a minimum, to demonstrate proficiency in reading Latin or Greek and one apposite modern language. Language proficiency is to be demonstrated by attaining a grade of C or better in a 2010 or another appropriate fourth semester course or by a Graduate Reading Proficiency Exam that establishes proficiency at that level.

### **MA Thesis Option:**

All Thesis Option MA students must demonstrate facility in at least one language other than English appropriate to that student's course of study. Ancient and Medieval History majors are required to choose in consultation with their SP and in concurrence with the Thesis Committee at least one ancient language appropriate to their curriculum and one modern language. Any student whose curriculum requires two (or more) languages must provide evidence of proficiency in one of the required languages by the end of the first year of graduate study. This is demonstrated either by passing an approved fourth-semester language course at WMU with a grade of B or better or by passing a Graduate Language Reading Proficiency Examination to be administered by the appropriate Language department.

### **MA in Public History:**

All Public History Option MA students must demonstrate facility in at least one language other than English appropriate to that student's course of study. The language will be selected in consultation with the SP and in concurrence of the Examination Committee. Ordinarily proficiency is demonstrated either by passing an approved fourth-semester language course at WMU with a grade of B or better or by passing a graduate reading proficiency examination to be administered by Departments of World Languages and Literatures or Spanish. Credit hours in language instruction will not count toward the required 33 credit hours for the MA degree.

**PhD:**

All doctoral students must demonstrate reading proficiency in at least one language other than English; some fields require proficiency in additional languages. Students in medieval European history are required to demonstrate competence in two modern languages other than English and in Latin by achieving a grade of B or better in Latin 5600 (Medieval Latin), or its equivalent. Students in Ancient History are required, at a minimum, to demonstrate facility in reading Latin and Greek and at least one apposite modern language. The language proficiency requirement must be completed before the student may register for the required sixth semester HIST 6500 class or submit the final Graduate Portfolio. If more than one language is required, proficiency in one language must be demonstrated by the end of the first year of graduate study. Unless otherwise specified, proficiency is to be demonstrated by the attainment of a grade of B or better in a 2010 or 5010 course in the appropriate language department, or by a language/translation examination to be administered by that department. For those languages not offered by WMU departments, language experts will be identified and asked to administer language/translation exams.

**Specify language selection and plan for demonstrating proficiency in those languages on pages 2 and 3 of this form. The student, SP, and DGS must sign the form to indicate approval of the plan.**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Program and Major Field: \_\_\_\_\_

If MA student, check appropriate Option: \_\_\_\_\_ Thesis \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Thesis

Supervising Professor: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester first enrolled in current program: \_\_\_\_\_

**Selection of Language(s) and Plan for Demonstrating Proficiency  
(Complete and check as appropriate)**

1. Language: \_\_\_\_\_ Placement exam date/result: \_\_\_\_\_

Proficiency will be demonstrated by: \_\_\_\_ Coursework at WMU \_\_\_\_ Proficiency exam \_\_\_\_ Other coursework

A. Semester/Course-level to begin study \_\_\_\_\_

Semester/Course level to conclude study: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Semester for Graduate Reading Proficiency Exam \_\_\_\_\_ result: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

2. Language: \_\_\_\_\_ Placement exam date/result: \_\_\_\_\_

Proficiency will be demonstrated by: \_\_\_\_ Coursework at WMU \_\_\_\_ Proficiency exam \_\_\_\_ Other coursework

A. Semester/Course-level to begin study \_\_\_\_\_

Semester/Course level to conclude study: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Semester for Graduate Reading Proficiency Exam \_\_\_\_\_ result: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

3. Language: \_\_\_\_\_ Placement exam date/result: \_\_\_\_\_

Proficiency will be demonstrated by: \_\_\_\_ Coursework at WMU \_\_\_\_ Proficiency exam \_\_\_\_ Other coursework

A. Semester/Course-level to begin study \_\_\_\_\_

Semester/Course level to conclude study: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Semester for Graduate Reading Proficiency Exam \_\_\_\_\_ result: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

4. Language: \_\_\_\_\_ Placement exam date/result: \_\_\_\_\_

Proficiency will be demonstrated by: \_\_\_\_ Coursework at WMU \_\_\_\_ Proficiency exam \_\_\_\_ Other coursework

A. Semester/Course-level to begin study \_\_\_\_\_

Semester/Course level to conclude study: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Semester for Graduate Reading Proficiency Exam \_\_\_\_\_ result: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Signatures:**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervising Professor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Graduate Studies: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_