



Jackson College

2025/26

Western Michigan University History and Public History Curriculum Guide

Introduction - Students can choose from three majors within the history department. This guide will help you choose courses and focus on History or Public History:

- **History** - This major provides well-rounded preparation for many occupations.
 - Students who are interested in becoming high school history teachers may follow the “Secondary Education History” track to prepare for the master’s in teaching degree.
- **Public History** - This major provides professional and technical training for occupations in museums, archives, historic sites and organizations, government programs, and consulting.

General requirements for History majors:

- History majors must take a minimum of 36 credits from introductory, intermediate, and advanced level courses. Visit <https://wmich.edu/arts-sciences/academics/history> for further information.
- History major students must take either HIS 120 or HIST 2020 as a requirement for the major.
- History major students are required to have two years (12 – 16 credits) of the same foreign language or American Sign Language, or by passing WMU’s proficiency by exam.
- Public history majors must complete a minimum of 66 credits in history and approved electives from other departments (see above website).
- Students must attain a “C” (2.0) grade, or higher, in each course required for the major, or minor, including cognates.
- Required cognates must be completed by history majors. These may be discussed with the major advisor at WMU (McKenzie Vliek - see contact information below).

Courses that History majors can take at Jackson:

WMU courses	Jackson courses
HIST 1000 or 1010	HIS 120 or 131 or 132
HIST 2100 or 2110	HIS 231 or 232
Intermediate History (6 credits)	The choices must be approved by McKenzie Vliek (see below).

Courses that Public History majors can take at Jackson:

WMU courses	Jackson courses
HIST 2100 or 2110	HIS 231 or 232
HIST 1000 or 1010 or HIST 2020 or 2030	HIS 120
Intermediate History (6 credits)	The choices must be approved by McKenzie Vliek (see below).

General education requirements:

- Please refer to the [WMU Essential Studies \(WES\) transfer guide](#) that lists courses meeting WES requirements at WMU that may be taken at Jackson.
- All students graduating from the College of Arts & Sciences must complete the College of Arts and Sciences Essentials (**CASE**). This includes world language proficiency (detailed in next bullet point), ENGL 1050/1060 sequence, and by completing the baccalaureate writing requirement.
- All students graduating from the College of Arts & Sciences must meet the world language proficiency by completing two semesters (6-8 hours) of the same foreign language or American Sign Language or passing WMU's proficiency by exam. Please contact the College of Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Advising Office at (269) 387-4366 with any questions. Neither the MACRAO nor the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) satisfy the world language requirement.
 - History majors are required to have a research language and must complete an additional two semesters (6-8 hours) of the same foreign language or American Sign Language, or by passing WMU's proficiency by exam.
 - If the student's first language is not English, the student is exempt from this requirement. Determination of eligibility for this exemption is based on whether the student was required to take the TOEFL test for admission and can be verified through the WMU departments of Spanish or World Languages and Literatures.
- You may email the WMU advisors in the College of Arts & Sciences for further clarification about **WES or CASE**.

Contact information:

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For general education advising or world language requirement questions:
wmich.edu/arts-sciences/advising