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;
- **Public History** - this major provides professional and technical training for occupations in museums, archives, historic sites and organizations, government programs, and consulting;
- **Secondary education** – this program meets State of Michigan certification requirements for teaching in grades six through twelve. In this major, students will need to speak to advisors in the College of Education for teaching requirements, and in the College of Arts and Sciences for the history requirements. There is a separate transfer guide for [Secondary Education History majors](#). Click on your college and then go down to Major Guides and click on “Sec Ed History”.

**General requirements for History majors:**

- History majors must take a minimum of 36 credits from introductory, intermediate, and advanced level courses (see the history department website, through the “Academics” link in WMU’s main website);
- 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 (Dr. Cousins – see contact information below).

**Courses that History majors can take at SMC:**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>WMU courses</th>
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**Courses that Public History majors can take at SMC:**

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General education requirements:

- Please see the WMU general education program transfer guide for information about all of the courses that you can take at SMC that will count for the requirements at WMU. Courses in the history major will usually fulfill two of your distribution Areas. Please consult with your WMU CAS advisor;

- The history majors are administered through the WMU College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). CAS requires a world language of all students that graduate in one of their many majors. You can meet that two-semester requirement in one of three ways:
  - Two years of one high school language, with a B- or better in the last (4th) semester;
  - Two semesters of the same college level language;
  - Or through passing a language proficiency test. Please contact the WMU World Languages department for languages other than Spanish, and the Spanish department for that language. Neither the MACRAO Agreement nor the Michigan Transfer Agreement satisfy the world language requirement;
  - If the student’s first language is not English, then 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.

- The College of Arts and Sciences requires that a critical thinking course be chosen from Proficiency 4c. See the general education transfer guide link above. The MACRAO Agreement or the Michigan Transfer Agreement will satisfy this requirement.

Contact information:

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