

HISTORICAL STUDIES: A.A., A.S., B.A., B.S.

As a Historical Studies student, you will explore human history and the nature of human existence by examining topics such as the development of social, political and religious groups; national experiences; a particular time period or important historic figure or event; or themes such as women in history. You also will develop valuable research, analytical and communications skills as, together with a faculty mentor, you create a program to meet your specific needs and goals.

Why choose a degree in Historical Studies?

Students with a degree in Historical Studies are prepared to go on to careers in:

- Teaching,
- Historic preservation and restoration,
- Research,
- Archiving,
- Work in a museum or library,
- Graduate school,
- Public history, or
- Law.

Degrees Available

As a regionally accredited college of the State University of New York, SUNY Empire State College offers the following degrees in Historical Studies:

- Associate in Arts
- Associate in Science
- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Science
- Combined B.A. or B.S. in Historical Studies/MAT in Adolescent Education

Taking individual courses as a nondegree student also is possible and will offer you the same range and depth of courses and rigorous standards as matriculated undergraduate students.

Concentrations

Students interested in historical studies may choose from a wide range of possibilities. Concentrations may be organized by:

- Types of history (e.g., social, race/ethnicity/class/gender, political, religious, environmental, economic, diplomatic, military).
- National experience or geographical areas (e.g., American history, Western civilization, East Asian history, studies of regional history).
- Time periods (e.g., ancient history, medieval civilization, modern history, colonial/post-colonial).
- Themes (e.g., ethnic studies, labor history).
- A broad-based concentration title, "Historical Studies," which allows the student and mentor to conceive a program with an array of

various topics that progresses from foundation to advanced-level learning.

Popular concentrations include:

- American History
- Asian-American History
- History of Women in the U.S.
- Military History
- Modern Social and Economic History
- History and Literature
- Public History

You can focus on a single area such as American history, or create an interdisciplinary concentration that connects or combines perspectives exploring a theme or topic.

For sample degree programs and other degree planning resources, please visit the the Department of Historical Studies Degree Planning Resources web page (<https://www.esc.edu/historical-studies/degree-planning-resources/>).

Historical Studies Undergraduate Degree Guidelines

Bachelor Degree Guidelines

The history faculty expects that bachelor degree programs in historical studies will consist of the following elements and allow students to acquire specific enabling skills and competencies. As students write their rationale essays, they should demonstrate how their degree program meets these guidelines, aligning their courses and other learning activities to the elements below:

Foundation # 1: Introductory Learning

- Learning Outcome: Demonstrate an understanding of historical processes and historical developments that have shaped social change and contemporary human problems as presented in a survey course or courses.
- Learning Outcome: Demonstrate a foundation for advanced level learning in historical studies by completing one or more introductory courses (depending on concentration) in their area or topic.

Foundation #2: Breadth and Diversity

- Learning Outcome: Demonstrate learning that goes beyond a single time period, national or cultural experience, and reflects an understanding of diversity.

Foundation #3: Links to other Disciplines

- Learning Outcome: Explain how the study of history is related to other disciplines. At least one course must link the student's program to other disciplines, including but not limited to literature, languages, or political science.

Foundation #4: Independent Inquiry, Research, and Analysis

- Learning Outcome: Analyze and evaluate primary and secondary sources.

1. At least one upper-level course must require the student to conduct independent inquiry and research.
2. In that course the student is asked to evaluate primary and secondary sources that record and interpret the past toward

completion of a final research project, documented using the Chicago Manual of Style.

Students need at least 24 advanced level credits in their concentration area for bachelor's degrees.

Students Considering Graduate School

Students designing degrees in historical studies should investigate graduate school opportunities and requirements and visit the historical studies website.

For those students seeking New York State Teaching Certification, SUNY Empire State College offers Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degrees in Middle Childhood Education and Adolescent Education in the content area of Social Studies. Students should review the SUNY Empire School of Graduate Studies website outlining additional admissions requirements to be completed at the bachelor's degree level.

"Certification Areas and Content Requirements (<https://www.esc.edu/graduate-studies/masters-degrees/education-programs/mat/certification-areas/>)"

Students who indicate must an interest in teaching must fill out a teacher disclaimer form (<https://www.esc.edu/media/academic-affairs/division-social-behavioral-science/New-Logo-Teaching-Disclaimer.pdf#search=teacher%20disclaimer%20form>).

Associate Degree Guidelines

Students seeking an A.A. degree in Historical Studies will complete at least 12 credits of coursework in Historical Studies, demonstrating a foundation for advanced level learning/course work in the discipline.

Faculty in Historical Studies are available to consult with generalist mentors and their students about creating individualized concentrations and selecting courses that align with the department guidelines.