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.

Degree programs in Historical Studies offer students the opportunity to develop individualized degree plans based on their intellectual, professional, and personal interests. General program guidelines can be found on the “Program Details” tab, and students will work with an academic mentor to choose courses that meet the guidelines and address each student’s individual interests. Students can also work with their academic mentors to identify applicable transfer credit, prior college-level learning, and possible course equivalencies. Working with a mentor and using SUNY Empire’s educational planning process, students can develop a specialized concentration in Historical Studies by following the general program guidelines as well as any applicable concentration guidelines. Students may also develop their own concentrations.

For more information about general undergraduate degree requirements, please visit Earning an Undergraduate Degree (http://catalog.esc.edu/undergraduate/earning-undergraduate-degree/).

For more information about programs in Historical Studies, please visit the Department of Historical Studies website (https://www.esc.edu/historical-studies/).

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 (https://www.esc.edu/historical-studies/).

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/)”


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.