Log in to a Distinguished Tradition. 
Since 1819.

MASTER OF ARTS IN 
History 
Online
Program Overview

Program Mission

The mission of the Norwich University Master of Arts in History program is to build and refine student research, writing, analysis, and presentation skills; provide students with an introduction to historical pedagogy and a foundation for developing a professional identity as a historian; and help students learn to think like a historian as well as develop historiographic sensibilities and historical habits of mind.

Program Outcomes

- Develop a base of historical knowledge, a familiarity with more than one historiographic tradition, and the ability to synthesize different types of historical knowledge.
- Provide a depth and breadth of subject matter expertise to cultivate more knowledgeable teachers and public historians.
- Build the foundations for a professional identity as a historian and provide a model for collaborative work among historians.
- Provide the ability to perform historical research through resources such as course papers and theses.
- Demonstrate a higher level of understanding of the values and ethics that underpin the historical profession.
- Develop the ability to provide analysis, synthesis, argument, and significance (ASAS) through effective, graduate level writing and to integrate historical research with the modes of delivery commonly found in the public history field.

Become Part of Norwich’s History

Since 1819, Norwich has established and maintained a tradition of academic excellence and the training of citizens for national public service. Norwich’s founder, Alden Partridge, brought experiential learning to U.S. education, and his educational beliefs became the basis for the Morrill Land Grant Act, which transformed American education into the model for the world.

For nearly 200 years our alumni have made strong contributions to American history. They built transportation networks, such as the Transcontinental Railroad, to expand our country; they conceived the first generation of public libraries to make learning accessible; and they led in every branch of the U.S. armed forces to protect and defend our nation.

As a student at Norwich, you will be joining one of the oldest institutions of higher education in the U.S founded on a solid core of values and educational philosophy that helped shape our great nation. You will also have the opportunity, and responsibility, to carry on the Norwich spirit of service.

The program is structured as follows:

- Four start dates per year: March, June, September, or December.
- Six credits for each of the six, eleven-week courses.
- A course of study no longer than 18 months (date of graduation depends on your start date).
- One-week residency preceding graduation.
Heather Salazar, Norwich Alumna

“I have a better understanding of the importance and impact historical writing can have on both public and governmental entities. The extensive writing requirements improved my own writing style to be more succinct and descriptive. Sometimes less is more.”

The Norwich Advantage

In Your Corner. A Motivating Force.

If you can dream it, you can accomplish it — thanks to Norwich University’s expert faculty and dedicated student support advisers. Your team works together to keep you motivated and build the skills needed for a rewarding career. From program start to finish, you’ll never be alone. Our dedicated faculty and program staff are genuinely invested in your success and will go out of their way to provide the mentorship and support you need. Norwich provides 24/7 access and technical support to an online learning platform, enabling you to contribute to class discussions and complete your coursework at any time from any location.

Access to Extensive Resources

The Kreitzberg Library serves all online students and faculty. You will have access to our library’s 100 online databases, 54,000 full-text electronic journals, and hundreds of thousands of e-books.

To help you succeed as an online learner, our dedicated distance learning librarian and reference staff members provide research assistance via email, phone, and chat. Our staff can also ship you books anywhere in the world from our circulating collection of over 140,000 titles, and provide journal articles not available online through our material request services.
Curriculum

Overview

The history program is made up of six, six-credit courses for a total of 36 credits. Each course is 11 weeks in length. The program is designed so you can complete the coursework in as few as 18 months. The program ends with a one-week residency and graduation ceremony at Norwich University in June. The program offers four start dates per year: March, June, September, and December.

Developed based on the American Historical Association’s guidelines for master’s programs in history, our curriculum emphasizes critical thinking; research, writing, and presentation skills; a solid foundation in historical pedagogy; and a well-developed understanding of the values and ethics underpinning the historical profession.

Choose one of three tracks: American History, World History, or Public History. In your courses you are generally required to complete two short papers, typically 10 pages long, and one long paper. In an effort to introduce you to a variety of different types of history, instructors may have you write book reviews, historiographic essays, book/article analysis papers, or annotated bibliographies.

In each course, you will participate in 10 weeks of asynchronous discussions in small groups. You are required to write discussion postings in response to questions posed by the instructor about each week’s readings. You will also post responses to the comments of your group members, facilitating an interactive and rewarding exchange of ideas.

Students may choose to complete their master’s thesis (by petition only) or a capstone paper. The choice of degree completion project may require a longer program of study, a petition supported by letters of recommendation from program faculty, or a selection of an additional elective in Course 6.

For students in the Public History track, the capstone project will take the form of an internship.

Courses

American History Track
- Introduction to History and Historiography
- Colonial, Revolutionary and Early National History
- 19th Century America
- 20th Century America
- Directed Readings in American History
- Capstone Paper -or- Thesis

World History Track
- Introduction to History and Historiography
- Hunter-Gatherer and Agrarian Eras to 1500
- The Late Agrarian Era to 1800
- World History from 1800 to 1991
- Directed Readings in World History
- Capstone Paper -or- Thesis

Public History Track
- Introduction to Public History
- Archival Science and Management
- Museum Science and Management
- Topical or Chronological Elective Seminar
- Research and Planning Seminar
- Capstone Project
For nearly two centuries, Norwich University has played a vital role in American history as the nation’s first private military college, the nation’s first private college to offer civil engineering instruction, and the birthplace of ROTC. We are also the proud alma mater of more than 27,000 living alumni. Throughout history, many of our alumni have made significant contributions to our country’s development, including Edwin Ferry Johnson, chief engineer of the Northern Pacific Railroad; Harry Bates Thayer, president and chairman of AT&T in the 1920s; and General Gordon L. Sullivan, chief of staff of the U.S. Army in the 1990s.

The Norwich Advantage

Our Proud History

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Superb Teacher-Practitioners

At the heart of our program is our second-to-none history faculty. They include prolific book authors and editors, sought-after speakers, and nationally recognized experts who regularly present their work at the Society for Military History conferences. In addition to cultivating a highly interactive learning environment, faculty members serve as mentors to students throughout their program of study.

Faculty work closely with students and inspire them to produce their best work, motivate them to reach higher and further than they thought possible, and encourage them to make a difference. The Master of Arts in History faculty’s mission is to inspire, teach, and mentor the next generation of historians.

Patrick Heneghan II, Master of Arts in History Alumnus

“A Norwich education prepares you to face the challenges of today’s world. I am now a more confident leader and have benefited greatly from the emphasis on concise and well-articulated writing that is emphasized throughout the Norwich history program. A leader must possess the ability to disseminate a vision for the organization, and often that message is conveyed through written communication. Norwich prepares leaders for that task.”
For leaders who are driven to serve.

Leading change takes commitment, compassion, and the skills and knowledge needed to inspire and motivate. Norwich University channels your motivation to serve into a strong ability to lead within your organization and community.

The Norwich Advantage

The pace for each course is designed with busy schedules in mind

Through our flexible online platform, you can access program content and contribute to class discussions on your own schedule and at your own pace each week. This format gives you extra time to contemplate questions and compose well-thought-out responses. Small classes and students from diverse professional and cultural backgrounds foster in-depth discussions and unique perspectives.

Your learning community can become an invaluable network

You will progress through the program in small classes called cohorts. Small classes of 16 or fewer students encourage frequent student-student and student-faculty interactions, while a team of dedicated program staff provides students with additional support and guidance as needed. When students enroll at Norwich, they not only gain access to a dynamic learning community but also to an extensive career network of successful alumni from around the globe.

Career Preparation

Norwich University’s Master of Arts in History program gives you the foundation to teach at the high school and community college level or to pursue a Ph.D. for teaching at the university level. Your degree can also serve as a stepping stone to advancement in a variety of careers. Examples of positions held by our alumni include curator of the Eldred World War II Museum, senior manager of communications at the Boeing Company, archivist at the National Archives & Records Administration, and special agent in the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.
Admissions

Norwich seeks goal-oriented individuals who have high standards of personal ethics and have demonstrated excellence in their professional lives and academic studies.

Applicants should have a desire to make a positive contribution to their field. Selective admissions standards are intended to ensure that those admitted will have the greatest prospect of successfully completing the program and contributing to the field.

Choosing a school to pursue your Master of Arts in History is a major decision. We invite you to contact our Admissions Advisors who are available to guide you in your decision-making and provide as much information and assistance as you need.

Admission Criteria

- A bachelor’s degree from a regionally or nationally accredited institution or an equivalent degree from a foreign institution, as evaluated by WES, IERF, Span Tran, or CED
- An undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or higher (cumulative)
- If English is not your first language, proof of English language proficiency is required. This can be demonstrated in one of two ways:
  - TOEFL - a minimum score of 550 (paper-based test) or 80 (internet-based test) is required.
  - IELTS - a minimum composite score of 6.5 is required.

Application Process

Call an Admissions Advisor to begin the application process and submit the following items:

- Application form
- Resume
- Official transcript from undergraduate degree-granting institution
- Letter of intent
- Admissions essay demonstrating graduate-level writing and critical thinking skills, or the GRE with the following scores:
  - For GRE tests taken within the past six years:
    - 85th percentile or higher on the verbal test and a 5 or higher on the analytical writing test
  - One letter of recommendation (professional or academic)
  - Proof of English language proficiency TOEFL, if applicable

Financial Aid Information

Financing your graduate education can be a daunting task if you are unfamiliar with the process, timeline, expectations, and options. Norwich University wants to make this process a smooth journey for you.

To speak with one of our Admissions Advisors about financial aid:
Call 1-877-348-8153 or Email info@online.norwich.edu.

Visit https://online.norwich.edu for more information.

Keshia Horn, Master of Arts in History Alumnus

“Enrolling in the Master of Arts in History (American history track) was the best decision I made. It wasn’t easy, and finding the time to dedicate to my studies was difficult, but it has now been one of the most fulfilling things I have done.”
Master of Arts in History Online

About Norwich University

Founded in 1819, Norwich University is a small, private, not-for-profit university that offers professional and liberal arts programs to military and civilian students. The campus is located in Vermont. The College of Graduate and Continuing Studies builds upon nearly 200 years of Norwich University traditions while offering a variety of degree programs online in a rigorous academic environment. By enrolling in our Master of Arts in History program, you’ll become part of a long tradition of public service education and leadership at Norwich, which goes all the way back to our founding as the nation’s first private military college.

Norwich University is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (formerly the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc.).

Recognized for academic excellence, U.S. News & World Report ranks Norwich University in the top 100 for Regional Universities in the North. Rankings are based on undergraduate programs.

Recognized as offering the Best Value with respect to high academic quality and low net cost of attendance, U.S. News & World Report ranks Norwich University in the top Regional Universities in the North. Rankings are based on undergraduate programs and on students who received the average level of need-based financial aid.

College of Graduate and Continuing Studies

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Visit our online master’s programs at online.norwich.edu:

- Master of Arts in Diplomacy
- Master of Arts in History
- Master of Arts in International Relations
- Master of Arts in Military History
- Master of Arts in Strategic Studies
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Civil Engineering
- Master of Public Administration
- Master of Science in Criminal Justice
- Master of Science in Information Security & Assurance
- Master of Science in Leadership
- Master of Science in Nursing