

Constructing a programme of study in History: Explaining course credits

The *average* course load of a student is 18 credits per semester, which means 18 contact hours per week. (A contact hour means one hour in a classroom, but may mean two or more hours in a laboratory or in watching films.)

You need 120 credits to get your BA degree. If you take four years to get the degree, that means a *minimum average* of 30 credits per year, or 15 credits per semester. But you may take up to 21 credits per semester if you want extra courses or have to repeat some courses after failing them. How many credits do you need in History *or* Archaeology out of the 120 credits total? That depends on what type of degree programme you are following. (Most students take a Double Major.)

Double Major in History <i>or</i> Archaeology & another Subject in Major/ Major combined degree	40 credits in History or Archaeology
Single Major in History <i>or</i> Archaeology	80 credits in History or Archaeology
Major in History <i>or</i> Archaeology in Major/Minor combined degree	56 credits in History or Archaeology
Minor in History <i>or</i> Archaeology in Major/ Minor combined degree	24 credits in History or Archaeology
Multi-disciplinary combined degree , History or Archaeology courses therein	12 credits in History or Archaeology

You must take *all core courses*. There is no reason to take the same number of *elective* History *or* Archaeology courses every semester, but the *average* number of courses over the six semesters of Levels 200-400 (Years 2-4), after earning 4 credits in History *or* Archaeology at Level 100, must look like this:

Double Major in History <i>or</i> Archaeology & another Subject in Major/ Major combined degree	40 credits=i.e. 36 at Levels 200-400; divided by 6 semesters=average 6 credits per semester . (<i>That usually means one core course plus one optional</i>)
Single Major in History <i>or</i> Archaeology	80 credits=i.e.76 at Levels 200-400; divided by 6 semesters = average 13 credits (4-5 courses) per semester
Major in History <i>or</i> Archaeology in Major/Minor combined degree	56 credits=52 at Levels 200-400; divided by 6 semesters = average 9 credits (3 courses) per semester
Minor in History <i>or</i> Archaeology in Major/ Minor combined degree	24 credits=20 at Levels 200-400; divided by 6 semesters =average 3 credits (one course) per semester
Multi-disciplinary combined degree , History courses therein	12 credits=8 at Levels 200-400=average 3 credits (one course) per year

When you calculate your *total course load each semester*, remember that it must total *at least* 15 credits (and up to 21), including all core courses in your Majors/Majors and 2 credits for a GEC (General Education) course. Of course you must pass all core courses to graduate with a degree, and you must make sure you pass sufficient elective courses to get the necessary total of 120 credits for a BA.

(From History Department Handbook, 2010–11, p. 6)