



University of California, Santa Barbara  
Program Learning Outcomes

**B.A. in History**

***Students graduating with a B.A. in History should be able to:***

*Critical Thinking*

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1. Analyze primary sources:
  - a. Explain their historical significance and the historical context in which they were produced.
  - b. Explain how a primary source reflects the point of view of its creator(s).
  - c. Explain how diverse groups understood and reacted to such documents, artifacts, oral testimonies, or artistic works.
  - d. Formulate an argument that assesses contradictions within and among different primary sources.
2. Assess the relationship between historical contexts and events, ideas and processes.
3. Identify and summarize an author's argument.
4. Identify points of agreement and disagreement among conflicting interpretations of the past.
5. Construct a well-developed thesis and a persuasive argument.

*Writing*

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6. Organize an analytical essay that sustains an argument over the entire length of the paper.
7. Present information in lucid, grammatically correct prose.
8. Construct paragraphs with effective topic sentences.

*Research Skills*

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9. Use the library, relevant databases and indexes, and the Internet to identify and locate sources.
10. Develop bibliographies of primary and secondary sources.

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Program Learning Outcomes, continued**

11. Master conventions for citations and bibliographies.
12. Produce an original research paper that analyzes primary and secondary sources.

*Historical Knowledge*

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13. Compare and contrast how broadly similar historical changes (i.e., urbanization, state formation, social and cultural revolutions, nationalisms, industrialization) have been experienced in varied times and places.
14. Describe historical change over broad sweep of time (ancient to present).
15. Explain how various forms of identity (political, religious, cultural, racial/ethnic, class, gender, sexual, etc.) have shaped how people have experienced the past.
16. Recognize the varied ways in which power is exercised, contested, and legitimized.
17. Understand how events of the past have influenced the present.