

### PROGRAM MODIFICATION PROPOSAL FORM

Name of Institution: University of South Carolina Columbia

Briefly state the nature of the proposed modification (e.g., adding a new concentration, extending the program to a new site, curriculum change, etc.): Curriculum changes, including deleting the following concentrations: Ancient World, Early Modern Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia, Medieval World, and Modern Europe and adding a new concentration: Global, Comparative and Connective

Current Name of Program (include degree designation and all concentrations, options, and tracks): M.A., History, with concentrations in Ancient World, Early Modern Europe, East Asia, Latin America, Medieval World, Modern Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, U.S. Since 1789, U.S. to 1877, and History of Science, Technology and Environment

Proposed Name of Program (include degree designation and all concentrations, options, and tracks): M.A., History, with concentrations in Global, Comparative and Connective; History of Science, Technology and Environment; Latin America; U.S. to 1877; and U.S. since 1789.

Program Designation:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate's Degree   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Master's Degree                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's Degree: 4 Year  | <input type="checkbox"/> Specialist  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's Degree: 5 Year  | <input type="checkbox"/> Doctoral Degree: Research/Scholarship (e.g., Ph.D. and DMA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doctoral Degree: Professional Practice (e.g., Ed.D., D.N.P., J.D., Pharm.D., and M.D.) |  |

Does the program currently qualify for supplemental Palmetto Fellows and LIFE Scholarship awards?

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

If No, should the program be considered for supplemental Palmetto Fellows and LIFE Scholarship awards?

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

Proposed Date of Implementation: Fall 2025

CIP Code: 540101

Current delivery site(s) and modes: 51102

Proposed delivery site(s) and modes: 51102

Program Contact Information (name, title, telephone number, and email address):

Trena Houpp, Executive Director, Academic Program Planning and Decision Support, 803-777-0460 and  
thoupp@sc.edu

Joshua Grace, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of History

8037772679/ 5178990979 and [gracejr@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:gracejr@mailbox.sc.edu)

Institutional Approvals and Dates of Approval:

History Department: 11/29/23

College of Arts and Sciences: 12/1/2023

Graduate Council Committee on Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, and Related Professional Programs: 10/15/24

Graduate Council: 10/28/2024

Provost: 11/25/2024

President: 11/26/2024

Board of Trustees Academic Excellence and Student Experience: 12/17/2024

Board of Trustees: 12/17/2024

### Background Information

Provide a detailed description of the proposed modification, including target audience, centrality to institutional mission, and relation to strategic plan.

The changes to the M.A. program in the Department of History are required for three main reasons:

- The first is to realign existing and historical strengths of the program with changes to scholarly fields since the last substantive update to the program at least 15 years ago. Interdisciplinary and digital history are now critical for graduate training in history, and the changes expressed through one of the new minor fields here – Public, Digital, and Interdisciplinary History - will allow the department to build on one of its historical strengths (Public History) while also creating strengths in areas that are increasingly important for graduate training (digital and interdisciplinary).
- Second, the requested changes will more accurately reflect the teaching strengths of faculty in the Department of History and the historical profession more broadly. The absence of cross-cutting fields such as Global, Comparative, and Connective History (a new concentration) and Public, Digital, and Interdisciplinary History (PDI; a new minor field), has meant that students in South Carolina who wish to pursue these fields/topics look elsewhere, for example, UNC-Charlotte's master's program, even though USC has a clear strength in fields of global history. For PDI, this also comes with a recognition that our students will benefit from other disciplinary approaches to studying the past that will, in turn, make them more competitive in regional and national job markets. Moreover, these changes will allow the department to recruit and retain students from a broader population of students interested in graduate study in South Carolina.
- Third, the changes will bring the M.A. program into alignment with Title IV/Course Program of Study policies, which is a federal requirement that determines which courses count toward a student's financial aid eligibility. The current bulletin prescribes courses for only 12 of the 30 hours of requirements, requiring program directors to submit a high number of exceptions for programs of study. The updated bulletin will thus provide a much clearer guide for students and faculty.

**Target audience:** The department's target audience is students in South Carolina seeking opportunities to advance their careers through the study of history. This includes Social Studies teachers, individuals interested in lobbying or advocacy, and individuals seeking graduate experience with the goal of earning a Ph.D. in history or an adjacent field. This MA is also a popular option for members of the Army in the Advanced Civil Program.

In addition to students in South Carolina, the department is known regionally for its strong graduate programs, particularly in US history. These changes will extend this strength to new areas and allow USC to recruit talent that has traditionally gone to other regional universities.

**Centrality to Mission:** As noted above, these changes allow the program to build on its traditional strengths in US History while expanding into new fields that represent its new faculty strengths. These include Global, Comparative, and Connective History (GCC) (where a specialty in the History of Religion also resides) and Public, Digital, and Interdisciplinary (PDI) History. Both new fields provide a vehicle for the department to the state's citizens. GCC emerged out of discussion about ways to support social studies and history teachers (whether currently teaching or doing so in the future) with an opportunity to learn more about the areas in which they will teach. PDI is a field that gives students skills beyond the traditional skills of academic history, and it will thus produce students who will become leaders in the new ways that historians think about the past and share it with the public.

The modified degree program is aligned with the University's mission to educate "the state's citizens through teaching, research, creative activity, and community engagement" and "to promote the dissemination of knowledge, cultural enrichment, and an enhanced quality of life."

All university funded students who matriculate as MA students teach in department survey courses. They are thus important members of the department's teaching mission.

### **Assessment of Need**

Provide an assessment of the need for the program modification for the institution, the state, the region, and beyond, if applicable.

The program modification will allow the M.A. program to align with changing professional standards of the history profession and thus help the department best serve the state's citizens in competitive regional and national markets. In particular, the addition of fields in Global, Comparative, and Connective (GCC) History and Public, Digital, and Interdisciplinary History (PDI) will create more opportunities for students in the state. The former, GCC, emerged from efforts to offer a post-graduate degree to students who planned to become teachers (particularly, social studies teachers) but who wanted an opportunity to learn more historical content before doing their teaching certificate. For example, the graduate program regularly receives inquiries from advanced undergraduates and current teachers who believe developing an expertise through an M.A. will help teaching middle and high school level topics. Because the department funds all admitted students through a teaching assistantship, this opportunity enhances the training of teachers in the state at no cost to them.

The latter subfield, PDI, will help the department become a leader in new ways scholars and teachers do history. Instead of content and the traditional reading and writing skills that have long defined the historical profession, students will be equipped with skills such as geographic information system (GIS) that will make them more competitive for jobs in history and history-adjacent careers.

The modifications will also strengthen the program within the region. Already one of the best funded options for an M.A. in History in the southeast, these new fields will expand the talent applying to our program from across the region.

### **Transfer and Articulation**

Identify any special articulation agreements for the modified proposed program. Provide the articulation agreement or Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding.

There are no special articulation agreements, however, course work (up to 12 credit hours) may be transferred from another institution for credit toward the degree program.

### Description of the Program

Projected Enrollment						
Year	Fall Headcount		Spring Headcount		Summer Headcount	
	New	Total	New	Total	New	Total
2025-2026	3	11	0	11	0	0
2026-2027	4	9	0	9	0	0
2027-2028	3	10	0	10	0	0
2028-2029	3	9	0	9	0	0

Explain how the enrollment projections were calculated.

The enrollment projections were calculated based on trends in enrollment in the program in the preceding 5 years. There are 11 students enrolled for the 2024-2025 academic year, but this is a larger enrollment than normal. The projections assume that 2-3 students matriculate out of the program each year. Please note that it is not anticipated that these curriculum changes will have any impact on enrollment.

### Curriculum

Attach a curriculum sheet identifying the courses required for the program.

#### Curriculum Changes

Courses Eliminated from Program	Courses Added to Program	Core Courses Modified
	HIST 504	
	HIST 600	
	HIST 601	

#### New Courses

List and provide course descriptions for new courses.

HIST 504 - Spatial Approaches to Historical Research (3 Credits)

Introduction to the application of spatial thinking and methods to historical questions.

HIST 600 – Approaches to Global History (3 credits)

Examines historical approaches to world and global history from various places, time periods, and positionalities.

HIST 601 – Science, Technology, and Environment: A Historical Introduction (3 credits)

Examines in the intersections of science, technology, environment and human societies in history.

### Similar Programs in South Carolina offered by Public and Independent Institutions

Identify the similar programs offered and describe the similarities and differences for each program.

Program Name and Designation	Total Credit Hours	Institution	Similarities	Differences
History, MA	33	College of Charleston	Strengths in US history, and sub-fields in Atlantic History and History of Religion	USC's program will offer Global and Interdisciplinary field options not listed in the CofC program; the CofC program has fields in African, European, Southern, Twentieth-Century, and Public History that are not part of USC's MA in History.
History, MA	30	Clemson University	Digital History offerings	The degrees appear to have distinct structures. USC's master's requires students declare primary and secondary fields from approved bulletin fields. The Clemson program does not appear to have this structure. Moreover, an MA student at USC will only be able to take digital history as a secondary field, not as a primary field.
Digital History, PhD	59	Clemson University	Digital History offerings	The MA in History allows students to choose from multiple fields for their major and minor. Digital history makes up only one part of one of the fields, Public, Digital, and Interdisciplinary History. The PhD at Clemson is built around digital history as a field.
Military History, MA	30	The Citadel	Credit requirement	The Citadel's degree is fully online, and USC's is not. USC currently does not have any field or specialization in military history.

History, MA	30	Winthrop	Credit requirement	Winthrop offers a thesis or non-thesis track, which USC does not. It requires a thesis. Moreover, USC requires students complete primary and secondary fields; Winthrop does not.
-------------	----	----------	--------------------	---

### Faculty

State whether new faculty, staff or administrative personnel are needed to implement the program modification; if so, discuss the plan and timeline for hiring the personnel. Provide a brief explanation of any personnel reassignment as a result of the proposed program modification.

There will be no new faculty, staff or administrative personnel as a result of these changes. All resources are already in place.

### Resources

Identify new library, instructional equipment and facilities needed to support the modified program.

**Library Resources:** No additional library resources are needed to support this program modification.

**Equipment:** No additional equipment is needed to support this program modification.

**Facilities:** No additional facilities are needed to support this program modification.

### Impact on Existing Programs

Will the proposed program impact existing degree programs or services at the institution (e.g., course offerings or enrollment)? If yes, explain

☐ Yes

☒ No

### Financial Support

Estimated Sources of Financing for the New Costs						
Category	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	Total
Tuition Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0
Program-Specific Fees	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special State Appropriation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reallocation of Existing Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal, Grant, or Other Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>						
Estimated New Costs by Year						
Category	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	Total
Program Administration and Faculty and Staff Salaries	0	0	0	0	0	0
Facilities, Equipment, Supplies, and Materials	0	0	0	0	0	0
Library Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (specify)	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Total (i.e., Sources of Financing Minus Estimated New Costs)</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0



**Budget Justification**

Provide a brief explanation for all new costs and sources of financing identified in the Financial Support table.

The proposed degree changes will not result in any additional courses or sources of funding for the program. All faculty and resources are already in place.

**Evaluation and Assessment**

<b>Program Objectives</b>	<b>Student Learning Outcomes Aligned to Program Objectives</b>	<b>Methods of Assessment</b>
Graduates will have substantial familiarity with two fields of history, including current trends in historiography. They will develop expertise in a major field that is defined geographically and chronologically (e.g., modern Europe, early modern Europe, Latin America, US to 1877, US since 1789) or thematically (CIED, STE) and at least one minor field thematic field that is not confined to the geographic and chronological boundaries of the major field (i.e., is not a subfield of the major field).	Students will demonstrate competence in two fields of history	Students will produce Historiographical papers, and complete a Masters Thesis and Comprehensive Exams
Graduates will be able to conceptualize and complete substantial original research projects.	Students will produce significant contributions to scholarship prior to completing the MA thesis.	Students will produce papers considered publishable in peer-reviewed journals or appropriate for presentation at a scholarly meeting.
	Students will produce MA theses that contribute to scholarship in their major field.	Students will write MA theses
Graduates will possess the professional knowledge and skills needed to advance to suitable academic positions or other appropriate employment.	Students who serve as graduate teaching assistants will develop competence as teachers.	Students who serve as graduate teaching assistants will demonstrate instructional competence to supervising faculty and undergraduates.
	Students will become familiar with the employment options for which the MA in History is a valuable credential and will identify paths most likely to lead to fulfillment of their individual career goals.	The direct measure for this will be discussions in class regarding employment.

Will any the proposed modification impact the way the program is evaluated and assessed? If yes, explain.

☐ Yes

☒ No

Will the proposed modification affect or result in program-specific accreditation? If yes, explain; and, if the modification will result in the program seeking program-specific accreditation, provide the institution's plans to seek accreditation, including the expected timeline.

☐ Yes

☒ No

Will the proposed modification affect or lead to licensure or certification? If yes, identify the licensure or certification.

☐ Yes

☒ No

Explain how the program will prepare students for this licensure or certification.

If the program is an Educator Preparation Program, does the proposed certification area require national recognition from a Specialized Professional Association (SPA)? If yes, describe the institution's plans to seek national recognition, including the expected timeline. N/A

☐ Yes

☐ No

## Degree Requirements (30 hours)

The M.A. in History is offered in the following fields:

- Global, Comparative and Connective
- History of Science, Technology, and Environment
- Latin America
- U.S. to 1877
- U.S. since 1789

M.A. candidates choose two fields of specialization: a major and minor field.

## Course Work (30 hours)

Credit hours shall be distributed as follows:

Introductory Course (3 hours)

Course	Course List Title	Credits
HIST 720	Introduction to the Study of History	3

Major Field (12 hours)

Students must take 12 credit hours in the selected major field.

### ***U.S. to 1877***

Course	Course List Title	Credits
All students must take HIST 701 and 702		
HIST 701	Reading Seminar in Colonial American History	3
HIST 702	Reading Seminar in American History, 1789-1876	3
For the remaining credits, students may pick from the following:		6
HIST 700	Topics in History	
HIST 752	Readings in American Colonial History	
HIST 757	African American Women in Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries	
HIST 764	History of American Women	
WGST 764	History of American Women	
HIST 797	American Historiography	

***U.S. Since 1789***

Course List		Credits
Course	Title	
All students must take HIST 702 and HIST 703		
HIST 702	Reading Seminar in American History, 1789-1876	3
HIST 703	Reading Seminar in American History since 1876	3
For remaining credit requirements, students may pick from the following:		6
HIST 640	South Carolina History	
HIST 700	Topics in History	
HIST 755	Contemporary United States	
HIST 757	African American Women in Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries	
HIST 764	History of American Women	
HIST 797	American Historiography	
WGST 764	History of American Women	

***Latin America***

Course List		Credits
Course	Title	
HIST 773	History of Mexico	3
HIST 774	Atlantic World History, 15th to 19th Century	3
HIST 775	Comparative History of Slavery in the Americas from the 15th to the 19th Century	3
HIST 776	History of Brazil	3
HIST 785	Comparative History of Time	3

***History of Science, Technology, and Environment***

Course List		Credits
Course	Title	
All students must take HIST 601		
HIST 601	Science, Technology, and Environment: A Historical Introduction	3
The remaining hours requirement may be chosen from the following:		
HIST 599	Topics in History	3
HIST 712	Reading Seminar in Special Fields	3
HIST 787	Material Culture Studies	3

Course List		Credits
Course	Title	
HIST 777	Theory and Methodology of Religious History	3

***Global, Comparative, and Connective***

Course List		
Course	Title	Credits
All students must take HIST 600		
HIST 600	Approaches to Global History	3
The remaining required hours may be chosen from the following:		
HIST 741	Readings in the Social History of Sport	3
HIST 777	Theory and Methodology of Religious History	3
HIST 778	Global History of Capitalism: Approaches and Issues	3
HIST 774	Atlantic World History, 15th to 19th Century	3
HIST 775	Comparative History of Slavery in the Americas from the 15th to the 19th Century	3
HIST 785	Comparative History of Time	3

With advisor permission, select up to 3 credits of Independent Study in the Regional and Area Studies Courses listed in the Academic Bulletin.

**Minor Fields (9 hours)**

Each student must identify a minor field composed of 9 credit hours. The minor field must come from the major fields listed above. In consultation with their advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies, students may explore focus areas within these fields, including but not limited to: African American History; Histories of Gender and Sexuality; Public, Digital & Interdisciplinary History (PDI); History of Religion; Atlantic History; History of Magic and Occult Sciences; and Histories of Urbanization and Sustainability. MA students may also take a secondary field in Public, Digital, and Interdisciplinary history.

In order for graduate students to be trained broadly in the discipline of history, the secondary or tertiary field should not both be a subset of the primary field, and clearly distinguishable as a separate field of study.

***Public, Digital, and Interdisciplinary History***

*Take 9 credits from the areas listed below. Credits may come from a single topic or draw from both topics as deemed necessary by the advisor. Normally, students may apply up to 6 hours non-HIST courses to their degree.*

Course List		
Course	Title	Credits
Public and Digital History (up to 9 hours)		
HIST 504	Spatial Approaches to Historical Research	3
HIST 692	Historic Preservation Field Experience--Charleston, S.C.	3
HIST 781	History and Theory of Museums	3
HIST 786	Comparative Applied History, U.S. and U.K.	3
HIST 787	Material Culture Studies	3
HIST 788	Memory, History, and Space	3
HIST 789	Historic Site Interpretation	3
ANTH 745	Seminar in Historical Archaeology	3
ANTH 782	Language Ideology: The Political Economy of Language Beliefs and Practices	3
ARTH 542	History of American Architecture	3
ISCI 560	Data Visualization	3
ISCI 782	Social Justice Storytelling and Advocacy	3
MUSM 700	Administration and Management of Museums	3
MUSM 701	Exhibition Development	3
MUSM 704	Collecting, Collections Management, and Curatorial Practice	3
Interdisciplinary History and Methods (up to 12 hours)		
HIST 504	Spatial Approaches to Historical Research	3
HIST 601	Science, Technology, and Environment: A Historical Introduction	3
HIST 816	Historical Research Methods	3
ENGL 566	Special Topics in U.S. Film and Media	3
ENGL 741	Special Topics in African American Literature and Culture	3
WGST 701	Feminist Theories and Epistemologies	3
WGST 797	Seminar in Women's Studies	3

#### 800-Level Research Seminar (3 hours)

Course List		
Course	Title	Credits
Choose one of the following:		
HIST 800	Topics in History Research	3

Course List		Credits
Course	Title	
HIST 802	Research Seminar in American History, 1789-1876	3
HIST 803	Research Seminar in American History, 1876-present	3
HIST 811	Research Seminar in Latin American History	3

#### **Thesis Preparation (3 hours)**

Course List		Credits
Course	Title	
HIST 799	Thesis Preparation	3-9

#### **Additional Information**

The M.A. thesis will be an expanded version of the student's 800-level research seminar paper, revised to the standard of a potentially publishable article-length essay. Normally, students will submit the thesis in the semester after completion of the 800-level research seminar paper, but students who complete their 800-level seminar in their first year may petition the Graduate Committee to submit their thesis during their final semester in the M.A. program. The thesis must be submitted in accordance with the regulations of The Graduate School.

Following successful completion of an 800-level research seminar, students will take an oral comprehensive examination on their thesis. In this examination, students will be asked to place their thesis in historiographic perspective. Normally, students will take the comprehensive examination in the semester after they complete an 800-level seminar. However, students who complete an 800-level seminar in their first year may petition the Graduate Committee to take their M.A. examination during their final semester in the program.

Candidates for the M.A. degree shall file a program of study during their first semester of study and in no case later than 12 months after entering the program. Candidates for the M.A. in History take a minimum of 30 semester hours, of which not more than 6 hours are for the thesis. Course selection must take into account the Graduate School regulation for the M.A. that "at least half of the credit hours on the Program of Study, exclusive of thesis preparation (799), must be earned in courses numbered 700 and above.

Normally, master's students will be allowed to take 3 credits of independent study. In most cases, independent studies will be limited to secondary fields and/or less commonly taught areas within the approved bulletin fields. Normally, students will be allowed to apply up to 3 credits of non-HIST courses to their MA coursework.

Every M.A. student shall prove competency in at least one foreign language or appropriate methodology. Additional languages and/or methodological requirements will be determined by the student's program advisory committee when the chosen fields or research interests demand more