

Departmental Minor Fields

Overview

In the Fall of 2006 the History Department revised the system of minor fields, replacing the “Departmental Inside Minor” and the “Departmental Outside Minor” with a single “Departmental Minor Field.” (We call it a “departmental” minor field to distinguish it from the more ambitious “Minors” that the Graduate School recognizes, but in practice it is just a “minor field.”)

The Minor Fields, which should complement the dissertation topic, can take various forms. The options include:

- A field of study in a geographic area outside the focus of the Major Field.
- A field of study in History of Science.
- An already established field of study that crosses sectional lines, such as Atlantic History, Gender History, Legal History. (In some cases the requirements for these fields will exceed the minimum requirements set by the department.)
- A more “customized” topical field that crosses sectional and even disciplinary boundaries. The field should complement and support the student’s dissertation research, but it should not be too narrow. One useful way to assess the breadth of the field is that it should be broad enough to support an undergraduate lecture course.
- A field expressly defined to support undergraduate teaching goals. This might be within a given section (Latin American History), but it could be defined topically (Gender History, Environmental History, World History).

Course Requirements:

The Departmental Minor Field must include:

- At least 9 credit hours.
- No more than 3 of these 9 credit hours can be in the form of a trailer.
- No more than 3 of these 9 credit hours can be in the form of an independent study.

These 9 credit hours can include courses taken outside the history department.

Procedures and Guidelines

- The Departmental Minor should be defined by the student in consultation with the major advisor and the designated Minor Field advisor.
- The major advisor may not serve as the Minor Field advisor, although s/he may serve as the second reader for the Qualifying Examinations.
- If the student opts for a tailored topical Minor Field (as opposed to one of the established fields) the topic must be approved by the Graduate Coordinator.
- The student should indicate the Minor Field on the Plan of Study form.

- All EUH students must declare a Departmental Minor field and meet the 9 credit requirements listed above. In most cases EUH students will be able to establish their Departmental Minor Field based on their supporting field or their outside field.

The Reading List and Qualifying Examination

- The student, in consultation with the members of the examining committee (and particularly the Minor Field Advisor) will produce a reading list of at least 50 books, articles, and chapters. This reading list will be the basis of the Departmental Minor examination
- This reading list should stretch well beyond the student's Major Field. If the Minor Field is defined topically, at least 25 of the titles should either be on a geographic area outside of the Major Field and/or theoretical or comparative titles that extend the student beyond the geographic or disciplinary boundaries of the Major Field.
- A member of the Supervisory Committee (other than the major advisor) will be designated as the Minor Field Advisor. This Minor Field Advisor will take the principle role in shaping the reading list and arranging the Minor Field examination.
- Since EUH students are already taking two written examinations outside of their Major Field, they are not required to take a separate written examination on the Departmental Minor Field. (They are, however, required to declare a Departmental Minor Field supported by 9 credit hours of coursework at UF.)
- The Minor Field examination is a written exam, prepared by the Minor Field Advisor in consultation with the other members of the Supervisory Committee from related fields. The exam can be a take-home exam or an on-site exam (usually the former).
- See the Orientation Handbook for guidelines about scheduling and taking examinations.