Preparation for the Doctor of Philosophy degree is more than the completion of courses, the accumulation of credit hours, and the performance of research assignments. Preparation leads the candidate toward a level of proficiency that qualifies the student to make a notable contribution to scholarship and post-secondary education. The fully prepared candidate demonstrates mastery of historical materials, an ability to coordinate information, a capacity for critical analysis of issues and data, effectiveness in conducting independent research, and skill in expressing ideas orally and in writing.

At present, the department offers the PhD in three fields:

- United States since 1877
- North American West (U.S., Canada and Mexico)
- Modern Europe (1750-present)

List your preferred areas of emphasis

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