

BA, International Honours Planning Guide



We have developed this guide and planning tool to assist students in planning their path through the BA Int Hons degree. It is a good idea to review this guide and plan prior to each advising meeting. For a complete list of regulations and policies, consult the W&M Catalog and St Andrews policy documents. While this guide summarizes the key points of the degree, students are expected to also consult and become familiar with all degree requirements and policies in the W&M catalog and St Andrews Policy documents. Links to these documents are found in the Resources section.

Resources

[DegreeWorks](#) – This site allows you to track your progress through your major and degree. Note that your advisor is also listed here. Requirements that have been met will have a green checkmark. Those in progress are marked blue. Contact your advisor if you have questions about what is marked or not marked as completed.

[W&M JDP website](#) – “For Current Students” section has more detailed information about the curriculum and contact information for your advisor. Also contains information on resources available to JDP students while at W&M.

[St Andrews BA Int Hons website](#) – information about advising and resources available to BA Int Hons students while at St Andrews.

[W&M Catalog](#) and [St Andrews policy document](#) – explains all policies and regulations for the BA Int Hons degree including continuance standards, leave, and grading.

Sub-honours Years

During sub-honours years, students should focus on passing all major-required classes/modules, passing a COLL 150 (the Lower Division Writing Requirement) at W&M, and meeting (nearly) all proficiencies and breadth requirements. Note that proficiencies and breadth requirements can be met with pre-matriculation credit (AP, IB, etc). Items met with pre-matriculation credit will show as completed in DegreeWorks but note that no credit will be awarded. A single class (either pre- or post-matriculation) can meet up to two breadth requirements and/or proficiencies. For example, a COLL 150 in BIOL can meet the World of Nature breadth requirement AND satisfy the Lower Division Writing Requirement).

In the spirit of the liberal arts, students are encouraged to take classes that interest them outside of their major. These classes may also enable exploration of possible minors. Completing the introductory courses for a minor during sub-honours is often required in order to meet minor requirements. Consult the W&M catalog for a list of minors and their requirements. Note that completing a minor is difficult and requires advance planning.

In late January of the second year, students will decide where to spend the third year of the degree. To make this decision, we recommend that students consider what kind of research experience they wish to pursue during their fourth year: St Andrews dissertation or project, W&M Honors Thesis, or W&M independent study or capstone coursework (see details in the major guidelines section). Students are encouraged to speak with their major advisor, peer advisors and 3rd and 4th year students in the Programme to learn more. This is particularly important if a student wishes to complete a W&M Honors Thesis: each major has different processes, so early conversations are necessary to facilitate finding the right thesis advisor and meeting requirements in a timely manner.

Honours Years

During honours years, students should focus on

- 1) passing all major-required courses/modules;
- 2) ensuring that all proficiencies and breadth requirements will be met prior to graduation;
- 3) passing sufficient 300(0) and 400(0) classes/modules; and
- 4) completing the research requirement/capstone.

Nearly *all* courses/modules taken during honours should be at the 300(0) or 400(0) level. When taking a normal load of 60 credits during honours years, no more than 7.5 credits can be at 100 and 200 level. Students who are completing minors should be especially careful of the credit count requirements. Consult the BA International honours checklist or the W&M catalog for the list of the credit requirements during honours years.

Students may participate in graduation ceremonies at both institutions. In addition, students will need to apply to graduate at both institutions, regardless of whether they will attend both ceremonies or attend only one. W&M Latin Honors will be determined based upon the student's GPA calculated across *all four years*. St Andrews Degree Classification will be determined based upon the GPA of all 300(0) and 400(0) level courses taken *during honours years*. See the St Andrews policy documents for a description of how Degree Classifications are calculated.

Guidelines for the History Major

COLL 150

Your COLL 150 *does not need* to be in History. In fact, it can be advantageous to choose a COLL 150 that also meets a breadth requirement.

Sub-Honours (lower-level) History courses

Students can take the American, non-western, and European history requirements at both institutions. To facilitate the completion of these requirements, History majors at William & Mary should aim to take (all or most of) their American and non-western history major requirements there. History majors at St Andrews should aim to complete their European history requirements there. This is a guide, of course, and not a requirement, and it is intended to help you plan your schedule.

Historical Methods

All history majors must complete a history methods course. Student can either take the HIST 301: Historian's Craft in year 2 at W&M or HI 2001: History as a Discipline: Development and Key Concepts in year 2 at St Andrews.

Honours (upper-level) Classics courses

The upper-level requirements do not have to be taken in any particular order.

Many 300-level W&M history courses count as 400(0)-level for the purposes of the degree: ask your advisor. At W&M, any of the 300-level and 400-level courses can be taken in year 3 or year 4.

Not all upper-level courses in the catalog are offered every year.

Fourth Year Research Requirement

At St. Andrews

To fulfill the History Colloquium requirement: If students spend their 3rd year at W&M and then their 4th year at St Andrews, they must take a required History Colloquium, such as HIST 490C or HIST 491C, while at W&M.

To fulfill the Capstone Experience requirement: The Capstone Experience is typically a one-semester Honours Project (30 credits at St Andrews), though in some cases students may pursue the Honours Dissertation or Recording the Past project.

At W&M

To fulfill the History Colloquium requirement: Students spending their 4th year at W&M must take a capstone course, such as HIST 490C or HIST 491C, to fulfill the History Colloquium requirement. It is recommended to complete the capstone during the fall semester of the student's 4th year.

To fulfill the Capstone Experience requirement: Students spending their 4th year at W&M can fulfill the Capstone Experience requirement by either completing a second capstone course (a HIST 490C/491C) or an Honors Thesis (6 W&M credits). For students completing a second capstone, they should plan to complete one capstone in the fall (to fulfill the History Colloquium req.) and another one in the spring (to fulfill the Capstone Experience req.).

Students who wish to complete an Honors Thesis should plan to do so by their 3rd year. Ideally, students interested in this route will contact a W&M professor they would like to supervise their senior Honors Thesis by late fall of their 3rd year. Deciding to complete a thesis early will allow the student to apply to W&M's Charles Center for summer funding to complete their honors thesis research. The Charles Center summer funding applications are usually due at the beginning of the spring semester of a student's 3rd year, so planning ahead is critical if students would like to apply (this is optional). Students interested in completing an Honors Thesis should first consult the Department of History's website, [Honors Program](#).