



June 28, 2021

Dr. Michael Baumgartner  
Executive Director  
Coordinating Commission for  
Postsecondary Education  
140 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Michael:

Enclosed is a copy of the proposal to create the Master of Arts in History and Government in the Department of History and Department of Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences at UNO. The proposal was approved by the Board of Regents at the June 25, 2021 meeting. Also enclosed is the Proposal for New Instructional Program Form 92-40.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan M. Fritz".

Susan M. Fritz, PhD  
Executive Vice President and Provost

Enclosures

c: Chancellor Jeffrey Gold  
Senior Vice Chancellor Sacha Kopp  
Dean David Boocker, College of Arts and Sciences  
Vice Provost David Jackson

**COORDINATING COMMISSION  
FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

140 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 300  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Telephone: (402) 471-2847  
FAX: (402) 471-2886

**PROPOSAL FOR NEW INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM**

Form 92-40

**SECTION I**

Institution Submitting Proposal: University of Nebraska at Omaha

Title of Program: History and Government

CIP Code: 30.4601

Organizational Unit in which program will be located:

Department of History and Department of Political Science

College of Arts and Sciences

Name of contact person in the event additional information is needed: Dr. Susan M. Fritz

Telephone: 402-472-5242

Degree, Diploma, or Certificate to be offered (use separate submittal for each level):

Master of Arts in History and Government

Proposed date to initiate program: When approved by the Coordinating Commission

List the location(s) where this program will be offered: UNO

If the program has a projected ending date, please so indicate:

Date approved by Governing Board: June 25, 2021

(Attach all documents related to this proposal upon which the Governing Board made its decision to approve the proposal.)

Chief Executive Officer's or other Authorized Officer's signature:

  
Susan M. Fritz

TO: The Board of Regents Addendum XI-A-8  
Academic Affairs Committee

MEETING DATE: June 25, 2021

SUBJECT: Creation of a Master of Arts in History and Government in the Department of History and Department of Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Nebraska at Omaha

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval to create a Master of Arts (MA) in History and Government in the Department of History and Department of Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO)

PREVIOUS ACTION: March 29, 2019 – Expedited approval of the History Graduate Certificate in the Department of History in the College of Arts and Sciences at UNO was reported to the Board.

June 1, 2017 – The renaming of the American Government Graduate Certificate to the Government Graduate Certificate in the Department of Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences at UNO was reported to the Board.

December 3, 2015 – Expedited approval of the American Government Graduate Certificate in the Department of Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences at UNO was reported to the Board.

The Master of Arts (MA) in History and the Master of Science (MS) in Political Science at UNO were established prior to modern records of Board approvals.

EXPLANATION: To better address the needs of secondary social studies teachers who may need to teach dual enrollment college courses in history and government, the UNO History and Political Science Departments have worked to integrate their individual government and history 18-credit hour certificates into a fully online or in-person/online (hybrid) 36-credit hour Master of Arts degree in History and Government. Credits earned towards either graduate certificate will apply towards the new proposed program. This new master's degree will benefit educators' employment and marketability and will benefit students seeking a more in-depth, graduate-level understanding of history and government. No new resources will be required to offer this degree.

This proposal has been approved by the Council of Academic Officers and the Executive Graduate Council. This proposal also has been reviewed by the Academic Affairs Committee.

PROGRAM COST: \$0 (No new faculty or resources are needed to operate this program.)

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Tuition and fees

SPONSORS: Sacha E. Kopp  
Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Jeffrey P. Gold, Chancellor  
University of Nebraska at Omaha

RECOMMENDED:

/s/ Susan M. Fritz  
Executive Vice President and Provost

DATE:

May 21, 2021



January 4, 2021

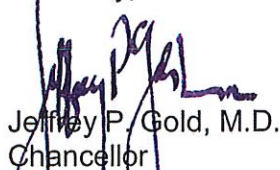
Ted Carter, President  
University of Nebraska  
3835 Holdrege Street  
Lincoln, NE 68583  
president@nebraska.edu

Dear President Carter,

The University of Nebraska at Omaha requests the creation of a MA in History and Government and a graduate certificate in Spanish for Healthcare Practitioners.

The proposals have the support of the UNO Graduate Council, the Educational Policy Advisory Committee, Academic Affairs Leadership, and Chancellor's Cabinet. I fully support the proposals and I am requesting your approval as well.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.  
Chancellor

Enc (3) UNO History and Government MA Proposal  
UNO Certificate – Spanish for Healthcare Practitioners  
UNO Spanish Healthcare Certificate Expenses/Revenue

cc: Susan Fritz, Executive Vice President and Provost  
Sacha Kopp, Senior Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs  
Deborah Smith-Howell, Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs  
and Dean of Graduate Studies



## Master of Arts in History and Government Proposal

### Descriptive Information

- Name of institution proposing the program:  
The University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO)
- Name of the program proposed:  
Master of Arts in History and Government
- Degrees/credentials to be awarded graduates of the program: MA
- Other programs offered in this field by this institution:  
Department of History: 18-credit hour History Certificate: online and on-campus  
Department of History: 36-credit hour MA in History: online and on-campus  
Department of Political Science: 18-credit hour Certificate in Government: online and on-campus  
Department of Political Science: 30-credit hour MS in Political Science: online and on-campus  
*Please see "Program of Study" Section for credit transfer information*
- CIP code: 30.4601
- List the administrative units for the program: (e.g., college, division, department, etc.)  
University of Nebraska at Omaha, Graduate College, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Political Science, Department of History
- Proposed delivery site(s), and type(s) of delivery, if applicable:  
Online and/or UNO's Dodge Street Campus. The MA in History and Government can be earned completely online or a mix of courses that are online and on-campus.
- Proposed date (term/year) the program will be initiated:  
Upon approval

### 1. Description and Purpose of the Proposed Program

UNO's Departments of History and Political Science each have created 18-credit hour certificates aimed at educators in high schools and community colleges who already have a master's in an outside field, but need 18 credit hours in either history or political science for accreditation purposes to teach specific courses. A significant reason for the creation of the History and Government graduate certificates were to meet the needs of secondary educators who had been teaching dual enrollment courses with the previous requirement of a master's degree in any field, many of whom earned a graduate degree in Education given that social studies high school teachers are regularly moved between subjects, but now needed 18 credit hours in the field of history or government to continue offering these courses per new Higher Learning Commission (HLC) requirements. To better address the needs of new educators who have a master's degree, but who may need to teach dual enrollment courses in history and/or government, the History and Political Science Departments have worked to integrate their

individual 18-credit hour certificates into a 36-credit hour Master of Arts in History and Government. Credits earned towards the graduate certificates will apply towards the new proposed program. Although the primary audience for this new master's program is secondary social studies teachers, this program is open to any individual. The respective departments believe this new master's degree will benefit not just our educators in their job-market marketability, but also will benefit their students with a more in-depth, graduate-level understanding of both history and government.

This new master's program, as previously noted, is ideal for secondary social studies educators without a master's who would prefer a subject-matter graduate degree rather than one in Education Administration, Curriculum Development, or other related Educational master's programs that many social studies teachers currently have. Yet, this program is open to individuals who have interest in both History and Political Science. The curricular difference between the new blended master's, rather than completing the two 18-credit hour certificates individually, is the inclusion of a methodology course and an exit requirement of a comprehensive exam to demonstrate their context mastery as well as analytical and critical thinking skills. The curriculum will be elaborated on below.

The first important note is that although students are welcome to take courses on-campus, this program can be completed completely online. This online availability increases the range of potential students by making graduate work accessible to working professionals and for those living in geographically isolated regions such as western Nebraska.

Second, it is important to note that the vast majority of these courses will be taught by tenure-track faculty who are experts in their subfield. This is unique to many online programs who hire adjuncts and/or have a master course created by one individual and then graded by adjuncts. This model is common in institutions such as Southern New Hampshire University, Ashland University, and American Military University.

Third, there is an externally funded audience for this program, the James Madison Fellows (JMF). The foundation funds about 50 new fellows per year, all of whom are history and/or government high school teachers. UNO's Political Science program has enrolled 10 fellows from across the country, including residents of Nebraska, Maine, South Carolina, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and Ohio. Currently the vast majority of fellows are attending Ashland University (Ohio), which has a blended Master's in History and Government (discussed below). In addition to these fellowships, many states, districts, and institutions also offer funding for their educators to earn graduate degrees in a content area to comply with state goals and new accreditation requirements. For example, at UNO, the Dual Enrollment Office has provided funding for Omaha Public Schools (OPS)-area teachers to get up to speed on the HLC's new requirements for high school teachers to continue to offer dual enrollment course. To illustrate the interest in this program at the teacher-level, in the first week of February (2021), the History and Political Science Departments have received two inquiries from educators, one in Omaha and one in Texas, who were deciding between a History and Political Science master's, and who voiced their interest in a program that blended the two.

## 2. Program of Study

### i. Admission requirements:

- -3.0 GPA
- -Official transcripts from each institution where student earned college credit
- -UNO application
- -Resume
- -Letter of intent/Statement of purpose
- -2 letters of recommendation written by individuals who can attest to the applicant's graduate school capabilities, such as a supervisor or former faculty member
- -Academic writing sample
- -80 internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with no subsection score under 15. All applicants to Graduate Studies whose language of nurture is not English must present a score on the TOEFL. Automatic waivers from this policy are granted for persons who have received a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from an institution in the United States OR for applicants who have received or will be receiving a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from a pre-determined country on the waiver list.

### ii. Major topics

- -US history
- -World history
- -American government
- -Comparative government

### iii. Courses and credit hours required

- 36 credit hours
- History (18 credit hours)
  - Required Seminars (9 credit hours)
    - HIST 8030 (3cr) Historiography
    - HIST 9200 (3cr) Colloquium (Themes in Global History)
    - HIST 9200 (3cr) Colloquium (Themes in US History)
  - Electives (9 credit hours)
    - Selected from any other history graduate courses
- Political Science (18 credit hours)
  - Required Seminars (6 credit hours from the list below)
    - PSCI 8040: Seminar in American Government
    - PSCI 8250: Seminar in International Relations
    - PSCI 8300: Seminar in Political Theory
    - PSCI 8500: Seminar in Comparative Government
  - Electives (12 credit hours from PSCI course offering)



**Coursework policies:**

- -No more than two courses can end in -5.
- -A minimum of 18 credit hours of graduate-only courses must be taken
- -Former UNO undergraduates cannot take a cross-listed graduate course that they took at the undergraduate level.

**iv. Areas of concentration (if applicable)**

- No concentrations will be offered

**v. Degree completion requirements**

1. Students who are deficient in a subfield may be required to take a provisional assigned course prior to graduate courses in said subfield.
2. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 with no more than one grade of C or below.
3. Final assessment of
  - A: Comprehensive exams in students' seminar subfield topics administered within their last semester of the degree program, or second to last semester if student will graduate in August and only has three remaining credits/one course remaining as long as said course is not a seminar requirement.
  - OR
  - B: A portfolio of coursework to be evaluated by relevant faculty other than instructor for said course.
4. Students may be dismissed from the program after:
  - Not enrolling in and/or successfully completing a course after two consecutive years.
  - Earning three or more W grades.
  - Earning more than one Grade of C or below. *Under extenuating circumstances, students may apply for a waiver of one or more of these policies to the GPC. If a waiver is granted, students may be updated to the most recent catalog year. Students who do not successfully complete a course during their admit term, or allowed deferment time, will be dismissed from the program. Students may reapply to the program if dismissed for inactivity.*

**Notes on Transfer Credits and Curriculum Flexibility:**

1. We foresee that some students will begin with either the History or Government Certificate, and will then elect to complete the full new, blended master's program. In such cases, those student's courses will roll over into their new MA program, provided they meet the program requirements.
2. We will also accept up to 12 credit hours of transfer credits from another accredited institution (including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln [UNL] and the University of Nebraska at Kearney [UNK]) provided the course fulfills program requirements. There will be no limit to the number of credit hours that can be transferred from NU institutions into this program, provided that the courses fulfill program requirements.
3. The program will uphold the 18 credit history and 18 credit political science course requirements; however, if a student has a unique need that deviates from these

requirements, the graduate chair will work one-on-one with said student to meet their needs, pending any replacement course is determined to fit program requirements.

### **Notes on Program Governance:**

This new program will be governed by a graduate committee consisting of four individuals. These four individuals will include the Political Science Graduate Chair and the History Graduate Chair in addition to one other faculty member from each department.

The PSCI and HIST Graduate Chairs will alternate serving as this program's graduate chair every three years. Initially, the other two committee members will be the department chairs from each department.

Students will be advised by the sitting graduate chair.

### **3. Faculty, Staff, and other Resources**

No new staff, faculty, or other resources are needed to create or implement this program in the next five years. The Department of Political Science has an existing staff line dedicated to advising students. This person also will advise students in the MA in History and Government and handle the day-to-day operations of this program. If enrollment grows exponentially, additional resources may be allocated. The tuition revenue is anticipated at \$300,000 over the next five years.

### **4. Evidence of Need and Demand**

#### **• Employment and Educational Opportunities for Graduates:**

- Many secondary educators prefer to teach dual enrollment and other advanced courses for a number of reasons, which this degree would help them achieve. For example, graduates may be able to teach dual enrollment and/or community college courses in history and/or government pending the requirements of their regional accreditation agency and district/institution. For educators who teach dual enrollment through UNO's political science and history departments, this degree program would be acceptable. Currently, we do PSCI does not approve teachers with a history graduate degree to teach PSCI dual enrollment courses.
- Graduates may also be in a position to develop or provide a new course opportunity for their students. For example, instead of offering just civics, they could offer American government through Dual Enrollment agreements. Districts that may already offer Dual Enrollment American courses, may not have the qualified staff to also provide a Dual Enrollment comparative course, which a graduate may be able to address.
- Graduates who are public school teachers will increase their salary. For example, in Omaha Public Schools, a graduate will get paid about \$4,000 more per year than if they were only to have an undergraduate degree. For more information on OPS' salary schedule see: <https://omahaoea.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/MASTER->

[AGREEMENT-Booklet-2018-2019-3.pdf](#). Current and prospective students have indicated that salary increases are a major motivator for seeking a Master's Degree.

- **Enrollment Projections:**

- Number of students expected to enroll in the program in each of the first five years of operation and basis for the estimate.

**Year 1 (2020-21) 3:** Number will be low due to inability to advertise program until July 1, when the new catalog is released.

**Year 2 (2021-22) 3 to 5 (new enrollees):** We will be more known among the James Madison Fellows and therefore foresee at least three fellows with the other two being additional educators.

**Years 3-5: 5 to 7 (new enrollees):** We foresee an average of seven new enrollees in each of the next two years based on conversations with current dual enrollment teachers in the area and those who are seeking dual enrollment employment.

- These numbers are based on educated guesses as a result of inquiries, patterns of JMF enrollments and new certificate rollouts.
- Due to most of our anticipated students being working professionals, we foresee students completing the degree in an average of four years. Therefore, once established, we expect to have 15 to 20 students taking courses any one given time and five to seven students graduating every academic year. Because these courses overlap with existing history and political science courses, we expect said existing courses to have increased student enrollment and potentially a few extra courses or additional sections offered to meet demand.

- **Community, State, and National Need:**

**REASON 1: New HLC Requirements**

Social studies teachers are shuffled around between courses, leading to most earning a master's in education. Under new HLC guidelines requiring dual enrollment and community college instructors to have a master's degree in the field they teach or a master's degree in any field and 18 credit hours in the field they teach, they are prevented from teaching dual enrollment courses. Therefore, there is a need for accessible, affordable, and quality distance programs for educators to teach/continue to teach these courses.

*Higher Learning Commission Policy:* <https://www.hlcommission.org/Policies/assumed-practices.html>

**REASON 2: Rural Recruiting and Rural Quality of Education Problems**

- A. The need for qualified teachers is especially acute in rural school districts in Nebraska and elsewhere which have a harder time recruiting and are less likely to be located within driving distance of a graduate program. Thus, providing an online option that meeting the need in two disciplines is attractive.

*Inside Higher Education*

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/01/23/colleges-and-states-scramble-comply-instructor-credential-rules-dual-credit-courses>

- B. A publication, authored by UNK's Dawn Mollenkopf highlights rural recruitment areas, discussing online graduate options for these educators were a good way to meet the demand for highly qualified educators in rural communities.

<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ869313.pdf>

### **REASON 3: Job Growth in Secondary Education**

The U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL) estimates national job growth among those in the sectors that are most directly served by this proposed degree program.

First, between 2018 and 2028, overall **secondary school education employment** is projected to **increase** about 4%, and 14% among private schools in particular.

*US DOL:* <https://data.bls.gov/projections/nationalMatrix?queryParams=25-2031&ioType=o>

Second, total employment among post-secondary school **history teachers** is projected to **increase** about 9%, all public and private state colleges, universities, and professional schools.

*US DOL:* <https://data.bls.gov/projections/nationalMatrix?queryParams=25-1125&ioType=o>

Finally, total employment among post-secondary school **political science teachers** is projected to **increase** about 9.5%, among all public and private state colleges, universities, and professional schools.

*US DOL:* <https://data.bls.gov/projections/nationalMatrix?queryParams=25-1065&ioType=o>

### **REASON 4: Job Growth in Higher Education**

On Oct. 10, 2019, for example, listed in HigherEdJobs.com of the 378 History openings, 202 are part-time/adjunct positions and of the 446 Political Science faculty openings, 218 are for part-time/adjunct positions. The part time job requirements generally state that individuals must have a master's in History or Political Science (respectively) or a master's in a different field with 18 credit hours in relevant field.

A number of small liberal arts colleges and community colleges have combined humanities and social sciences into one department and are looking for individuals who can teach both humanities (history) and social sciences (political science).

*Inside Higher Education*

<https://www.higheredjobs.com/faculty/details.cfm?JobCode=177022298&Title=Adjunct%20%D%20College%20of%20Human%20Sciences%20and%20Humanities>

### **REASON 5: Lack of Educational Accessibility**

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact and the Education Commission of the States published a report *Increasing the Supply of Qualified High School Teachers for Dual Enrollment Programs: An Overview of State and Regional Accreditor Policies* in 2018. The report outlines

the increasing demand for Dual Enrollment courses leading to questionable quality of courses due to shortage in qualified educators. The steps to address the shortage of Dual Enrollment educators include:

1. More funding options (which the Departments will be using Dual Enrollment revenue for qualified students)
2. More alternative delivery (Online) options (which this program addresses)

It is true that the Higher Learning Commission requires accredited universities/colleges to abide by the “18 credit hour rule” -- dual enrollment teachers must either have a master’s degree in the field of instruction, or a master’s in an unrelated field with 18 credit hours in field requirements. All but eight states require some version of the 18-credit hour rule for Dual Enrollment courses to be taught in high schools. Thus, we have a nation-wide audience with accreditation and certification policies requiring Dual Enrollment educators to have relevant graduate work.

For the full report, see:

[https://www.mhec.org/sites/default/files/resources/20180607Faculty\\_Qualification\\_Policies\\_report.pdf](https://www.mhec.org/sites/default/files/resources/20180607Faculty_Qualification_Policies_report.pdf)

Another study completed by a University of Nebraska doctoral student in 2010 documents accessibility to graduate education as an important issue in rural school districts as only 1/3 of Nebraska educators in rural communities have a graduate degree, in comparison to half of their urban counterparts. In addition, fewer rural teachers were able to access top-ranking graduate programs.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1050&context=cehsedaddress>

#### **REASON 6: Community Support**

In addition to the above data, we have letters of support from the following organization stating that such a program would be a good opportunity for social studies educators:

Lincoln Public Schools  
Gross Catholic High School  
North Platte Public Schools  
Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association

#### **REASON 7: Expressed Interest in Potential Students**

As previously mentioned in the first week of February 2021, the PSCI and HIST Departments had two interested educators—one in Nebraska, one in Texas—who were debating whether to earn a History or Political Science Masters, and who indicated interest of enrolling in a blended program.

The North Platte social studies chair, Kathy Steinkamp mentioned that this program would be great as she is the only one qualified to teach dual enrollment history and government, and she knows of two educators in her district that would be interested in this program.

## **5. Partnerships with Business**

We do not have official partnerships with businesses or public entities at this point in time however we will be working with the Office of Graduate Studies and community partners to reach out to UNO's "career currency" students employed by Union Pacific, OPPD, Mutual of Omaha, and other organizations.

## **6. Collaborations within the University of Nebraska**

UNO's Departments of History and Political Science will be collaborating on recruiting, teaching, assessing, and evaluating this new combined MA in History and Government program.

UNO's History Department has discussed this new program with graduate faculty at both UNK and UNL. UNL does not have an online history or political science programs and generally works with Doctoral students rather than the target audience for this program, master's students geared toward careers in teaching. UNK offers no graduate degrees in Political Science. UNK has a completely online M.A. history program. It does not, however, target social studies teachers and offers no government component. We are supportive of inter-campus transfer courses where student may take a course with UNK if there is no equivalent course with our program, but it is important to recognize that the two programs have different goals and target audiences. By expanding into the training of social science teachers, we can collectively expand the reach of the University system.

## **7. Collaborations with Higher Education Institutions and Agencies External to the University**

We do not have official partnerships with external educational entities. Although we are looking to recruit more James Madison Fellows into our program, they, as a federal program, do not form official partnerships with institutions. That being said, members of the department of political science have established an informal working relationship with this institution. Moreover, both the departments of history and political science have successfully recruited James Madison students in the past. We are seeking to improve our performance by creating a program that can better serve fellows' needs.

## **8. Centrality to Role and Mission of the Institution**

This program upholds UNO's values of excellence, engagement, inclusion, discovery, integrity, and Maverick spirit by providing a quality graduate education to in the areas of history and government to educators and other individuals who are working professionals and/or in rural areas without the access to obtain a graduate degree in person. This program promotes engagement by strengthening the state's and broader US' educational opportunities by helping educators obtain a more in-depth understanding in the field of history and government and enabling educators to qualify to teach Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment courses in their districts.

- The proposed MA in History and Government will be available to K-12 educators in Nebraska and other locations using flexible delivery methods and course formats that will “Recruit, develop, retain, and graduate a diverse student body reflecting a dynamic metropolitan community” (UNO Strategic Plan Goal 1, Strategy 1.1).
- The proposed MA in History and Government will allow educators both locally and across the nation to earn graduate credits that will “Prepare students for academic success, careers, and professional responsibilities in an increasingly complex world” (UNO Strategic Plan Goal 1, Strategy 1.2).
- This unique degree partnership between History and Political Science supports UNO’s goals to “Identify, develop, and support interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary academic priorities” (UNO Strategic Plan Goal 2, Strategy 2.4) and “Expand opportunities designed to support experiential and continuous learning for professional advancement, career change, and personal growth (UNO Strategic Plan Goal 2, Strategy 2.6).

## **9. Consistency with the University of Nebraska’s Five-Year Strategic Plan**

The MA in History and Government builds on the University’s five-year strategic plan. Specifically, the proposal is responsive to the workforce development and partnership goals by implementing a new graduate program that addresses an important local and national need. The program allows faculty, students, and staff in the program to be engaged with K-12 teacher community in Nebraska. This program allows rural educators who are not near to an institution of higher education develop lifelong educational opportunities through online graduate coursework. In addition, this proposal is responsive to the goal of Accessible, Affordable, and Attainable Education as it will provide Nebraskans and non-Nebraskans an affordable high-quality program and provide educators, with professional development to improve their teaching and to be able to provide districts with highly qualified educators to teach Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment courses in history and government.

## **10. Avoidance of Unnecessary Duplication**

In creating this new program, we are not creating new and perhaps unnecessary course work that might present staffing issues for the departments of history and political science; we are merely augmenting and growing our current certificate and MA programs in both departments that can serve the needs of a new cohort of students.

At the Nebraska-university system level, there are no combined History and Government Programs. UNO would have a unique market audience in this respect. Moreover, there are no competing online political science programs at UNL or UNK. As previously discussed in section 7, UNL history graduate courses are mostly offered in person, and that program generally recruits doctoral students. UNK does offer an online MA in history degree and history courses can be transferred to our program from any University of Nebraska institution. However, UNK’s program does not serve the needs of teachers who require broad accreditation in the social sciences rather than just history.

In fact, the only institution we are aware of that offers a similar program is Ashland University in Ohio. The dearth of competitor programs means there is great potential for growth in this field.

Moreover, we believe our program will be quite competitive with Ashland University's for the following reasons:

***Quality:***

The vast majority of Ashland's faculty are adjuncts or visiting lecturers whereas, with only a few exceptions, all graduate coursework will be taught by tenured-track faculty members who are published experts in their field and own the content of their courses.

***Accessibility***

Ashland's program requires a short residency for their distance students, whereas UNO's program can be earned completely online.

Some of Ashland's online courses are only offered synchronously, which is a difficulty for working professionals across the country, while all of UNO's online courses will be asynchronous.

***Affordability***

Ashland's online tuition is \$818/credit hour, whereas UNO's is \$356.50 for residents and \$600 for non-residents.

## **11. Consistency with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education**

This proposal is responsive to the Nebraska Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary in the following ways:

- This program will provide accessible, quality education so graduates who are educators can provide better instruction in high school and community college classrooms.
- this program will attract out-of-state students in rural areas and/or those who cannot attend an on-campus graduate program due to employment, location, and/or family reasons.
- The online nature of this program combined with the need will attract an increased diversity of students on a number of different measures including age and underrepresented populations
- this program will attract life-long learners, for example, the online MS-PSCI program has several retired lawyers who are enrolled in the program for personal interest reasons.



Members of the review committee,

My name is Shane Adams. I am a social studies teacher at Ralston High School and a current graduate student in the UNO Department of History. I am writing to voice my support for the proposed Master of Arts in History and Government Program. This program would meet the needs of area teachers that current programs fail to address. In doing so, the University would contribute to the number of qualified educators in our community while making its own degree programs more appealing.

Holding a Master of Arts degree in a content area allows teachers to move upward on our district pay scales and teach Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment courses. When choosing a program, teachers take into account the versatility of the degree and the accessibility of the program. Programs currently available at UNO offer focus and specialization appropriate for future doctoral candidates, but a broader program would better meet the needs of educators who may move between several subjects throughout the course of a year. This is especially true of teachers in rural school districts who are often required to meet building needs with relatively small departments. Complete degree programs are often preferred to certifications because a Master of Arts degree opens additional pathways for educators who may not teach in secondary schools for their entire careers.

The online accessibility of this proposed program would make degrees at UNO more appealing to teachers, who are often discouraged from pursuing a degree by the time commitments added to already long working hours. Many of my colleagues have chosen online degree programs through local private universities but often worry about the rigor of these programs. That these courses will be taught by tenure-track faculty provides assurance that teachers will be offered challenging coursework that improves their teaching. This is of interest to all of us. Expert teachers help educate students who are more prepared for college and more capable of strengthening their communities.

I have three colleagues in my department who are considering pursuing content-area degrees. In 2018, I attended the James Madison Foundation Summer Institute as the Fellow from Nebraska. There I met dozens of teachers from all over the country who already knew each other because they were enrolled in the online program in History and Government through Ashland University in Ohio. UNO could attract students like these while building connections with a national network of educators.

I am close to completing my own degree, but for the sake of my colleagues and my students, I urge you to adopt the proposed Master of Arts in History and Government program. I would be happy to provide any additional information or insight on behalf of the program and can be reached at [shane.adams@ralstonschools.org](mailto:shane.adams@ralstonschools.org).

Sincerely,



Shane Adams  
Social Studies Teacher  
Graduate Student  
2017 James Madison Fellow



# GORDON-RUSHVILLE

## Public Schools

810 North Oak

PO Box 530

Gordon, Nebraska 69343

Phone: (308) 282-1322

Fax: (308) 282 2207

February 15, 2021

Susan Fritz, Ph.D., Provost  
University of Nebraska  
3835 Holdrege Street  
Lincoln, NE 68583

Provost Fritz,

I am writing in support of the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Departments of History and Political Science proposed online Master of Arts Degree in History and Government program, which blends 18 credit hours of history and 18 credit hours of government courses into one Master's degree.

In rural areas, where access to opportunities for advanced studies can be limited due to distance, a program such as this would be especially beneficial. In addition to having over 35 years of experience in K-12 public education, I also am co-chair of the Nebraska Rural Communities School Association (NRCSA) - Rural Teacher Committee. The purpose of this committee is to seek out ways to recruit and retain teachers in rural communities throughout Nebraska. I feel this course would serve to help meet our goal.

Sincerely,

Lori Liggett, Superintendent of Schools  
NRCSA - Rural Teacher Committee Co-Chair

**SUPERINTENDENT**  
Lori Liggett  
810 North Oak St.  
Gordon, NE 69343  
(308) 282-1322

**GRHS PRINCIPAL**  
Nathan Livingston  
810 North Oak St.  
Gordon, NE 69343  
(308) 282-0894

**GRMS/RES PRINCIPAL**  
Matt Stetson  
310 Sprague St.  
Rushville, NE 69360  
(308) 327-2491

**GES PRINCIPAL**  
Casey Slama  
500 West Second St.  
Gordon, NE 69343  
(308) 282-0216

## Keristiena Dodge

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**Subject:** FW: support letter from perspective student

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**From:** Tim Powers <[powers@gcgmail.org](mailto:powers@gcgmail.org)>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2021 9:25 PM

**To:** Danielle Battisti <[dbattisti@unomaha.edu](mailto:dbattisti@unomaha.edu)>

**Subject:** Re: favor to ask

### Non-NU Email

I am interested in enrolling in the MA in history and government program at UNO. The main reason for my interest is to provide an opportunity for our students at Gross Catholic to take classes within our Social Studies department at Gross Catholic that would earn them college credit.

By earning the MA in both government and history I would be able to help more students earn college credit in World History, American History, and American Government. As an AP teacher in World History, AP American History, and AP American Government I would be able to improve my knowledge of the subjects which would be a great asset for a majority of our students. Also by partnering the the UNO faculty, it would be a great benefit to our student in preparing them for college.

Many teachers like myself teach a variety of social studies classes. By offering a dual MA in History and Government, UNO would be providing an opportunity for many teachers to improve the curriculum at their prospective schools in both History and Government instead of forcing teachers to choose between History and Government. The program would be a perfect chance for many teachers to further their education and improve their teaching knowledge and instruction for their students. I am excited for the possibility and look forward to furthering my education.

Tim Powers  
Gross Catholic High School





# Lincoln Public Schools

Curriculum & Instruction Department • 5905 O Street • Lincoln, NE 68510 • (402) 436-1808

February 9, 2021

Dear University of Nebraska-Omaha Board of Regents,

I am writing this letter in support of UNO's proposed Master of History and Government program. As K-12 Social Studies Curriculum Specialist in Lincoln Public Schools, I have the opportunity to support teachers through the development of lesson plans, assessments, and professional learning. Through my experience working with high school teachers, it is clear that many would benefit from a program that not only provides them with a graduate degree, but also prepares them to offer dual enrollment courses in several subjects. Teachers are frequently called upon to teach different courses in any given year through vacancies, budget considerations, and building and department culture. The versatility in qualifications provided by the Master degree would help teachers rise to that challenge. We also acknowledge how important command of your subject matter is to the teaching of social studies and high school teachers would benefit from the expansion of their knowledge through graduate-level content courses.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jaelyn Kellison, BS, MSE, MAHS  
K-12 Social Studies Curriculum Specialist  
Lincoln Public Schools

## Keristiena Dodge

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**Subject:** FW: Question Regarding New History and Government Master's at UNO

**From:** Kathy Steinkamp <[kathisteinkamp@npsne.org](mailto:kathisteinkamp@npsne.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2021 9:49 AM

**To:** Kristin Broyhill <[kbroyhill@unomaha.edu](mailto:kbroyhill@unomaha.edu)>

**Cc:** [derekippensen@npsne.org](mailto:derekippensen@npsne.org)

**Subject:** Re: Question Regarding New History and Government Master's at UNO

### Non-NU Email

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Hello, Kristin,

I would think it would be of interest to a few of our teachers if it is conveniently available. Currently, I am the only teacher who is qualified to teach dual credit History and Government. I know of 2 other teachers who are interested in teaching these courses. However, the most convenient Master's degree to work toward is currently the Curriculum and Instruction degree, which is online through most institutions and does not include enough content-area studies to qualify a teacher to teach dual credit. If the new content-area program were to be just as convenient and cost-effective for teachers, I do think you would succeed in drawing their attention.

A few of us are or have been involved in the Gilder Lehrman graduate program in history through Pace University. It is on-line and taught by noted historians. The difficulty is that it requires a thesis option, which, in turn requires travel to defend said thesis. That's difficult for most teachers in our area. I completed more credits than needed for that master's degree, but I did not complete the degree due to the difficulty in traveling during the school year to defend the thesis.

I hope this feedback helps in your planning. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Kathy Steinkamp

February 11, 2021

To the University of Nebraska,

The Omaha Public Schools is in support of UNO's History and Political Science Departments offering a blended Master's in History and Government, with a target audience of secondary educators. This master's program would be a benefit to OPS educators who are looking to further their education and open possibilities for teaching advanced level courses.

Currently teachers pursuing a master's degree in this field must choose history or political science. Teachers who successfully complete this program would have 18 hours of credit in both history and political science and would be eligible to teach courses in both history and government for dual enrollment, in accordance with the Higher Learning Commission's guidelines for instructors of dual credit courses.

The Omaha Public Schools currently offers advanced level courses in history and government in all OPS high schools. As the district prepares to open two new high schools, and implements pathways and academies across all high schools, expanding advanced academic offerings and dual enrollment options is a priority. While the Omaha Public Schools would not have an obligation to this master's program, having this program of study available for educators to pursue could benefit the course offerings and dual enrollment options in our OPS high schools.

We are excited for the potential benefits this program could provide to educators in the Omaha Public Schools.

Sincerely,



Cheryl J. Logan  
Superintendent  
Omaha Public Schools

April 7, 2021

To: Dean Deborah Smith-Howell

This note is to confirm the receipt of your memo regarding UNO's proposed MA in History and Government. Your memo captures our conversation with Provost Susan Fritz and Associate Provost David Jackson, and it clearly outlines what we agreed to as Graduate Deans for our respective campuses. Since our conversation, the UNO and UNK History Departments have met several times and agreed upon avenues for collaboration. I think all the misunderstandings have been ironed out. UNK is in the process of expanding its emphasis area in Public History into a full MA program. Our departments met to discuss the program and have agreed to explore ways to collaborate in the future.

Sincerely,



Dr. Mark R. Ellis  
Dean of Graduate Studies  
University of Nebraska at Kearney

**TABLE 1: PROJECTED EXPENSES - NEW INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM**  
**UNO Master of Arts in History and Government**

	(FY2021-22) Year 1		(FY2022-23) Year 2		(FY2023-24) Year 3		(FY2024-25) Year 4		(FY2025-26) Year 5		Total Cost
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	
<b>Personnel</b>											
Faculty											
Professional											
Graduate Assistants											\$0
Support Staff											\$0
Subtotal	0.00	\$0	0.00	\$0	0.00	\$0	0.00	\$0	0.00	\$0	\$0
<b>Operating</b>											
General Operating											\$0
Equipment											
New or Renovated Space											
Library/Information Resources											
Other (Student fees)											\$0
Subtotal		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<b>Total Expenses</b>		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0

The faculty and staff currently employed in the Departments of History and Political Science are sufficient for the creation of this program. No new resources are needed to operate this program in the next five years.

**TABLE 2: PROJECTED REVENUES - NEW INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM**  
**UNO Master of Arts in History and Government**

	(FY2021-22) Year 1		(FY2022-23) Year 2		(FY2023-24) Year 3		(FY2024-25) Year 4		(FY2025-26) Year 5		Total
	FTE	Revenue	FTE	Revenue	FTE	Revenue	FTE	Revenue	FTE	Revenue	
<b>Existing Funds</b>											
<b>Required New Public Funds</b>											
1. State Funds											
2. Local Tax Funds (community colleges)											
Tuition and Fees		\$16,732		\$40,176		\$80,266		\$86,742		\$86,477	\$312,392
Other Funding											
<b>Total Revenue</b>		\$16,732		\$40,176		\$80,266		\$86,742		\$86,477	\$312,392

**Tuition calculation:**

Assume all students take 4 courses per year  
 2020-21 graduate per credit resident  
 DE \$375  
 2020-21 graduate per credit non-resident DE \$617  
 DE = Distance Education

**Budget model below starts with 2020-21 as base and adds +2% per year**

	(FY2021-22)	(FY2022-23)	(FY2023-24)	(FY2024-25)	(FY2025-26)
Tuition per grad credit NE DE	\$382.50	\$390.15	\$397.95	\$405.91	\$414.03
Tuition per grad credit out of state DE	\$629.34	\$641.93	\$654.77	\$667.86	\$681.22
Number of new students, NE DE	2	2	2	3	3
Number of new students, out of state DE	1	2	3	3	3
Number of program graduates	0	0	5	5	5
Total number of students	3	4	5	6	6
Credits per student per year	12	12	12	12	12
Total NE DE credits	24	24	24	36	36
Total out of state DE credits	12	24	36	36	36
<b>Total credits per year</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>72</b>
Tuition revenue, NE DE	\$9,180	\$9,364	\$9,551	\$14,613	\$14,905
Tuition revenue, out of state DE	\$7,552	\$30,812	\$70,715	\$72,129	\$73,572
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$16,732</b>	<b>\$40,176</b>	<b>\$80,266</b>	<b>\$86,742</b>	<b>\$88,477</b>