Instructions for Applying to the PhD Program

UTEP's history Ph.D. program capitalizes on the location of our campus and the strengths of our faculty by focusing on the study of the U.S.-Mexico border region. All of our doctoral students have a field in Borderlands History. They also choose a second major field in Latin American History or U.S. History, and a third field that focuses on teaching World History or on a facet of Transnational/World history of their own choosing. This program makes our students key contributors to the body of knowledge about the rich history of the borderlands. It also trains them broadly, so they are highly competitive for positions both within and outside of academia. Our record in placing students in tenure track positions is excellent.

The El Paso-Juárez metropolitan area, with a population of two million, offers students varied research and cultural opportunities. The University Library supports graduate study and research with a range of computerized services, in addition to a permanent collection of about 1.3 million items. This includes substantial and quickly growing deposits of original documents and newspaper collections from both sides of the border. Our Institute of Oral History, meanwhile, holds a collection of nearly 1,000 records relating to the history of the border region. Perhaps most importantly, the UTEP campus is nestled in the foothills of the Franklin Mountains, almost literally a stone’s throw away from the U.S.-Mexico border in far west Texas.

This department has a large and talented team of scholars with expertise in the border region and Latin America: Ernesto Chávez (Chicano/a, Latino/a, Borderlands, sexuality, film), Ignacio Martínez (Spanish Colonial Borderlands, ethnohistory, emotion), Larisa Veloz (Borderlands, 20th-Century Mexico, migration and gender), Patrick Iber (U.S. in the World, Latin America), Charles Martin (Texas), Sandra McGee-Deutsch (Latin America, Argentina), Michael Topp (immigration), Paul Edison (the French in Mexico), Sam Brunk (modern Mexico, environmental, Borderlands), Jeffrey Shepherd (Native American, US West, Borderlands, public), and Yolanda Chávez Leyva (public, Borderlands, Chicana/o).

Applications are invited from highly qualified students with a BA or MA in History, or the equivalent in another discipline. Applicants must provide the following information in their packet: Letter of Intent (must include intellectual interests, rationale for applying to the Ph.D. Program, and additional relevant information); a Curriculum Vitae (CV), three letters of recommendation (from individuals familiar with your academic potential), a writing sample (15-30pps); and transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work. ALL applicants must also take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and arrange to have the results sent to the Graduate School. International students must take both the GRE and TOEFL and have scores sent to the Graduate School. All application materials will be processed through the Graduate School online application system. You may begin the application process by clicking on this link to the Graduate School webpage, and click on the button to the right that says, "Apply Now." This will allow you to create an electronic profile for your application to the Graduate School and the Department of History.
If you have questions about the online application process, or about materials sent to the Graduate School, please contact David Vizcaino, Coordinator of Graduate Enrollment, at 915-747-7859 (dvizcaino@utep.edu). If you need to send hard copies of any materials to the Graduate School, please use this mailing address:

Graduate School
Academic Services Building Room 223
500 W University Ave
El Paso, TX 79968

Fellowships and assistantships offered by the Department of History are highly competitive and support will be offered to all students accepted into the program. That support is guaranteed for four years. We offer other forms of financial support as well, including the annual Frances G. Harper History Dissertation Research Award made to four students to promote their dissertation research.

Review of applications begins January 15, and notification of admission will take place by the end of March.

For further information contact the Department of History, University of Texas at El Paso, 500 W. University, El Paso, TX 79968-0532. Telephone: (915) 747-5508. You may also contact Dr. Jeffrey P. Shepherd, Ph.D. Program Director, via e-mail: jpshepherd@utep.edu, or phone: 915-747-6805.