

Application FAQs

When am I able to start the program?

SHPRS graduate programs admit new students at the following times:

- History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies PhD: Fall semester
- History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies MA on Tempe Campus: Fall semester
- History MA Online: Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters (A and B sessions)
- Certificate in Digital Humanities: Fall and Spring semesters

Please see the [ASU Academic Calendar](#) to determine more specific start dates.

When is the deadline to apply?

- History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies PhD programs: December 15
- Religious Studies MA: January 15
- Philosophy MA: February 15 or May 1
- History MA on Tempe Campus: February 1 or April 15
- History MA Online: July 28 (Fall A), September 15 (Fall B), December 1 (Spring A), February 1 (Spring B), April 15 (Summer A and B)
- Graduate Certificate in Digital Humanities: March 15 (Fall), November 15 (Spring)

Can I take courses before I am accepted?

You are welcome to take courses as a nondegree student before you are accepted to a program, but please be advised that admission to any graduate program is not guaranteed, even for students in SHPRS courses. In core and some other courses for each discipline, students who are already enrolled in SHPRS programs are given priority for enrollment. Space may not be available

Up to 12 hours of coursework may be transferred into an MA or PhD degree program if you are admitted. These courses must have been taken within 3 years of admission and meet program GPA requirements. Coursework beyond 12 hours will not be considered.

Up to 6 hours of coursework taken before admission to a graduate certificate program (no more than 40% of the required coursework for that program) may be transferred into the plan of study for that program. If you are considering a graduate certificate, please apply in a timely manner to ensure that you receive credit for all courses taken.

Am I eligible to apply if I do not have an undergraduate degree or MA in the field in which I am applying?

Yes. You should view the relevant program page on the SHPRS website for more information about what previous studies are recommended to make your application more competitive.

Does your program require a minimum GPA or GRE score for admission?

Please see program webpages for more information about GPA recommendations. We do not have a minimum GRE score requirement. Applications are evaluated holistically and GRE scores are not used as a standalone measure of an applicant's suitability for graduate studies.

How do I submit my application?

The graduate application can be found here: <https://webapp4.asu.edu/dgsadmissions/Index.jsp>

Please complete the application on the website, then make sure to submit all required transcripts and test scores to Graduate Admission Services once you have submitted the application and paid the application fee. Please see your program's webpage on the SHPRS site for information about which supplemental materials are required. Addresses for mailing documents can be found here: <https://students.asu.edu/graduate/how-and-when-apply-graduate-admission>

What is the application fee?

\$70 for domestic applicants and \$90 for international applicants. The fee is non-refundable.

What are the English proficiency requirements for international applicants?

International applicants whose native language is not English must follow [Graduate Admission guidelines](#) demonstrating English language proficiency. Acceptable proof of English proficiency includes TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE scores from tests taken in the past 2 years. Students may qualify for exemption from this requirement if they have completed graduate coursework in the United States. More information can be found here: <https://students.asu.edu/graduate/proficiency>

TOEFL scores should be sent electronically through ETS (Educational Testing Services) to ASU. The institution code is 4007; department code can be left blank or entered as 0000.

The minimum TOEFL scores for admission to SHPRS programs are as follows:

- History MA and PhD: iBT 90 or above / PBT 600 or above
- Philosophy MA and PhD: iBT 80 or above / PBT 550 or above
- Religious Studies MA and PhD: iBT 80 or above / PBT 550 or above

What type of transcripts do I have to submit? How do I submit transcripts?

Official transcripts must be submitted directly from the issuing institution to the ASU Graduate Admission office. Files submitted to SHPRS or any faculty or staff member in our department cannot be added to your application.

You must have 1 set of official transcripts from every college and university from which you earned a bachelor's degree or higher sent to ASU. ASU accepts official transcripts that are original academic credentials issued by the registrar of the institution attended, bearing the original raised or colored seal of the institution and the signature of your institution's registrar, academic official or recognized international organization.

All international transcripts must be submitted in the original language accompanied by an official English translation. Translations must be literal, complete versions of the originals and must be translated by a university, government official or official translation service. You may not complete your own translation.

Photocopies and notarized transcripts are NOT acceptable. Please do not submit transcripts prior to submitting your application.

Transcripts from ASU do not need to be submitted; they will automatically be added to your application.

Do I have to take the GRE?

GRE scores are required for admission to all SHPRS doctoral programs and the Philosophy MA and Religious Studies MA programs. GRE scores are not required for admission to the History MA program.

How do I submit my GRE scores?

Official GRE scores can be sent to ASU using the university code 4007 (department code can be left blank or entered as 0000). Only official scores sent from ETS will be considered. Scores should be no more than five years old.

Should I contact faculty before applying?

Absolutely! Contacting faculty is a terrific way to learn about the program. PhD applicants are encouraged to contact faculty with whom they might like to work during the dissertation phase of the program.

You may find faculty research areas and contact information here:

- History: <https://shprs.asu.edu/content/history-3>
- Philosophy: <https://shprs.asu.edu/content/philosophy-3>
- Religious Studies: <https://shprs.asu.edu/content/religious-studies-3>

Who may serve as a reference for me?

References should ideally be current/former instructors or professors who can address your suitability for graduate coursework, research, and writing. In many cases, applicants also list other types of references who can speak to their academic abilities and the traits that make an applicant an excellent candidate for graduate study and the careers they hope to pursue after graduation. Applicants are strongly discouraged from having family members serve as references.

How can I tell if my application is complete? How do I check the status of my application?

Within a few days you will receive an email with instructions on how to log into your [My ASU account](#). My ASU is where you can monitor the status of your application, view any missing items and receive the final outcome of your application.

I have mailed my documents, so why are they still listed on my Priority Tasks list?

It can take up to 10 days for the Admissions office to match your documents to your application. Once they have arrived, they are processed in the order they are received.

When will I be notified about the final decision on my application?

Be sure to monitor [My ASU](#) regularly for any updates to your application. Pending Priority Tasks will delay the processing of your application. You should expect to hear from the admissions committee within a month of the application deadline, though this date may fluctuate based on the number of applications received. If you have concerns about your application, please contact Roxanne Shand (roxanne.shand@asu.edu or 480.965.5387) if you are an MA applicant or Lindsey Plait Jones (lindseyplaitjones@asu.edu or 480.727.3778) if you are a PhD or graduate certificate applicant.