

# BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA) DEGREE WITH A MAJOR IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES

## Program Learning Outcomes for the BA Degree with a Major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies

Upon completing the BA degree with a major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies, students will be able to:

1. Situate Medieval and Early Modern studies more broadly within several interdisciplinary fields, including history, art, philosophy, music, literature, and religion.
2. Define and apply appropriate disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary methodologies, vocabularies, concepts, and theories to critically respond to questions within the field of Medieval and Early Modern Studies.
3. Demonstrate the ability to define and respond to research questions and scholarly debates within the field, including the ability to analyze primary and secondary sources, draw conclusions from the analysis of these sources, and cite evidence in support of conclusions.
4. Demonstrate a firm grasp of written, visual, and oral communication, including critical writing principles such as appropriate citation, use of evidence, clarity, and grammatical correctness.

## Requirements for the BA Degree with a Major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies

For general university requirements, see [Graduation Requirements \(https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/\)](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/). Students pursuing the BA degree with a major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies must complete:

- A minimum of 10 courses (30 credit hours) to satisfy major requirements.
- A minimum of 120 credit hours to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 5 courses (15 credit hours) taken at the 300-level or above.
- A maximum of 4 courses (12 credit hours) from study abroad or transfer credit. For additional program guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the [Policies](#) (p. 5) tab.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this major. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the major's academic advisor, or where applicable, the department's Director of Undergraduate Studies. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the major's [Official Certifier \(https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/\)](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degreeworks/officialcertifier/).) Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

## Summary

Code	Title	Credit Hours
	Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies	30
	Total Credit Hours Required for the BA Degree with a Major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies	120

## Degree Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Core Requirements</b>		
	Select 10 courses from the following categories (see course lists below): <sup>1, 2</sup>	30
	Anthropology	
	Art History	
	Asian Studies	
	Classical Studies	
	English	
	French Studies	
	German Studies	
	History	
	Jewish Studies	
	Medieval and Early Modern Studies	
	Music	
	Philosophy	
	Religion	
	Spanish	
	<b>Total Credit Hours Required for the Major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies</b>	<b>30</b>
	Additional Credit Hours to Complete Degree Requirements*	59
	<a href="https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/">University Graduation Requirements (https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/)</a> *	31
	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>120</b>

## Footnotes and Additional Information

\* **Note:** [University Graduation Requirements](#) include 31 credit hours, comprised of Distribution Requirements (Groups I, II, and III), FWIS, and LPAP coursework. In some instances, courses satisfying FWIS or distribution requirements may additionally meet other requirements, such as the Analyzing Diversity (AD) requirement, or some of the student's declared major, minor, or certificate requirements. [Additional Credit Hours to Complete Degree Requirements](#) include general electives, coursework completed as upper-level, residency (hours taken at Rice), and/or any other additional academic program requirements.

<sup>1</sup> Of the 10 required courses (30 credit hours), a total of 5 courses (15 credit hours) must be taken at the 300-level or above. Please note that not all courses will be offered each academic year.

<sup>2</sup> The 10 required courses (30 credit hours) must be taken from at least 3 different fields or departments (Anthropology, Art History, Asian Studies, Classical Studies, English, European Studies, French Studies, German Studies, History, Jewish Studies, Latin American and Latinx Studies, Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Music, Philosophy, Religion, and Spanish).

## Course Lists to Satisfy Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Anthropology		
ANTH 312 / MDEM 311	THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF AFRICA	
ANTH 392	KINGS, QUEENS, AND COMMONERS: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ANCIENT MESOAMERICA	
ANTH 394	THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SLAVERY AND THE AFRICAN DIASPORA	

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Art History		
HART 101 / MDEM 111 / CLAS 102	INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF ART I: ANCIENT TO MEDIEVAL	
HART 102	INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF WESTERN ART II: RENAISSANCE TO PRESENT	
HART 118	A GLOBAL ARCHITECTURE HISTORY I	
HART 220	INTRODUCTION TO MEDIEVAL ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF WESTERN EUROPE	
HART 221	INTRODUCTION TO ISLAMIC ART AND ARCHITECTURE: CITIES, MOSQUES, PALACES	
HART 241	THE ARTS OF THE RENAISSANCE IN EUROPE	
HART 313	THE ART OF DEATH IN THE MIDDLE AGES	
HART 319	ARCHITECTURE, TRADE, AND POWER IN EARLY MODERN ISLAMIC EMPIRES	
HART 320	ART, SCIENCE, AND MAGIC IN THE MEDIEVAL WORLD	
HART 323 / MDEM 323 / ASIA 323	BUDDHIST AND DAOIST ART AND RITUAL	
HART 324	PERSIANATE ARTS OF THE BOOK	
HART 325	COFFEEHOUSES AND TEAHOUSES: A GLOBAL HISTORY	
HART 330 / MDEM 330	EARLY MEDIEVAL ART	
HART 332 / MDEM 332	ART OF THE COURTS	
HART 333	LOOKING AT EUROPEAN PRINTS 1400-1700	
HART 337	RADICAL BODIES IN MEDIEVAL ART	
HART 339	AMERICAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE I: 1620-1800	
HART 340 / MDEM 340	NORTHERN RENAISSANCE ART	
HART 341	EARLY RENAISSANCE ART IN ITALY	
HART 342	THE HIGH RENAISSANCE AND MANNERISM IN ITALY	
HART 343 / MDEM 343	MASTERS OF THE BAROQUE ERA	

HART 344	CAPITALISM AND CULTURE	
HART 356	SEX AND MONEY: THE SPECIES DIVIDE	
HART 371 / ASIA 371	HOW TO READ CHINESE PAINTING	
HART 372 / MDEM 373 / ASIA 372	CHINESE ART AND THE WORLD	
HART 377 / MDEM 377	MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS	
HART 378 / MDEM 378	DUTCH ART IN THE AGE OF REMBRANDT	
HART 385	ARCHITECTURE AND LITERATURE IN ISLAMIC CULTURES	
HART 427	VISUAL CULATURE OF MEDIEVAL PILGRIMAGE	
HART 433	THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY AND THE ANGLO- NORMAN WORLD	
HART 434 / MDEM 434 / SWGS 434	SEEING SEX IN EUROPEAN ART, 1400-1700	
HART 435 / MDEM 435 / HIST 443	MULTICULTURAL EUROPE, 1400-1700	
HART 460	CHINESE BUDDHIST WOODCUTS 850-1450	

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Asian Studies		
ASIA 213	TRANSNATIONAL ART AND CULTURE IN ASIA BEFORE THE TWENTIETH CENTURY	
ASIA 214	ART & WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES IN CHINA, JAPAN AND KOREA	
ASIA 223	SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES	
ASIA 224	A HISTORY OF THE SILK ROADS	
ASIA 232 / RELI 232	RELIGIONS FROM INDIA	
ASIA 236	BUDDHISM AND SCIENCE	
ASIA 243	PREMODERN CHINA: HISTORY OF AN OPEN EMPIRE TO 1800	
ASIA 244	KOREA AND EMPIRES: FROM THE MONGOLS TO THE COLD WAR	
ASIA 302	ASIAN PHILOSOPHY IN CONTEXT	
ASIA 330 / MDEM 370 / CHIN 330	INTRODUCTION TO TRADITIONAL CHINESE POETRY	
ASIA 334 / CHIN 334	TRADITIONAL CHINESE TALES AND SHORT STORIES	
ASIA 335 / MDEM 375 / CHIN 335	INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL CHINESE NOVELS	
ASIA 336	GENDER AND SOCIETY IN BUDDHISM	
ASIA 342	EAST ASIAN ORTHODOXIES AND HERESIES: LAW AND SOCIETY IN TRADITIONAL CHINA, KOREA, AND VIETNAM	

ASIA 372 / MDEM 373 / HART 372	CHINESE ART AND THE WORLD
ASIA 399 / MDEM 379 / SWGS 399	WOMEN IN CHINESE LITERATURE
ASIA 441 / RELI 441	

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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## Classical Studies

LATI 101 / MDEM 101	ELEMENTARY LATIN I
LATI 102 / MDEM 102	ELEMENTARY LATIN II
LATI 201 / MDEM 211	INTERMEDIATE LATIN I: PROSE
LATI 202 / MDEM 212	INTERMEDIATE LATIN II
LATI 210	INTERMEDIATE LATIN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
LATI 309	RECOVERY, REBIRTH, REGENERATION: CLASSICS AND THE EUROPEAN RENAISSANCE
LATI 310	ADVANCED LATIN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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## English

ENGL 210	BEGINNINGS: BRITISH LITERATURE TO 1800
ENGL 254	THE HISTORY OF LOVE
ENGL 274	HEAVEN AND HELL
ENGL 311	TOPICS IN MEDIEVAL LITERATURE AND/OR CULTURE
ENGL 314 / MDEM 319	MEDIEVAL ROMANCE
ENGL 316 / MDEM 316 / SWGS 305	CHAUCER
ENGL 317 / MDEM 317 / SWGS 301	ARTHURIAN LITERATURE
ENGL 320	SHAKESPEARE ON FILM
ENGL 321	SHAKESPEARE
ENGL 322	TOPICS IN SHAKESPEARE
ENGL 323	RENAISSANCE DRAMA
ENGL 328	JOHN MILTON: RADICAL THOUGHT THEN AND NOW
ENGL 332	LITERATURE OF THE BRITISH ENLIGHTENMENT
ENGL 333	18TH CENTURY BRITISH FICTION

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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## French Studies

FREN 304	MASTERWORKS OF FRENCH ART IN TOULOUSE
FREN 311	MIDDLE AGES TO ENLIGHTENMENT
FREN 404 / MDEM 404	
FREN 412	SAINTS AND SINNERS
FREN 416 / MDEM 436	LITERATURE AND CULTURE OF THE MIDDLE AGES: KING ARTHUR

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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## History

HIST 101	MODERN EUROPE, 1500-1789
HIST 108	WORLD HISTORY SINCE 1492
HIST 111	RACE IN EARLY AMERICA: CREATING RACIAL IDENTITIES IN THE ERA OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
HIST 117	EARLY AMERICA TO THE CIVIL WAR
HIST 120 / MDEM 120	MEDIEVAL CIVILIZATIONS
HIST 176	MEXICO: AN INTRODUCTION
HIST 188	THE ATLANTIC WORLD: ORIGINS TO THE AGE OF REVOLUTION
HIST 204	
HIST 205 / MDEM 205	MEDIEVAL MEDITERRANEAN WORLD
HIST 211 / MDEM 210	MEDIEVAL VIOLENCE
HIST 213	THE MIDDLE EAST FROM THE AGE OF MUHAMMAD TO THE ARAB SPRING
HIST 219	GENGHIS KHAN AND THE EMPIRE OF THE MONGOLS
HIST 222	HISTORY OF EARLY AFRICA
HIST 227	LATIN AMERICAN CULTURAL TRADITIONS
HIST 239	NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY: FROM EUROPEAN CONTACT TO THE ERA OF REMOVAL
HIST 260	EARLY HISTORY OF SCIENCE
HIST 266	SLAVERY AND THE FOUNDING FATHERS
HIST 271	HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIA
HIST 281 / MDEM 281	GOLDEN AGE OF ISLAM
HIST 301	FIGHTING THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE
HIST 308 / MDEM 308	THE WORLD OF LATE ANTIQUITY
HIST 311	SEX, GENDER, AND FAMILY IN EUROPE, 1300-1700
HIST 316	JEWS AND CHRISTIANS IN THE MEDIEVAL ISLAMIC WORLD
HIST 320	IMPERIAL PLEASURE GARDENS, A WORLD HISTORY
HIST 323	HISTORY OF ATLANTIC AFRICA

HIST 324 / MDEM 324	CONFLICT AND COEXISTENCE IN MEDIÉVAL SPAIN
HIST 327 / MDEM 327	MEDIÉVAL BORDERLANDS
HIST 330	ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE AND THE ORIGINS OF AFRO AMERICA
HIST 357 / MDEM 357	JEWIS AND CHRISTIANS IN MEDIÉVAL EUROPE
HIST 361	HISTORY OF PREMODERN BRITAIN: TUDORS AND STUARTS, 1485 - 1707
HIST 365 / ECON 365	WORLD ECONOMIC HISTORY
HIST 370	EUROPEAN INTELLECTUAL HISTORY: BACON TO HEGEL
HIST 374	JEWISH HISTORY, 1500-1948
HIST 392	PRE-MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT FROM CICERO TO LOCKE
HIST 401	THE AGE OF ATTILA THE HUN
HIST 409	MUSLIMS, JEWS, CHRISTIANS, HERETICS, AND PAGANS IN THE AGE OF THE CRUSADES
HIST 412	EMPIRE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW
HIST 413	A HISTORY OF TRAVEL: FROM MEDIÉVAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE HIPPIE TRAIL
HIST 434	MUSLIMS, AMERICA, AND ISLAMOPHOBIA
HIST 438	THE MEDIÉVAL CITY, 300-1500
HIST 494	RULING HINDUSTAN: THE TIMURID- MUGHAL KINGS OF INDIA

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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## Jewish Studies

JWST 201	GREAT BOOKS OF JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE
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Code	Title	Credit Hours
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## Medieval and Early Modern Studies

MDEM 238	SPECIAL TOPICS
MDEM 306	DISABILITY IN THE MEDIÉVAL AND EARLY MODERN WORLD
MDEM 320	DIRECTED READING IN MEDIÉVAL STUDIES
MDEM 398	INDEPENDENT STUDY IN MEDIÉVAL AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES
MDEM 477	SPECIAL TOPICS
MDEM 494	SENIOR THESIS
MDEM 495	SENIOR THESIS

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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## Music

MUSI 119	EXPERIENCING MUSIC, EXPRESSING CULTURE: AN INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE MUSIC
MUSI 222 / MDEM 222	MEDIÉVAL AND RENAISSANCE ERAS

MUSI 223	MONSTERS AND BARDS
MUSI 314	MUSIC IN WESTERN CULTURE
MUSI 321	BAROQUE AND EARLY CLASSICAL ERAS
MUSI 436 / MDEM 456	COLLEGIUM MUSICUM

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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## Philosophy

PHIL 281	HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY I
PHIL 283	HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY II
PHIL 289	HISTORY OF CHINESE PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 362	HISTORY OF ETHICS
PHIL 372	HISTORY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 381	ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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## Religion

RELI 104 / MDEM 103	INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH MYSTICISM
RELI 108	INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM
RELI 112	INTRODUCTION TO EARLY CHRISTIANITY
RELI 221 / ASIA 221	THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD
RELI 223	QUR'AN AND COMMENTARY
RELI 233 / TIBT 233	INTRODUCTION TO TIBETAN LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND CULTURE
RELI 271 / MDEM 271	MEDIÉVAL POPULAR CHRISTIANITY
RELI 350 / MDEM 350	DEMONS, MENTAL ILLNESS AND MEDICINE
RELI 363	JEWISH PHILOSOPHY: GREAT THINKERS AND THEMES IN JEWISH THOUGHT
RELI 367	REPRESENTING THE DEVIL IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY AND ART
RELI 384	PILGRIMAGE AND CRUSADE
RELI 406	CHRISTIANITY AND LATE ANTIQUITY
RELI 416	NEW TESTAMENT / CHRISTIAN ORIGINS
RELI 442	CLASSICAL AND CONTEMPORARY ARABIC TEXTS
RELI 444 / MDEM 444	VISIONS AND VISIONARY PRACTICES: MEDIÉVAL TO MODERN
RELI 449	SECOND CENTURY CHRISTIANITIES
RELI 451	THIRD CENTURY CHRISTIANITIES

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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## Spanish

SPAN 347	INTRODUCTION TO MEDIÉVAL AND EARLY MODERN SPANISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE
SPAN 412	DON QUIJOTE

## Recommended Coursework

It is *recommended*, but not required, that students take 2 semesters at the college level in an appropriate language (or languages). For students considering MDEM graduate work, it is recommended that they study at least 1 foreign language in some depth.

## Policies for the BA Degree with a Major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies

### Program Restrictions and Exclusions

Students pursuing the major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies should be aware of the following program restriction:

- As noted in [Majors, Minors, and Certificates](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/majors-minors-certificates/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-opportunities/majors-minors-certificates/>), students may not major and minor in the same subject.

### Transfer Credit

For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see [Transfer Credit](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/transfer-credit/>). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university's official list of [transfer credit advisors](https://oaa.rice.edu/advising-network/transfer-credit-advisors/) (<https://oaa.rice.edu/advising-network/transfer-credit-advisors/>) on their website: <https://oaa.rice.edu>. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's transfer credit advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

### Program Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies should be aware of the following program-specific transfer credit guidelines:

- No more than 4 courses (12 credit hours) of transfer credit from U.S. or international universities of similar standing as Rice may apply towards the major.
- Requests for transfer credit will be considered by the program director (and/or the program's official transfer credit advisor) on an individual case-by-case basis.

### Distribution Credit Information

The determination of distribution credit eligibility is done initially as part of the [new course creation process](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/courseprocess/) (<https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/courseprocess/>). Additionally, as part of an [annual roll call](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/distribution_credit/) ([https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/distribution\\_credit/](https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/distribution_credit/)) coordinated each Spring by the Office of the Registrar, course distribution credit eligibility is routinely reviewed and reaffirmed by the Dean's Offices of each of the academic schools.

Faculty and leadership in the academic schools are responsible for ensuring that the courses identified as distribution-credit-eligible meet the criteria as set in the [General Announcements](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text>). Students are responsible for ensuring that they meet [graduation requirements](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/#text>) by completing coursework designated as distribution-credit-eligible at the time of course registration.

Distribution courses from Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MDEM) are broad in theme and scope and prompt students to probe knowledge about the variety of often interrelated medieval and early modern

civilizations from the 4th to the 18th centuries. They involve a broad, interdisciplinary spectrum of knowledge that provides students with the tools for thinking critically about formations of ideas in the long history of culture and cultural exchange among Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and the Americas. Many of them are introductions to the medieval and/or early modern periods in a particular field of study (e.g. History, Art History, Religion, Music).

### Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Medieval and Early Modern Studies website: <https://medieval.rice.edu/>

## Opportunities for the BA Degree with a Major in Medieval and Early Modern Studies

### Academic Honors

The university recognizes academic excellence achieved over an undergraduate's academic history at Rice. For information on university honors, please see [Latin Honors](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/>) (*summa cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *cum laude*) and [Distinction in Research and Creative Work](https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/) (<https://ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-distinctions/university/>). Some departments have department-specific Honors awards or designations.

### Senior Thesis

Qualified majors may apply before their senior year for directed research leading to a senior thesis, carried out during both semesters of the senior year. Each semester will require 3 credit hours; these 6 credit hours (MDEM 494 and MDEM 495) are in addition to the credit hours required for the major.

To qualify for senior thesis, students must have an approved research proposal and the agreement of a faculty member to serve as advisor for that project. Applicants will normally be required to have a GPA of 3.75 in MDEM courses and to have completed courses relevant to the proposed thesis topic (e.g. English, History, Art History, etc.), to be determined by the thesis advisor. Applications should be submitted to the director of Medieval and Early Modern Studies and will be evaluated by the advisory board.

Students who are considering applying to write a senior thesis should consult the program director and potential advisor as early as possible. Normally students will apply before preregistration in the second semester of their junior year and will spend time during the following summer reading from a list they have developed with their advisor. The thesis normally will be between 7,500 and 15,000 words (approximately 30-60 pages) in length. Students will enroll MDEM 494 and MDEM 495.

### Application Requirements

- Program thesis application form (available at program website and from the program director) signed by the program director and the faculty member who will supervise the project
- A 500 word abstract of the proposed project

### Final Submission and Presentations

- An electronic copy of the final thesis must be submitted by the last day of final examinations for degree candidates. Presentations will take place at the MDEM Undergraduate Conference.

### **Additional Information**

For additional information, please see the Medieval and Early Modern Studies website: <https://medieval.rice.edu/>

See <https://humanities.rice.edu/student-life> (<https://humanities.rice.edu/student-life/>) for tables of fellowships, prizes, and internships/practica that may be relevant to this major.