Eugene Lang College, History BA

By the successful completion of this program, a student should be able to demonstrate:
1. Archival capacity: Students translate their ideas and questions into specific research plans and know how to access and employ both secondary and primary historical source material. They are familiar with the library's and other bibliographical search tools as well as with basic practices of identifying both written and material primary sources.
2. Thinking in Time: Students recognize a range of diachronic and synchronic methods to consider, either causally or genealogically, the process of change over time as well as the affinity among concurrent historical phenomena. They are familiar with fundamental historiographical tactics, such as historical framing, periodization, and contextual analysis.
3. Conceptual Rigor: Students learn to evaluate concrete historical contingencies as they also view historical processes more broadly. Theirs is an idea/argument-driven history and the conceptual categories they employ originate either from historiography itself or from other bodies of theory and reflection in the humanities and social sciences about, among other themes, gender, textuality, power, violence, technology, and markets.
4. Writing History: Students write clear, well-organized, scholarly papers, enhanced by their synthetic and critical aptitude.
5. Historical Reflexivity: Students learn to consider the production of history itself, the political and cultural labor performed by historicizing, history as a system of organizing knowledge embedded in power relations, the power and limitations of the "archive"--expansively understood, and academic history's relations with other representations and uses of the past, including public history and social memory.