



Bachelor's Degree in Church History

Program Overview

The Bachelor's Degree in Church History at the Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) is a comprehensive academic program that unites the Christian tradition of historical study (*traditio*) with research, teaching, document preservation, and interreligious and cultural dialogue.

In the biblical and ecclesial tradition, Church History narrates the action of the Holy Spirit throughout time and space—from its origins to the present. It is both a theological and scientific discipline that enables a deeper understanding of the identity, mission, and evolution of the People of God across the centuries.

This vocation for the study of *traditio* is renewed in the contemporary context through historiography, paleography, and research—academic and professional disciplines focused on the rigorous study of sources, documentary criticism, and the interpretation of ecclesial events and their impact on civilization.

UNICA Bachelor's in Church History offers an interdisciplinary formation combining general history, theology, philology, and the social sciences, preparing professionals capable of:

- Understanding the events, institutions, and figures of the Church within their sociopolitical and cultural context.
- Engaging in the research, cataloguing, and preservation of ecclesiastical archives and documents.
- Supporting historical and ecumenical dialogue processes with both scientific rigor and faith-based vision.
- Leading research, teaching, and historical dissemination projects in academic and pastoral settings.

Thanks to its virtual and blended learning modalities, the program is accessible to students in diverse contexts, who may carry out archival research projects and cataloguing practices in their local areas or in partner institutions. Likewise, its bilingual offer (Spanish and English) opens opportunities for service in multicultural and international environments.

P.O. Box 16088, Houston Tx 77222
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contacto@uca-virtual.us



With this degree, UNICA reaffirms its commitment to the mission of the Church and society: forming professionals who bear witness to faith through memory—in the spirit of the Gospel and the Church’s Social Doctrine.

Institutional Identity

The Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) is an ecclesiastical institution of Christian-Catholic inspiration, committed to integral formation in the light of the Gospel and the living tradition of the Church. It integrates faith and reason, promotes spiritual life, and prepares students for intellectual, social, and pastoral service in contemporary society.

Mission

To form professionals in Church History with academic, ethical, pastoral, and spiritual competencies—prepared to research, teach, and preserve the Church’s memory; to promote historical truth and integral human development; and to remain faithful to the Church’s evangelizing mission.

Vision

To be recognized as a Catholic university of reference in the training of ecclesiastical historians and archivists, with impact on research, teaching, and ecumenical dialogue in the Americas and worldwide.

Values

Truth, Charity, Excellence, Holiness, Unity, and Service.

Program Technical Sheet

Field	Description
Program Name	Bachelor’s Degree in Church History
Academic Level	Undergraduate / Bachelor
Duration	8 semesters (curricular structure organized by semesters)
Total Credits	160 credits (average of 20 credits per semester)
Modality	Virtual and blended (synchronous/asynchronous classes, intensive research seminars, and archival/museological practices)

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Language Offer	Spanish / English / Bilingual (as selected by the student)
Location	State of Texas, USA
Degree Awarded	Bachelor of Church History — Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA)

Admission Requirements (Profile and Documentation)

- Recognized High School Diploma or equivalent (GED).
- Official high school transcript / academic record.
- Personal essay (statement of motivation and vocational discernment toward the study of Church history).
- Admission interview (academic and vocational/research-oriented).
- One pastoral or academic recommendation.
- Language proficiency according to chosen modality (see language section).
- For international students: compliance with visa and immigration requirements.
- The university may include additional requirements according to institutional and accreditation policies.

Educational Purpose

To train professionals in Church History with a solid scientific, theological, and philological foundation—capable of researching, teaching, and disseminating the Church's history, promoting the knowledge of its tradition and its cultural relevance.

Learning Outcomes

Upon graduation, the Bachelor of Church History will be able to:

- Critically analyze primary and secondary sources of ecclesiastical history.
- Apply historiographical methodologies in the study of specific periods and events.
- Integrate biblical, theological, and social doctrine foundations in professional practice.
- Design and lead historical and archival research projects.
- Promote dialogue and understanding of the Church within the framework of world history.

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- Develop paleographic and documentary analysis skills.
- Use digital and technological tools for cataloguing and historical dissemination.
- Research and evaluate the Church's impact on culture and society.

Competencies

- **General:** Critical thinking, oral and written communication, academic leadership, teamwork, intercultural sensitivity, digital competence.
- **Specific:** Historiographical research, source criticism, paleography, archival studies, chronology, fundamental theology, Social Doctrine of the Church, history teaching.

Language Offer and Proficiency Requirements

The program is offered in three modalities: Spanish, English, and Bilingual. Language certification requirements are equivalent to other UNICA programs (TOEFL/IELTS, DELE, or institutional exams).

Curriculum by Semester (8 semesters — 160 credits)

Semester	Code	Course	Credits	Description	Prerequisites
1	HIS-101	Introduction to Ecclesiastical Historiography	6	Foundations, methods, and schools of Church History.	None
	HIS-102	Introduction to Sacred Scripture	6	Study of biblical texts as historical and theological sources.	None
	HIS-103	Latin I and Basic Paleography	4	Elementary grammar and translation of classical and ecclesiastical Latin.	None

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	HIS-104	Historical Geography and Chronology	4	Foundations of spatial and temporal study of historical events.	None
		Total Credits:	20		
2	HIS-201	Church History I: Origins and Antiquity (1st–6th Centuries)	6	Study of the early Church, the Fathers, and the first Councils.	HIS-101
	HIS-202	Patristics and Fundamental Theology	6	Thought of the Church Fathers and foundations of theology.	HIS-102
	HIS-203	Greek Koiné I and Philology	4	Introduction to New Testament Greek and textual criticism.	HIS-103
	HIS-204	Historical Research Methods I	4	Techniques for collecting and analyzing primary sources.	HIS-104
		Total Credits:	20		
3	HIS-301	Church History II: The Middle Ages (7th–15th Centuries)	6	Development of the papacy, religious orders, and medieval Christendom.	HIS-201
	HIS-302	History of Liturgy and Canon Law	6	Evolution of worship, rites, and ecclesiastical legislation.	HIS-202
	HIS-303	Advanced Paleography and Diplomatics	4	Advanced study of manuscripts and documentary authenticity.	HIS-103
	HIS-304	Philosophy of History and Culture	4	Reflection on the meaning of history and the role of the Church.	None
		Total Credits:	20		
4	HIS-401	Church History III: Modern Era (16th–18th Centuries)	6	The Reformation, the Council of Trent, and missionary expansion.	HIS-301



	HIS-402	Dogmatic and Conciliar Theology	6	Development of dogmas and study of the history of Councils.	HIS-202
	HIS-403	History of Religions and Dialogue	4	Study of major world religions and their interaction with Christianity.	HIS-203
	HIS-404	General Elective I	4	Elective course in humanities or social sciences.	As applicable
		Total Credits:	20		
5	HIS-501	Church History IV: Contemporary Era (19th–21st Centuries)	6	Vatican I and II, and the Church in a globalized world.	HIS-401
	HIS-502	History of Missions and Evangelization	6	Expansion of Christianity in the Americas, Asia, and Africa.	HIS-402
	HIS-503	Archival Science and Ecclesiastical Museology	4	Methods for cataloguing, conservation, and management of archives.	HIS-303
	HIS-504	Archival Practice I (Supervised)	4	Initial experience in ecclesiastical archives, libraries, or museums.	HIS-301
		Total Credits:	20		
6	HIS-601	Historical Research Methods II and Thesis Workshop	6	Application of advanced research techniques and thesis project development.	HIS-204
	HIS-602	Social Doctrine of the Church and History	6	Deepening of Catholic Social Teaching within historical development.	HIS-402



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	HIS-603	History of the Papacy and the Roman Curia	4	Institutional study of the Church's central governance.	HIS-401
	HIS-604	Archival Practice II (Intensive)	4	Intensive fieldwork in primary source research.	HIS-504
		Total Credits:	20		
7	HIS-701	History of the Church in Latin America and the U.S.	6	Development of Catholicism in the American continent.	HIS-501
	HIS-702	History of Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue	6	Movements for Christian unity and dialogue with other faiths.	HIS-403
	HIS-703	Leadership and Teaching of History	4	Pedagogical and leadership skills for history education.	HIS-502
	HIS-704	Advanced Elective in History or Philology	4	Specialized course on a historical period or ancient language.	As applicable
		Total Credits:	20		
8	HIS-801	Integrative Seminar and Thesis	10	Development and defense of an original, rigorous research project.	HIS-601
	HIS-802	Professional Ethics and Deontology of the Historian	6	Ethical principles in research, interpretation, and dissemination of history.	HIS-302
	HIS-803	Historical Dissemination and Publications	4	Strategies for publication, outreach, and use of digital media.	HIS-502
		Total Credits:	20		

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Methodology and Evaluation

- **Blended methodology:** synchronous/asynchronous classes, primary source seminars, paleography workshops, intensive seminars, and field practices in archives and research institutions.
- **Continuous evaluation:** document analysis, research reports, historiographical essays, supervised practices, original research, and thesis defense.
- **In bilingual modality,** social and linguistic competencies will be evaluated in both languages.

Institutional Notes and Regulatory Compliance

The university will adapt admission documents and requirements in accordance with Texas state regulations and current authorization and accreditation standards applicable to religious institutions and virtual/blended programs.