

HISTORY

What is History? (from <http://www.albright.edu/catalog/history.html>)

“The History Department is committed to expanding the intellectual and cultural dimensions of Majors as well as Non-Majors. If the habit of critical historical inquiry – the methods of history as a scholarly discipline – can be effectively instilled, it has the potential to transform a person’s approach to everything in life that follows. It can take small certainties and replace them with large questions. It can encompass tight circles of association and recast them as a limitless network of interconnections. It can take inconspicuous parts of human experience that might otherwise be dismissed as strange, stupid, incomprehensible, boring or irrelevant and make them indispensable to self-understanding.

Goals of the History Department

- Introduce students to the discipline of History
- Prepare students to be effective and clear communicators
- Prepare students for future studies and careers in a variety of fields
- Prepare students for a lifetime of critical engagement with their worlds”

What are the career opportunities for a History graduate?

Related Career Titles (<http://uncw.edu/career/history.html>)

Anthropologist	FBI/CIA Agent	Journalist
Archeologist	Foreign News Corresp.	Lawyer
Archivist	Foreign Service Officer	Lecturer
Biographer	Genealogist	Legal Assistant/Paralegal
Clergy	Government Official	Librarian
Community Relations Dir.	Historian	Lobbyist
Congressional Aide	Historic Preservationist	Market Research Analyst
Consumer Advocate	Historic Site Tour Guide	Media Consultant
Counselor	Historical Society Staff	Museum Curator
Criminologist	Indicter	Museum Tech. & Specialist
Demographer	Insurance Agent/Broker	Park Ranger
Economist	Intelligence Analyst	Peace Corps/Vista Worker
Editor	International Relations	Political Scientist
Psychologist	Teacher, Social Studies	Urban Administrator
Public Relations Specialist	Technical Writer	Urban Planner
Research Assistant	Travel Agent	Writer/Author
Sociologist		

The level of education required for each of the career titles provided varies. Graduates with master's degrees in applied specialties usually are qualified for positions outside of colleges and universities, although requirements vary by field. A Ph.D. may be required for higher-level positions as a historian. A bachelor's degree does, however, provide a suitable background for many different kinds of entry-level jobs in related occupations, such as research assistant, writer, management trainee or market analyst. Many social science students also benefit from internships or field experience. Numerous local museums, historical societies, government agencies, nonprofits and other organizations offer internships or volunteer research opportunities. Archaeological field schools instruct future anthropologists, archaeologists and historians in how to excavate, record and interpret historical sites. For specific education and preparation required for various careers, refer to www.bls.gov/oco.

Some Employers of History Majors (<http://uncw.edu/career/history.html>)

Advertising	Broadcasting	Bureau of the Census
Business and industry	Central Intelligence Agency	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of State	Media	Museums & archives
Paralegal profession	Peace Corps/Vista	Political parties
Public interest groups	Campaigns	Legislators
Research foundations	Schools and Universities	State and local governments
Travel and tour services	Administration & legislation	Corrections & court systems
Education	Health and human services	Housing & community development
Library	Parks & recreation	Police & fire protection
Social & welfare services	Transportation	

How can you get ready?

- An undergraduate degree in history is good preparation for graduate study in history as well as other areas such as psychology, law or business.
- Research the prerequisites of the area of interest and tailor the program of study to meet curricular and skill needs.
- Part-time, summer, internship and volunteer experiences are critical.
- Develop skills by obtaining a leadership role in a school or community organization.
- Get involved in student government.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills are imperative for most careers related to history, politics or government.
- Become familiar with the government application process for opportunities in federal, state or local government.
- Prepare to develop a specialty area that includes academic training and work experience for history-related careers.
- Develop patience, persistence, and drive in obtaining history related positions.

- For careers in politics, be prepared to volunteer extensively before being hired or elected as an employee or official. Begin by working with the campaign or official of choice while in college.
- For careers in arts and humanities, obtain a broad liberal arts background that includes knowledge of the arts, personal and mass communication, and foreign languages.
- Join related social and/or professional organizations.
- Develop a network of both formal and informal contacts.
- Research Websites and books that address various job opportunities, pay structure and hiring processes.

Related Major Skills (<http://uncw.edu/career/history.html>)

Explaining ideas	Interpreting events and ideas
Writing and presenting information	Examining evidence
Analyzing ideas and information	Developing a world view
Explaining the present by referring to the past	Decision making
Seeing relationships between factors	

“Important Qualities

Analytical skills. Historians must be able to examine the information and data in historical sources and draw logical conclusions from them, whether the sources are written documents, visual images, or material artifacts.

Communication skills. Communication skills are important for historians because many give presentations on their historical specialty to the public. Historians also need communication skills when they interview people to collect oral histories, consult with clients, or collaborate with colleagues in the workplace.

Problem-solving skills. Historians try to answer questions about the past. They may investigate something unknown about a past idea, event, or person; decipher historical information; or identify how the past has affected the present.

Research skills. Historians must be able to examine and process information from a large number of historical documents, texts, and other sources.

Writing skills. Writing skills are essential for historians as they often present their findings in reports, articles, and books.” (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/historians.htm#tab-4>)

What about the future?

“Historians should face very strong competition for most jobs. Because of the popularity of history degree programs, applicants are expected to outnumber positions available. Those with

practical skills or hands-on work experience in a specialized field such as collections, fundraising, or exhibit design, should have the best job prospects. Because historians have broad training and education in writing, analytical research, and critical thinking, they can apply their skills to many different occupations—for example, as writers and authors, editors, postsecondary teachers, high school teachers, or policy analysts. Also, there are many history-related jobs that do not have the title of historian. Workers with a background in history often look for closely related jobs, working as archivists, curators, and museum workers, social science or humanities researchers, and cultural resource managers.” (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/historians.htm#tab-6>)

Available at Albright College Career Development Center’s Resource Library

- Great Jobs for History Majors, by Julie DeGalan and Stephen Lambert
- Career Opportunities in Politics, Government and Activism, by Joan Axelrod-Contrada
- Careers for Bookworms and Other Literary Types, by Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisler
- Careers for Courageous People and Other Adventurous Types, by Jan Goldberg
- Careers for History Buffs and Others Who Learn from the Past, by Blythe Camenson
- Careers for Mystery Buffs and Other Snoops and Sleuths, by Blythe Camenson
- Careers for Patriotic Types and Others Who Want To Serve Their Country, by Jan Goldberg
- Careers for Persuasive Types and Others Who Won’t Take No For An Answer, by Jan Goldberg
- Opportunities in Federal Government Careers, by Neale Baxter
- Opportunities in Law Careers, by Gary Munneke
- Opportunities in Library and Information Science Careers, by Kathleen de la Pena McCook
- Opportunities in Museum Careers, by Blythe Camenson
- Opportunities in Nonprofit Organization, by Adrian A. Paradis
- Opportunities in Social Science Careers, by Rosanne J. Marek
- Opportunities in State and Local Government Careers, by Neale Baxter
- Opportunities in Teaching Careers, by Janet Fine

Disclaimer

Links to Internet sites are provided for your convenience and do not constitute an endorsement by Albright College or the Experiential Learning and Career Development Center.

Career Planning Links

- Government jobs <http://govtjobs.com/>
- Careers in History <http://www.historians.org/pubs/free/careers/index.htm>
- Museum Employment Resource Center <http://www.museum-employment.com/>
- Art Galleries and Museums <http://www.icom.org/vlmp/galleries.html>
- Museum Jobs <http://www.museumjobs.com>
- Smithsonian Institution <http://www.sih.si.edu/jobs.cfm>

- USAJobs <http://www.usajobs.gov>
- National Park Service <https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/workwithus.htm>
- Careers for History Majors <https://www.historians.org/jobs-and-professional-development/career-resources/careers-for-history-majors>
- Fulbright Scholar Program <http://www.cies.org/>

Professional Associations Links

- American Historical Association <https://www.historians.org/>
- American Association for State and Local History <http://www.aaslh.org>
- Society for American Archaeology <http://www.saa.org/>
- National Council for History Education <http://www.nche.net/>
- World History Association <http://www.thewha.org/>
- Phi Alpha Theta: National History Honor Society <http://phialphatheta.org/>