



History

College of Liberal Studies

History can be defined as organized memory. Without it, society has no identity, no past. Everyone is a product of his or her past; each person has a history. Our history lives within us as both unconscious instinct and conscious knowledge. We study history so that we may have better knowledge of our nation, our world, and ourselves. History sheds light on current issues such as economic instability, the energy crisis, the hazards of nuclear power, and the search for international order among nations.

Historical study is unique in the sense that all events which occur are a part of history; therefore, history affects all areas of study and, more importantly, life. The History Department seeks to maintain a balance between the kind of work which will serve students who intend to go on to graduate school in history, law, public history, and other fields, and the type of preparation which will be useful to those who plan to go directly from college to full-time employment.

Undergraduate Programs

Majors:

- History*
- History with Regional World Emphasis

Minor:

- History*
 - Public History
- *Teacher certification available*

Department Features

The members of the History Department make a continual effort to provide course content and counseling which will prepare students for the various types of careers available. The department participates in the UW-La Crosse internship program, which provides on-the-job training in a number of areas related to history careers.

In the classroom, the department places a significant emphasis on World History as well as on a variety of regions of the world, including Latin America, Africa, Asia, Europe, and the U.S. The department offerings also include courses in African American History, Women's History, and special areas such as Environmental History.

Public History Minor

The department offers a Public History Minor, the only undergraduate pre-professional program of its kind in the state and region. The program is multi-disciplinary and prepares students for careers in historical societies, museums, archives, historic preservation, cultural resource management, historical archaeology, and other expanding fields.

Sample Courses

- U.S. History
- The Ancient Medieval World
- Survey of Modern Europe
- The Asian World
- Women in Early America
- Reforming American Society
- The Holocaust
- History of Religions
- Ancient Egypt
- History Research Seminar

Career Opportunities

Entry Level

- Administrative or Management Trainee in historical society, museums, business, civic organization, foundation
- Civil Service (federal, state, or local)
- History or Social Studies Teacher (with teacher certification)
- Paralegal

Further Education

- Graduate study in history, international relations, library science, public administration, business administration
- Graduate study in public history fields: historic preservation, museum studies, archives management, applied history, urban planning
- Law School
- Theological Seminary

Long Term Career Development

- Archivist
- Clergy (with theological training)
- College or University Instructor or Administrator (with History Ph.D.)
- Government Historian
- Historical Editor
- Historical Consultant to business or government
- Historic Preservationist
- Lawyer (with law degree)

Occupational Outlook

A major or minor in history opens a wide range of opportunities and careers, particularly for those who do not limit their placement to a particular geographical area. Teacher certification is only one of many paths that might be followed. A history background can prove sufficient in some cases for entry into positions such as a journalist, reporter, or broadcaster. Libraries, museums, and historical societies hire people who have history training. History graduates have held jobs as paralegals and legal clerks.

Some recent graduates have combined a background in history with a technical skill such as computer science. Corporations often welcome history students into their on-the-job training programs. Banks, for example, have recruited history students because of their basic skills, organizational abilities, and perspectives.

National, state, and local governments hire history students. Examples include the National Park Service, Social Security Administration, Food and Drug

Administration, FBI, CIA, NSA, Immigration Service, Census Bureau, and state conservation commissions. Some history students fashion their own careers, and open small businesses or enter a variety of sales positions.

Study beyond the baccalaureate level, internship or practical on-the-job training provides a different set of opportunities. Further academic work in history can prepare one to enter college teaching or any number of areas within public history. Curatorial, archival, and administrative positions in museums, and state or local historical societies are good options.

Law has been a popular profession for many with history concentrations. The possibilities are numerous. Library science, the ministry, public administration, city planning or management, the Foreign Service, and business administration are all career alternatives that have been approached successfully by those with a history background.

Job Titles of Graduates

- Administrative Assistant, Business
- Archivist
- Government Agency Historian
- Historical Editor
- Historic Site Interpretive Manager
- Lawyer
- Legislative Aide
- Librarian
- Museum Curator
- Museum Display Builder
- News Reporter
- Paralegal
- Teacher
- Textbook Salesperson

Professional Associations

- American Historical Association
- World History Association
- Wisconsin Historical Society

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