

# HISTORY

**What is History?** (from <http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/history.htm>)

“The discipline trains both the mind and the imagination of those who study it. History imparts the vital skills of discernment and synthesis through critical thinking, reading, and writing skills. In particular, History confronts students with worlds, times, places and cultures — including their own — in ways they never before considered.

To study History is to affirm the commitment to exploring issues of diversity within both a national and global context. To study history is to engage intellectually in the confrontation of peoples, ideas and values, in part because the past, no matter the society, is a foreign country.”

**What are the career opportunities for a History graduate?**

**Related Career Titles** (Some may require education beyond bachelor's degree)

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](http://www.bls.gov/oco).

### Some Employers of History Majors

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

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	

“Social scientists need excellent written and oral communication skills to report research findings and to collaborate on research. Successful social scientists also need intellectual curiosity and creativity because they constantly seek new information about people, things and ideas. The ability to think logically and methodically is also essential to analyze complicated issues, such as the relative merits of various forms of government. Objectivity, an open mind and systematic work habits are important in all kinds of social science research. Perseverance, too, is often necessary, as when an anthropologist spends years studying artifacts from an ancient civilization before making a final analysis and interpretation.” (from <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos054.htm>).

## What about the future?

“Employment of historians is projected to grow about as fast as average for all occupations through the year 2014.” For additional job outlook information, refer to [www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco).

## 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 Career Development Center.

Links found at <http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/history.htm>.

### **Career Planning Links**

- Organization of American Historians <http://www.oah.org/announce/jobs.html>
- Government jobs <http://govtjobs.com/>
- Jobs in archeology [http://archaeologic.com/jobs\\_in\\_archaeology.htm](http://archaeologic.com/jobs_in_archaeology.htm)
- Careers in History <http://www.historians.org/pubs/free/careers/index.htm>
- Museum Employment Resource Center <http://www.museum-employment.com/>
- U.S. Museum Directory <http://www.museumca.org/usa/>
- Art Galleries and Museums <http://www.icom.org/vlmp/galleries.html>
- Museum Jobs <http://www.museumjobs.com>
- Museum Jobs <http://www.museum-employment.com>

### **Professional Associations Links**

- American Historical Association <http://www.historians.org>
- American Association for State and Local History <http://www.aaslh.org>
- Society for American Archaeology <http://www.saa.org/>