

History Major and Minor

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"Not to know what happened before you were born is to be a child forever."

--Marcus Tullius Cicero, Roman orator and statesman

We are all products of history. Imagine waking up one morning without any memory. How would you function in society? Even more importantly, how would society function if everyone's memory vanished? Students of history recover and analyze the past, preserving memory and learning from it. In doing so, they gain an appreciation of how crucial historical perspectives are to being a well-informed, engaged citizen of both the United States and the world -- because historical literacy also entails the ability to understand people different from ourselves, an essential skill as all corners of the globe become increasingly connected.

Customary professional opportunities for History majors include teaching and law, and many History majors have gone on to graduate school in History and other fields. But the future for those who have studied the past can be almost anything. History majors succeed in many fields because they learn analytical and critical thinking skills and become adept in both oral and written communication. Careers of recent graduates bear this out. Our majors have gone on to jobs in business, management, finance, tourism, government, medicine, and non-profits as well as taking advantage of opportunities in public history, archival work, historical societies and museums.

Required courses for the History major

The History major requires the completion of 36 credits, 18 of which must be at the 1000 level, distributed as follows.

Core courses

One course in pre-1800 history

U.S. History

Honors major requirements

Honors in history consists of fulfilling all requirements for the major, plus an additional six credits for a total of 42 credits.

The following three courses should be taken, preferably in sequence

- HIST 1000 Capstone Seminar
- HIST 1901 Independent Study