



What can I do with a major in History

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The information below describes typical occupations and employers associated with this major.

Understand that some of the options listed below may require additional training.

Moreover, you are not limited to these options alone when choosing a possible career path.

Description of History

History is an ambitious discipline that takes as its subject all of the activities of humanity from its earliest days to the present. Historians try to reconstruct the past based on evidence that includes documents, cultural artifacts, and for more recent history, interviews with people who have memories of the events. The study of history is important because it helps you to better understand the world in which you live and the people who inhabit it; history provides you with an explanation of how we got where we are now. The study of history should leave you with a level-headed and long-term perspective based on the knowledge that the world has always been affected by good and evil, that change is the result of complex and often unpredictable factors, and that the flow of human experience is made up of both continuity and change.

Perhaps most importantly, the study of history allows you to acquire skills and habits of mind that are broadly useful and transferable to a variety of life situations and jobs. History emphasizes examining situations from different perspectives, careful reading of texts, a critical attitude towards information with an eye towards bias and/or falsity, the ability to answer difficult questions by conducting competent research, making conclusions based on careful consideration of evidence, and being able to clearly explain your ideas to others. This knowledge and skill set not only makes you a more informed citizen, but allows you to go on to jobs in teaching, public history, or into the popular paths of business, law, or government. The abilities gained through the study of history are also an excellent preparation for the growing range of jobs in the service sector that require adaptability and strong communication skills. Whatever direction your career may lead, the knowledge and skills gained through the study of history can help you land a first job, succeed in your profession, and lead a more thoughtful and engaged life.

Our department encourages all history majors to consider study abroad and internship opportunities. Students have recently studied abroad in Scotland, England, and South Africa. They have completed internships with the National Civil Rights Museum, the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center, the Memphis Public Library, the Pink Palace, and local congressional and law offices. Recent graduates have gone to law school and various Master's and Doctoral graduate programs. Others have gone directly into careers in teaching, public history, law enforcement, military service, sales, and management.

Possible Job Titles of History Graduates (Includes Full-Time, Internships & Co-Ops)

*(*Jobs secured as reported by CBU Career Services post-graduate survey)*

Advertising Executive*	Development Specialist*	Newspaper Reporter
Archeologist	Director of Communications	Oral Historian*
Archivist*	Editor*	Paralegal*
Assistant Media Planner*	Field Coordinator*	Park Ranger
Biography Writer	Foreign News Correspondent	Peace Corps Volunteer*
Chief Financial Officer	Foreign Service Officer*	Pharmaceutical Sales Rep*
Child Welfare Service Worker*	Genealogist	Policy Examiner*
CIA / FBI Agent	Government Affairs Manager*	Political Analyst/Consultant*
City / Urban Planner	Historical Society Director	Preservation Specialist
Clergy*	Human Resources Specialist*	Professor*
Columnist/Journalist	Judicial Clerk	Project Manager*
Communications/PR*	Lawyer*	Public Opinion Analyst
Community Organizer*	Legal Assistant*	Public Policy Assistant*
Congressional Staff Aide	Legislative Correspondent*	Public Relations Specialist
Conservationist	Librarian*	Reporter*
Convention/Meeting Planner*	Litigation Clerk	Researcher*
Corrections Officer	Lobbyist	Teacher*
Criminologist	Marketing Coordinator*	Urban Administration
Customs Investigator	Minister*	Writer
Deputy Press Secretary*	Museum Director/Curator*	Youth Director*

Possible Employers and Employment Settings for History Graduates

(*Jobs secured as reported by CBU Career Services post-graduate survey)

AFLAC*	Hunt-Phelen House*	Publishing Companies
AutoZone*	Insurance Agencies*	Radio/Television Stations*
Banks/Financial Corporations*	Justice Department	Research Foundations
Broadcasting Companies	Katz Media Group	School Systems*
Chambers of Commerce	Libraries	Southern Center for Humanity*
Civil Rights Commissions	Magazines & Newspapers	St. Jude Children's Hospital*
Colleges & Universities*	Museums	Teach for America*
Communications Agencies*	National Archives	United Consulting Group
Community Organizations*	Non-profit Organizations*	US Army, Navy & Marine Corps
Democratic Consulting Group*	Partnership for Prevention*	US Department of Justice
Department of Community Affairs*	Peace Corps*	US Postal Service
Education Departments	Political Interest Groups	Viacom, Inc.*
Government Agencies*	Political Organizations*	Windsor Group*
Historical Societies*	Prudential Securities	YMCA*
Human Service Agencies	Public Relation Firms	Youth Villages*

Skill Sets and Interests Associated with History Majors

Able to identify and evaluate events
Proficiency in reading comprehension and research
Skilled at understanding patterns as they develop
Ability to solve problems in a systematic fashion
Appreciative of historical events
Investigative, likes to think analytically, ask critical questions
Strong interest in reading and writing
Desire to understand and explain the past
Capable of maintaining objectivity

Imaginative and able to think outside the box
Capable of explaining complex data
Ability to conduct scientific research
Ability to effectively communicate ideas
Able to associate with people with differing beliefs
Skilled at developing personal thoughts / theories
Ability to assess crisis and problem solve
Awareness of community needs
Propensity to be a leader

Top Career Services Resources for History Majors

Career Resources Library (Buckman 207)
Handshake: <http://cbu.joinhandshake.com>
Memphis Business Journal, Book Of Lists
Great Jobs for History Majors: Julie DeGalan & Stephen Lambert
100 Best Nonprofits to Work For: Leslie Hamilton & Robert Tragert
The Book of US Government Jobs by Dennis V. Damp

The Official Guide to Legal Specialties by Lisa L. Abrams, J.D.
Great Jobs for Political Science Majors by Mark Rowen
An Insider's Guide to Political Jobs in Washington by William T. Endicott
Federal Jobs: The Ultimate Guide by Morgan & Goldenkoff
The Guide that Turns Learning into Earning: Liberal Arts Jobs by Burt Nadler

Find out what careers you might be a fit for you using:

TypeFocus: www.typefocus.com (Access Code: CBU8998)

CBU Campus Contacts Associated with History

CBU Rosa Deal School of Arts, Second Floor – (901) 321-3335

Additional Resources/Contacts for History Majors

American Association for State & Local History Dispatch: www.aaslh.org
American Association of Museums: www.aam-us.org
National Archives: www.nara.gov
Natl. Trust for Historic Preservation: www.nthp.org
Society of American Archivists: www.archivists.org
American Historical Association: www.thaha.org
Heritage Preservation: www.heritagepreservation.org
Academy of Political Science: www.epn.org

American Association of Political Consultants: www.theapc.org
American League of Lobbyist: www.alldc.org
American Political Science Association: www.apsanet.org
Association for Public Policy Analysis /Management: www.appam.org
Research Network: <http://www.researchnetwork.com/>
Women's Caucus for Political Science: <http://wcpss.wlu.edu>
World Future Society: <http://wfs.org>