



Baruch College
Career Development Center
VC 2-150 (646) 312-4670

A Career Guide for History

History considers the political, intellectual, and economic aspects of life, looks at scientific progress, and surveys the social, artistic, and cultural experiences and religious beliefs of people. As a field of study that embraces all recorded expressions of human activity, the study of history is recognized as central to a liberal arts education. A bachelor's degree in history is a foundation for successful careers in many fields, serving as a traditional background for law, teaching, public service, and academic

careers. In addition, graduates have found their skills transferable to fields not necessarily associated with history, such as medicine and the business world. History concentrators often continue their education in professional school or a graduate program. Listed below are some characteristic skills developed by history majors as well as representative occupations of graduates with a history degree. For further information, contact the Department of History at VC 5-200 or (646) 312-4310.

SKILLS & ABILITIES

Skills gained through the study of history include analyzing and understanding the impact of historical forces on societies and perceiving how groups cope with changing circumstances. Students concentrating in history develop and hone skills in areas such as critical thinking, organization of ideas and supporting documentation, writing, and analysis.

These abilities may be applied to job responsibilities in a variety of sectors and occupational groups. For example, while a policy analyst, an underwriter, or a museum curator might use critical thinking for different purposes, each will probably use that skill on a daily basis. A sampling of representative skills and abilities follows.

Research

Analyzing ideas/information.
Organizing ideas.
Compiling and evaluating information.
Comparing/contrasting ideas and information.
Adapting ideas.
Understanding and interpreting the present/past.

Understanding Society

Analyzing impact of problems on society.
Knowledge of how societies cope with change.
Explaining the present by referring to the past.
Developing a world view.

Project Development

Developing ideas and projects.
Planning/creating materials.
Organizing information.
Seeing relationships between factors.
Decision making.

Communication

Explaining and interpreting events/ideas.
Describing and evaluating issues/problems/events.
Observing and comparing people/data/things.
Compiling research.

OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The study of history provides an excellent background for a wide variety of careers. History is an excellent foundation for careers in government service, law, teaching, advertising, and journalism. This selected list of occupations pursued by history majors offers a glimpse of the wide-ranging career paths for which a history

degree provided preparation. In some cases, the primary skills acquired studying history are a direct match for those used on the job. However, many of these occupations require additional skills or training, graduate study, or professional school.

Government/ Public Service

Policy analyst.
Lawyer.
Legal assistant.
Politician.
Legislative aide/analyst.
Foreign Service officer.
Intelligence officer.
Customs investigator.
Urban planner.
City Manager.
Foundation Administrator.

Communications

Writer/technical writer.
Journalist (print, broadcast, Internet).
Public relations representative.
Research/technical advisor (film/TV/radio).
Editor (journals, trade books, magazines).
Costume designer.

Business

Sales/Marketing representative.
Financial analyst.
Corporate trainer.
Insurance agent.
Loan administrator.
Information manager.
Small business owner.
Corporate historian.
Management consultant.

Education and Research

Teacher/Professor.
Archivist.
Museum curator/staff.
Genealogist.
Librarian.
Information specialist.
Biographer.
Historic preservation consultant.
Historic site administrator.
Historian.

Web Sites for additional information:

The most comprehensive site about careers, including current salary and job prospects, is the US Government's Occupational Outlook Handbook - <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/>

History and Careers <http://www.uca.edu/history/careers.htm>

FAQ's About a Career in History <http://www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/chass/history/hifaqs.html>

American Association for State and Local History <http://www.aaslh.org>

Bureau of the Census* <http://www.census.gov/>

National Register of Historic Places* <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/index.htm>

Society for American Archaeology <http://www.saa.org/>

Yahoo! Resources for History* <http://www.yahoo.com/Arts/Humanities/History/Organizations/>

Links to Scholarly Societies* http://www.wcsu.ctstateu.edu/library/rr_organizations.html

Resources of Historical Societies* http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/society/history_soc.html

The Department of History The College of Staten Island tells you what you can do with a history major <http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/dept/history/career.html>

This is a general guide to possible career paths for holders of history degree:

<http://www.ncsu.edu/chass/history/hifaqs.html>

The History Channel <http://www.historychannel.com/>

Websites for the History Profession* <http://www.oah.org/announce/links.html>

History Departments Around the World* <http://chnm.gmu.edu/history/depts/>

MN 8/02 Information was obtained from the following sources:

Fogg, N. (1999). The College Majors Handbook. IN:JIST.

Websites: <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/>, <http://www.unewil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/index.htm>.

<http://career.utk.edu/students/majors/majorsindex.asp>, <http://cpp.umich.edu/cpp/library/CareerGuides/careerguides.html>.

<http://www.ncsu.edu/career/students/major.htm>, <http://www.ashland.edu/cardev/CareerDevelop/majorin.html>.