

HISTORY, BA

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING AND CAREERS

DECLARE OR CANCEL THE HISTORY MAJOR

Students interested in declaring (or cancelling) a History major should fill out the History Major/Certificate Declaration Form (<https://history.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/declaring-the-history-major-or-certificate/>). There are no prerequisites for declaring a History major, and students are encouraged to declare as soon as they feel comfortable doing so. All students are strongly encouraged to make an advising appointment after declaring and are also welcome to meet with an advisor before declaring. More information about advising and the major is available below and on the undergraduate section (<https://history.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/>) of the department website.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Students who are declared or interested in the History major have numerous advising resources available to them. The History advising team is comprised of professional and peer advisors who are excited to talk with students about everything from academic planning to professional development for future careers. Information on the history advising team and how to contact an advisor can be found on our website (<https://history.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/undergraduate-advising/>). You can set up an appointment with one of our advisors by using the History Department Starfish (<https://wisc.starfishsolutions.com/starfish-ops/dl/instructor/serviceCatalog.html?bookmark=service/64599>) page.

The History major can also be combined with any other major in the College of Letters & Science, anything from Astronomy (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/astronomy/>) to Zoology (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/history/history-ba/undergraduate/letters-science/integrative-biology/zoology-bs/>). Majors that students most frequently pair with History are Economics (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/economics/>), English (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/english/>), Environmental Studies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/environmental-studies/environmental-studies-major/>), Journalism (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/journalism-mass-communication/>), and Political Science (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/political-science/>). History students can also choose to add certificates in Letters & Science or other colleges, such as certificates in Business (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/business/school-wide/business-certificate/>) or Education and Educational Services (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/educational-psychology/education-educational-services-certificate/>). In addition to these, some of the most common certificates for History students are currently Criminal Justice (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/center-law-society-justice/criminal-justice-certificate/>), Global Health (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/nutritional-sciences/global-health-certificate/>), European Studies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/institute-regional-international-studies/european-certificate/>), and Digital Studies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/communication-arts/digital-studies-certificate/>). The History advising team is happy to discuss ways for you to make your intellectual and career goals work as part of

a four-year plan (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/history/history-ba/#fouryearplantext>).

Honors in the Major

The Honors in the Major track in history is intended for students who are eager to experience the excitement of original historical research and who wish to graduate with the best possible undergraduate training in this discipline. Honors in the Major is especially appropriate for students who are considering graduate work in history or who want an especially advanced training in research, reasoning, and writing skills useful to a wide range of career choices. Students in this track write a thesis in their senior year based on their own original historical research. Visit our website (<https://history.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/undergraduate-declaring/honors-in-the-history-major/>) for more information on the thesis process and the requirements for Honors in the History Major.

CAREER ADVISING

History is a rigorous but flexible major, and history students are known for being excellent communicators and savvy researchers. Historians are experts in synthesizing disparate pieces of evidence into coherent, persuasive arguments. The real world is filled with disparate facts and incomplete sets of data, so this is a real-world skill that history alumni utilize throughout their entire careers. The department's career advisor, Christina Matta (<https://history.wisc.edu/people/matta-christina/>), helps History students map out future career plans and connects students to a variety of resources on campus and beyond, including history alumni who volunteer as career mentors (see below for more information).

Alumni of the history department have enjoyed careers in medical research and practice; broadcast and print media; sports management; museums, archives, and libraries; finance and business, and community service and nonprofit organizations—as well as law, academia, and many other fields. The History major provides excellent preparation for the study of law, but our students also go on to study medicine and many other graduate fields. The centers for Pre-Law Advising (<https://prelaw.wisc.edu/>) and Pre-Health Advising (<https://prehealth.wisc.edu/>) are especially helpful resources on campus for students interested in those areas of study.

History Careers Course: “History at Work”

HISTORY 300 History at Work: Professional Skills of the Major is a course intended to help History students understand how their degree applies to the world of work. Students explore how their history skills relate to the needs of professional employers and are guided in the process of finding and obtaining professional internships and jobs. In this course, History students can polish their written and oral communication skills in forms appropriate for professional situations and learn from the experiences of guest speakers from a variety of fields.

Internships

The Department of History recognizes the importance of internships in helping students develop professional skills and explore potential career paths. Positions can vary depending on availability and students' interests, but recent sponsors have included the Wisconsin State Historical Museum, the University of Wisconsin Archives, offices of elected officials in the Wisconsin State Legislature and United States Congress, the Milwaukee Brewers, and Community Shares of Wisconsin, just to name a few! History majors can also get academic credit in conjunction with an internship by taking HISTORY 301 History at Work: History Internship Seminar.

Alumni Mentoring

Like internships, networking can be a valuable tool in opening professional doors and learning more about the professional value of the History major.

The department often matches students with alumni mentors drawn from

our Board of Visitors (<https://history.wisc.edu/alumni-and-friends/board-of-visitors/>) and other graduates who can help them get started building a professional network, answer questions about a specific field, provide guidance in applying for jobs or preparing for interviews, and provide general career advice.

Students interested in participating in an internship or talking with an alumni mentor should meet with Christina Matta, the department's undergraduate career advisor, to discuss their interests and possible career goals.

SUCCESSWORKS

SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps you turn the academic skills learned in your classes into a fulfilling life, guiding you every step of the way to securing jobs, internships, or admission to graduate school.

Through one-on-one career advising, events, and resources, you can explore career options, build valuable internship and research experience, and connect with supportive alumni and employers who open doors of opportunity.

- What you can do with your major (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/what-you-can-do-with-your-major/>) (Major Skills & Outcomes Sheets)
- Make a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
- Try "Jobs, Internships, & How to Get Them," (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/canvas/>) an interactive guide in Canvas for enrolled UW-Madison students