

HISTORY, BA

Why study history? (<https://history.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/history-careers/why-history/>) History is so much more than memorizing names and dates. Are you interested in technology? Religion? The environment? Human rights? If you have a question, history can help you find an answer.

The History major is a great option for people who are interested in studying *change*. History asks, “How did the world get to be this way?” and “What factors might influence where the world is heading now?” Studying history helps us understand and grapple with complex questions and dilemmas by examining how the past has shaped—and continues to shape—global, national, and local relationships between societies and people. The skills that history students develop are used in a wide range of careers and prepare students for graduate or professional study in fields such as law, business, medicine, public policy, and much more.

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/integrative-biology/zoology-ba/>). 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>).