

# WHAT CAN I DO WITH A

# MAJOR IN HISTORY?

A degree in History equips you with a broad base of knowledge and skills applicable to a variety of careers. From well-honed critical thinking and research skills to written and verbal communication skills, as well as independent work habits and an ability to present ideas and information in a concise way, History majors have the opportunity to develop the skills largely sought by a wide range of employers. Below are just a few examples of the many fields

or general areas you might consider. However, keep in mind that History majors have also found success in a much wider variety of professions, such as journalism, politics, higher education administration, museums, business and commercial ventures, and more. To learn more about where some of DePaul University's History alumni have found their success, visit [ask.depaul.edu](http://ask.depaul.edu)!



I CAN GO INTO...

AND POSSIBLY WORK FOR...

DOING THIS CAN HELP ME GET THERE...

SAMPLE COMPANIES

SAMPLE TITLES

CAREER AREA	POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS	CAREER PREPARATION STRATEGIES	Sample List of Companies for History Majors	Sample List of Job & Internship Titles for History Majors
<p><b>GOVERNMENT, POLITICS AND LAW</b></p> <p>History majors develop strong critical thinking, verbal communication and analytical writing skills that can help them succeed in these areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law firms</li> <li>• Government agencies</li> <li>• Public interest organizations</li> <li>• Colleges and universities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sharpen Your Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your major emphasizes research and writing. Think about the ways you can relate your skills in archival research, analysis of sources, and developing (and defending) arguments to your job interest.</li> <li>• Consider the Pre-Law Concentration, which focuses on legal history and the role of the law in shaping U.S. and world history. It can help prepare you for a career in these fields.</li> <li>• Participate on a debate team or mock-trial.</li> <li>• Get involved in student government or other civic-minded student organizations.</li> <li>• Write for campus publications focused on national and international affairs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Gain experience.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain an internship in a government agency or law firm or seek opportunities to shadow others in your area of interest.</li> <li>• Volunteer to work on political campaigns or with public interest groups.</li> </ul> <p><b>Network</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct informational interviews with local political figures, attend campaign and fundraising events and participate in local government to build your network of contacts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pursue a Minor.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depending on your area of interest, identify minors that will complement your skill set like foreign languages; Peace, Justice &amp; Conflict Studies; or Political Science.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pursue a Graduate Degree.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you plan to become an attorney, take the LSAT and earn a JD.</li> <li>• Maintain a high GPA and have strong faculty recommendations to include in your application.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illinois Attorney General</li> <li>• Illinois League of Conservation Voters</li> <li>• Lakeview Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Genson and Gillespie Law Offices</li> <li>• Segal, McCambridge, Singer &amp; Mahoney</li> <li>• Pappas, Healy &amp; Pappas LLC</li> <li>• City of Chicago</li> <li>• Chicago Housing Authority</li> <li>• Illinois Partners for Human Service</li> <li>• Baker and McKenzie</li> </ul>	<p><b>Job Titles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law Clerk</li> <li>• Legal Assistant</li> <li>• Paralegal</li> <li>• Lawyer</li> <li>• Judge</li> <li>• Alderman</li> <li>• Investigator</li> <li>• File Clerk</li> </ul> <p><b>Internship Titles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Bureau Intern</li> <li>• Research Intern</li> <li>• Campaign Strategy Intern</li> <li>• Legal Intern</li> <li>• Policy and Government Affairs Intern</li> </ul>

**DEPAUL UNIVERSITY**  
CAREER CENTER



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<p><b>CURATORIAL AND ARCHIVAL MANAGEMENT OR CONSERVATOR</b></p> <p>History demands the development of research skills, data collection, document assessment and analytical skills that are critical to success in curatorial and archival roles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Museums</li> <li>• Libraries</li> <li>• Colleges and universities</li> <li>• Special collections</li> <li>• Government agencies</li> <li>• Botanical gardens and zoos</li> <li>• Research institutions</li> <li>• Non-profit organizations</li> <li>• Large organizations with archives or records centers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sharpen Your Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasize the research and analytical skills developed during your studies. Build your knowledge in the area in which you plan to specialize.</li> <li>• Seek out projects in which you must organize and catalog large amounts of data.</li> </ul> <p><b>Gain Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get hands-on experience by working in the campus library or museums or by doing an internship in a local library or community museum. It can be difficult to get a full-time position in some of these areas without having done at least one internship before you graduate, so seek out an internship that will give you exposure to the work and enable you to build your skills.</li> </ul> <p><b>Broaden Your Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider becoming familiar with digital imaging, scanning technology and copyright infringement.</li> <li>• If pursuing conservation programs, take some chemistry courses.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pursue a Minor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider taking a minor in History of Art and Architecture.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pursue a Graduate Degree.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many employers in these fields require a master's degree combined with related work experience. Research your area of interest to determine if that will be a requirement for you.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ragdale Foundation</li> <li>• DePaul University Library</li> <li>• Joliet Area Historical Museum</li> <li>• American Red Cross</li> <li>• Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania</li> <li>• DuPage County Historical Museum</li> <li>• The Art Institute of Chicago</li> <li>• Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum</li> <li>• Chicago Historical Society</li> <li>• Chicago History Museum</li> </ul> 	<p><b>Job Titles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archivist</li> <li>• Bindery and Acquisitions Assistant</li> <li>• Library Archive Assistant</li> <li>• Research Assistant</li> <li>• Education and Research Associate</li> </ul> <p><b>Internship Titles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collections Intern</li> <li>• Historical Research Intern</li> <li>• Museum Intern</li> <li>• Prints and Drawing Intern</li> <li>• Publications Digitization Intern</li> <li>• Research Intern</li> <li>• Rights and Reproductions Intern</li> </ul>
<p><b>MEDIA</b></p> <p>History majors learn writing and research skills that can help them excel in this field.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newspapers</li> <li>• Radio and TV stations</li> <li>• Magazines and trade publications</li> <li>• Media relations departments within large corporations</li> <li>• Colleges and universities</li> <li>• Associations and non-profit organizations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sharpen Your Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look for opportunities to sharpen broaden your writing skills beyond academic works. Consider writing for student publications, such as The DePaulia.</li> <li>• Take classes in desktop publishing.</li> <li>• Take advantage of The Writing Center to get feedback and input on your writing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Gain Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain an internship in the media industry or look for opportunities to write or do research for local organizations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pursue a Minor.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider a minor in Journalism or Radio, TV and New Media to broaden your skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WTTW</li> <li>• Crain's Chicago Business</li> <li>• Wisconsin Public Radio</li> <li>• Chicago Dispatcher</li> <li>• Chicago Tribune</li> <li>• WGN</li> <li>• American Society of Safety Engineers</li> <li>• American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons</li> <li>• SmithBucklin Corporation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Job Titles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Reporter</li> <li>• Historian</li> <li>• News Fellow</li> <li>• News Writer</li> <li>• Media Relations Specialist/ Associate</li> </ul> <p><b>Internship Titles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentary Intern</li> <li>• Research Department Intern</li> <li>• Writing/Reporting Intern</li> <li>• Public and Media Relations Intern</li> <li>• Writing and Editorial Intern</li> </ul>

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<p><b>EDUCATION</b></p> <p>Many History majors choose to pursue teaching as a profession. The TEACH Program combines a History major with a Master's in Education Program. Students graduate with a BA in History and a MED in Education with State of Illinois Secondary Social Science licensure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public and private K-12 schools</li> <li>Language institutes</li> <li>Colleges and universities</li> <li>Americorps programs</li> </ul> <p>*please note that public schools and most private schools require teachers to be licensed by the state after completing an accredited education degree program (such as those offered by DePaul's College of Education).</p>	<p><b>Sharpen Your Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look for opportunities to tutor, participate in after school programs or volunteer at organizations that offer homework programs for kids. Become a peer mentor, resident assistant or orientation leader.</li> </ul> <p><b>Gain Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply for tutoring and mentorship positions in The Writing Center.</li> <li>Student teach.</li> <li>Teach English abroad.</li> <li>Work with kids at a summer camp.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chicago Public Schools</li> <li>Union League Boys &amp; Girls Club</li> <li>Jumpstart AmeriCorps</li> <li>Teach for America</li> <li>City Year</li> <li>Chicago Public Library</li> <li>Alternative Schools Network</li> </ul>	<p><b>Job Titles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History Teacher</li> <li>Reading Teacher</li> <li>Tutor</li> </ul> <p><b>Internship Titles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summer Reading Program Intern</li> <li>Literacy Intern</li> </ul>
<p><b>BUSINESS</b></p> <p>Given the analytical thinking and verbal and written communication skills developed by History majors, coupled with the ability to work independently, they are well placed to start in entry-level positions across a wide variety of business functions including sales, human resources, media relations and office administration.</p>		<p><b>Sharpen Your Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in extracurricular activities that help you build and practice your communication skills.</li> <li>Build leadership skills by taking on specific roles in student or community organizations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Gain Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain an internship in your area of interest. Find a part-time job in your industry of interest and practice putting your skills into action.</li> </ul> <p><b>Broaden Your Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop competencies with databases, spreadsheets, and presentation software.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pursue a Minor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider a minor in Business Administration or a more specific business-oriented area (e.g. sales) if appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>American Bar Association</li> <li>LaSalle Bank</li> <li>Chicago Architecture Foundation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marketing &amp; Communications Assistant</li> <li>Training Specialist</li> <li>Guest Relations Associate</li> </ul>