HISTORY, B.A.

3211 Mosse Humanities Building, 455 North Park Street, Madison, WI 53706, 608-263-1800, history.wisc.edu (https://history.wisc.edu/)

WHY STUDY HISTORY AT UW–MADISON?

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 at UW–Madison is a great option for people who are interested in studying (https://history.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/history-careers/why-history/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 majors develop are used in a wide range of careers (https://history.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/history-careers/) and prepare students for graduate or professional study in fields such as law, business, medicine, public policy and much more. History majors who are unsure of their careers can get great advice from our engaged alumni, who serve as career mentors, and by taking HISTORY 300 (https://guide.wisc.edu/search/?P=HISTORY%20300) History at Work: Professional Skills of the Major (see the Advising and Careers (https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/history/history-ba/#advisingandcareerstext) tab for more information).

The history major can also be combined with any other major in the college of Letters & Science (L&S), anything from astronomy (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/astronomy/) to zoology (https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/integrative-biology/zoology-bs/). Majors that students most frequently pair with history are: economics (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/economics/), English (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/english/), environmental studies (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/environmental-studies/environmental-studies-major/), journalism (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/journalism-mass-communication/), and political science (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/political-science/). History majors can also choose to add certificates in L&S or from outside the college, such as the certificates in business (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/business/school-wide/business-certificate/) or education and educational services (http://guide.wisc.edu/education/educational-psychology/education-educational-services-certificate/). In addition to these, some of the most common certificates for history majors are currently: criminal justice (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/center-law-society-justice/criminal-justice-certificate/), global health (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/nutritional-sciences/global-health-certificate/), European studies (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/institute-regional-international-studies/european-certificate/), and digital studies (http://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).

HOW TO GET IN

Students interested in declaring a history major should meet with an advisor in the history department. Information about advising and declaring the major is available on the undergraduate section (https://history.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/) of the department website. There are no prerequisites for declaring the history major, and students are encouraged to declare as soon as they feel comfortable doing so.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudystext) section of the Guide.

General Education

- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A & Part B *
- Ethnic Studies *
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics

• Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

Foreign Language

• Complete the fourth unit of a foreign language; OR
• Complete the third unit of a foreign language and the second unit of an additional foreign language.
L&S Breadth
- 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and
- 12 credits of Social Science; and
- 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework
Complete at least 108 credits.

Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work
Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.

Major
Declare and complete at least one major.

Total Credits
Complete at least 120 credits.

UW-Madison Experience
- 30 credits in residence, overall; and
- 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.

Quality of Work
- 2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison
- 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW–Madison

NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR
Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR
Students may use courses from History and History of Science to meet the requirements of the History major. A minimum of 30 credits in the major is required, including:

CHRONOLOGICAL BREADTH:
History majors must complete at least one course that deals with the history of Europe and/or the Mediterranean before C.E. 1500 or with the history of Africa or Asia before these areas fell heavily under European influence.

CHRONOLOGICAL BREADTH COURSES

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<td>English History: England to 1688</td>
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<td>HIST SCI 201</td>
<td>The Origins of Scientific Thought</td>
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<td>HISTORY/RELIG ST 205</td>
<td>The Making of the Islamic World: The Middle East, 500-1500</td>
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<td>Judaism, Christianity, and Islam: Braided Histories</td>
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**GEOGRAPHIC BREADTH:**

At minimum, history majors must complete one course from four of the eight geographic breadth categories.

**GEOGRAPHIC BREADTH: EUROPEAN HISTORY COURSES**

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<td>Early Modern France, 1500-1715</td>
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<td>The Scientific Revolution: From Copernicus to Newton</td>
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<td>Science in the Enlightenment</td>
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<td>Environmental History of Europe</td>
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<td>The First World War and the Shaping of Twentieth-Century Europe</td>
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<td>From Fascism to Today: Social Movements and Politics in Europe</td>
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<td>HISTORY/ASIAN AM 161</td>
<td>Asian American History: Settlement and National Belonging</td>
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<td>The Historian's Craft (The Hist of WI in 100 Objects)</td>
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<td>The Historian's Craft (Your Parents' Generation)</td>
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<td>The Historian's Craft (Race &amp; Belonging In Midwest)</td>
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<td>HISTORY JEWISH 213</td>
<td>Jews and American Pop. Culture</td>
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<td>HIST SCI/MED HIST 218</td>
<td>History of Twentieth Century American Medicine</td>
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<td>HISTORY/JEWISH 219</td>
<td>The American Jewish Experience: From Shetl to Suburb</td>
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<td>HISTORY 221</td>
<td>Explorations in American History (H)</td>
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<td>HISTORY/LEGAL ST 261</td>
<td>American Legal History to 1860</td>
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<td>HISTORY/LEGAL ST 262</td>
<td>American Legal History, 1860 to the Present</td>
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<td>HIST SCI/AFROAMER/MED HIST 275</td>
<td>Science, Medicine, and Race: A History</td>
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<td>History of American Thought, 1859 to the Present</td>
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<td>United States 1914-1945</td>
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<td>The Age of the American Revolution, 1763-1789</td>
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<td>Women and Gender in the U.S. to 1870</td>
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<td>Women and Gender in the U.S. Since 1870</td>
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<td>HISTORY/CHICLA/LACIS/POLI SCI 355</td>
<td>Labor in the Americas: US &amp; Mexico in Comparative &amp; Historical Perspective</td>
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<td>HISTORY/AFROAMER 393</td>
<td>Slavery, Civil War, and Reconstruction, 1848-1877</td>
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<td>HISTORY/HIST SCI/MED HIST 394</td>
<td>Science in America</td>
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<td>Immigration and Assimilation in American History</td>
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<td>HISTORY 408</td>
<td>American Labor History: 1900-Present</td>
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<td>HISTORY/ED POL 412</td>
<td>History of American Education</td>
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<td>HISTORY/CHICLA/POLI SCI 422</td>
<td>Latino History and Politics</td>
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<td>HISTORY 427</td>
<td>The American Military Experience to 1902</td>
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<td>HISTORY 428</td>
<td>The American Military Experience Since 1899</td>
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<td>HISTORY/ENVIR ST/LEGAL ST 430</td>
<td>Law and Environment: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives</td>
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<td>American Foreign Relations, 1901 to the Present</td>
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<td>HISTORY/ECON 466</td>
<td>The American Economy Since 1865</td>
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<td>HISTORY/ENVIR ST/GEOG 469</td>
<td>The Making of the American Landscape</td>
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<td>HISTORY/AMER IND 490</td>
<td>American Indian History</td>
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<td>Society and Health Care in American History</td>
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<td>HIST SCI/MED HIST 509</td>
<td>The Development of Public Health in America</td>
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<td>HIST SCI/AFROAMER/MED HIST 523</td>
<td>Race, American Medicine and Public Health</td>
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<td>HIST SCI/GEN&amp;WS/MED HIST 531</td>
<td>Women and Health in American History</td>
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<td>The History of the (American) Body</td>
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<td>HISTORY/JOURN 560</td>
<td>History of U.S. Media</td>
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<td>HISTORY/LI S 569</td>
<td>History of American Librarianship</td>
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<td>HISTORY 607</td>
<td>The American Impact Abroad: The Historical Dimension</td>
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<td>HISTORY/AFROAMER 628</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Movement in the United States</td>
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**NOTES ON HISTORY BREADTH REQUIREMENTS**

- Breadth courses may be taken in any order.
- Chronological Breadth courses may also count toward a Geographic Breadth category.
- Some courses qualify for more than one Geographic Breadth area, but a course may only count for one Geographic Breadth category for the purposes of meeting the requirement.
- Topics courses (HISTORY 200, HISTORY 201, HISTORY 221, HISTORY 223, HISTORY 225, HISTORY 280, HISTORY 283, HISTORY 286, HISTORY 350 & HISTORY 500) may count for Geographic and/or Chronological Breadth. For topics courses, see the course notes for current breadth information.
- The following courses **may not be used** for breadth in the major: HISTORY 199, HISTORY 600, HISTORY 680, HISTORY 681, HISTORY 682, HISTORY 690, & HISTORY 699.

**HISTORY WRITING AND RESEARCH SEQUENCE:**

History majors must complete both of the following:

- Students are encouraged to complete HISTORY 201 The Historian's Craft as early as possible.
- HISTORY 600 Advanced Seminar in History, to be taken after satisfactory completion of HISTORY 201. Enrolling in a HISTORY 600 seminar requires instructor consent. Available seminars can be found on the history department website (https://history.wisc.edu/history600-seminars/).

**RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK**

- 2.000 GPA in HISTORY/HISTORY of SCIENCE and all other major courses
- 2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major credits in residence.¹
- 15 credits HISTORY and/or HISTORY of SCIENCE taken on campus

**HONORS IN THE MAJOR**

Students may declare Honors in the History Major in consultation with the History undergraduate advisor.

**HONORS IN MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

To earn Honors in the Major in History, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:
• Earn a 3.300 overall University GPA
• Earn a 3.500 GPA in all HISTORY and HISTORY of SCIENCE courses
• Complete at least 36 total credits in HISTORY and HISTORY of SCIENCE coursework, 21 of which must be upper-level credits in residence
• Complete at least 15 Honors credits in HISTORY or HISTORY of SCIENCE coursework
• Complete a two-semester Senior Honors Thesis, a piece of original work of approximately forty pages, in HISTORY 681–HISTORY 682, taken in conjunction with the HISTORY 680 Honors Thesis Colloquium both semesters. The thesis must be approved by instructors in both the thesis and colloquium courses.

FOOTNOTES
1 Major courses with Intermediate or Advanced Level are counted as upper-level in the History major.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree
To receive a bachelor’s degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency
Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work
Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. (Define important historical questions) Pose a historical question and explain its academic and public implications.
2. (Define important historical questions) Using appropriate research procedures and aids, find the secondary resources in history and other disciplines available to answer a historical question.
3. (Define important historical questions) Evaluate the evidentiary and theoretical bases of pertinent historical conversations in order to highlight opportunities for further investigation.
4. (Collect and analyze evidence) Identify the range and limitations of sources available to engage the historical problem under investigation.
5. (Collect and analyze evidence) Examine the context in which sources were created, search for chronological and other relationships among them, and assess the sources in light of that knowledge.
6. (Collect and analyze evidence) Employ and, if necessary, modify appropriate theoretical frameworks to examine sources and develop arguments.
7. (Present original conclusions) Present original and coherent findings through clearly written, persuasive arguments and narratives.
8. (Present original conclusions) Orally convey persuasive arguments, whether in formal presentations or informal discussions.
9. (Present original conclusions) Use appropriate presentation formats and platforms to share information with academic and public audiences.
10. (Contribute to ongoing discussions) Extend insights from research to analysis of other historical problems.
11. (Contribute to ongoing discussions) Demonstrate the relevance of a historical perspective to contemporary issues.
12. (Contribute to ongoing discussions) Recognize, challenge, and avoid false analogies, overgeneralizations, anachronisms, and other logical fallacies.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This Sample Four-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it—along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools—to make their own four-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred courses and approved examinations, and individual interests. As students become involved in athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, volunteer experiences, and/or work, they might adjust the order of their courses to accommodate these experiences. Students will likely revise their own four-year plan several times during college.

First Year

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<td>Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Part A (Complete during your first year)</td>
<td>3 Biological Science Breadth ³</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning Part A (complete during your first year)</td>
<td>3 Literature Breadth</td>
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<td>Foreign Language (if necessary)</td>
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Second Year

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<td>Spring</td>
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<td>HISTORY 201 (counts toward Communication Part B) ⁵</td>
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<td>Quantitative Reasoning Part B (I/A Comp Sci, Math, or Stats if required for the BS)</td>
<td>3 History Elective</td>
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<td>3 Physical Science Breadth</td>
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### Elective or Course for Second Major

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<td>Literature Breadth</td>
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### Three-Year Plan

#### SAMPLE THREE-YEAR PLAN

This Sample Three-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it —along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools — to make their own three-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred courses and approved examinations, and individual interests.

Three-year plans may vary considerably from student to student, depending on their individual preparation and circumstances. Students interested in graduating in three years should meet with an advisor as early as possible to discuss feasibility, appropriate course sequencing, post-graduation plans (careers, graduate school, etc.), and opportunities they might forgo in pursuit of a three-year graduation plan.

#### DEPARTMENTAL EXPECTATIONS

Students planning to graduate within three years with a History major should enter the University with a minimum of 18 advanced standing credits, and have satisfied the following requirements with course credit or via placement examination:

- Communication Part A
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A
- 18 combined credits of Humanities, Social Science, Natural Science, or elective coursework
- 4 units of foreign language

This plan also assumes that History major coursework at UW-Madison will satisfy 6 credits of Humanities breadth (the Humanities credits that are not Literature) and 9 credits of Social Science breadth. Most History majors pursue the B.A. in History, but it is also possible to complete the B.S. and History major requirements in three years.

This plan assumes that students will complete a total of 9 credits over three summers. Summer is an opportunity to make progress toward various requirements. UW-Madison's summer course offerings include a large number of online courses, which give students more flexibility for their summer schedules. For students on an accelerated path, summer is also a great time to study abroad.

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1. The History Breadth requirements are very flexible. History majors must complete Chronological Breadth (one course) and take at least one course from four of the eight Geographical Breadth categories. A single course may count toward both Chronological and Geographic Breadth, if appropriate. (For example, a course on Ancient Rome would count toward Chronological Breadth and European History.) HISTORY 201 may also count toward History Breadth requirements.

2. Some examples of History courses that count toward the Ethnic Studies Requirement are: HISTORY/CHICLA 152 The U.S. West Since 1850, HISTORY/ASIAN AM 160 Asian American History: Movement and Dislocation, & HISTORY/JEWISH 213 Jews and American Pop. Culture.

3. Some L&S Breadth requirements will be satisfied with History coursework. History classes will complete the additional Humanities Breadth credits (the Humanities credits that are not Literature) and may also complete Social Science Breadth.

4. History is a flexible major and can be combined with a wide range of other majors and certificates. We encourage students to be thoughtful in how they approach their elective credits, whether that means pursuing an additional major or creating an individual plan of study that draws from multiple disciplines.

5. HISTORY 201 The Historian's Craft may be taken as soon as you have completed the Communication A requirement. Students should try to complete History 201 by the end of the second year.

6. History offers two optional careers courses that expose students to, and prepare them for, the wide range of careers pursued by history majors: HISTORY 300 & HISTORY 301. History at Work: Professional Skills of the Major (HISTORY 300) connects students to History alumni in different fields and helps develop essential career skills related to the value of the major. History at Work: History Internship Seminar (HISTORY 301) allows students to receive credit toward their major requirements for work associated with an internship.

7. HISTORY 600 Advanced Seminar in History may be taken at any point after a student has completed HISTORY 201 The Historian's Craft. History 600s are offered on a variety of topics every semester and they provide students with the rich experience of a small, faculty-led seminar. They may be taken for credit more than once as long as the topics are different.

* Students must declare a major by the time they reach 86 credits.
** Please refer to the Requirements tab in Guide for College of Letters & Science Breadth and Degree Requirements as well as Residence and Quality of Work requirements for the major.
## First Year

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<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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<td>HISTORY course with the Ethnic Studies designation (complete within 1st 60 credits)(^3)</td>
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<td>History Breadth</td>
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<td>Elective or Course for Second Major(^4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biological Science Breadth</td>
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<td>Quantitative Reasoning Part B (Intermediate or Advanced COMP SCI, MATH, or STAT if B.S.)</td>
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<td>Foreign Language (if pursuing retroactive credit)(^2)</td>
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<td>HISTORY 300 (optional or Elective)(^5)</td>
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### Total Credits 102

1. The History Breadth requirements are very flexible. Students should refer to the Requirements page for the History major for details on approved overlap between types of breadth in the major.

2. Even though students with 4 units of foreign language do not need to complete additional foreign language coursework, UW-Madison's retroactive credit policy (https://kb.wisc.edu/ls/23736/) can be very helpful for those pursuing an early graduation.

3. Some examples of History courses that count toward the Ethnic Studies Requirement are: HISTORY/CHICLA 152, ASIAN AM/HISTORY 160, & JEWISH/HISTORY 213.

4. History is a flexible major and can be combined with a wide range of other majors and certificates. For students hoping to double major and graduate early, it is especially important to work closely with academic advisors in both majors. We encourage all students to be thoughtful in how they approach their elective credits, whether that means pursuing an additional major or creating an individual plan of study that draws from multiple disciplines.

5. History offers two optional careers courses that expose students to, and prepare them for, the wide range of careers pursued by history majors: HISTORY 300 & HISTORY 301. History at Work: Professional Skills of the Major (HISTORY 300) connects students to History alumni in different fields and helps develop essential career skills related to the value of the major. History at Work: History Internship Seminar (HISTORY 301) allows students to receive credit toward their major requirements for work associated with an internship.

6. HISTORY 600 may be taken at any point after a student has completed HISTORY 201. HISTORY 600 is offered on a variety of topics every semester; each course provides students with the rich experience of a small, faculty-led seminar. These seminars may be taken for credit more than once as long as the topics are different. Students who choose to pursue Honors in the History major should complete HISTORY 600 in Year Two so that they can write a Senior honors thesis in Year Three.

## Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HISTORY 201</td>
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<td>History Breadth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intermediate or Advanced COMP SCI, MATH, or STAT (if B.S.)</td>
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<td>Physical Science Breadth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective or Course for Second Major</td>
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<td>Elective (Intermediate or Advanced level) or Course for Second Major</td>
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<tr>
<td>HISTORY 301 (optional or Elective)</td>
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### Total Credits 15 16 3

## Third Year

<table>
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<th>Credits</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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<td>History Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elective (Intermediate or Advanced level) or Course for Second Major</td>
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</table>

## Total Credits 102

### 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, how to contact an advisor, how to schedule an
appointment, and drop-in advising hours can be found on our website (https://history.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/undergraduate-advising/).

The history major can also be combined with any other major in the college of Letters & Science (L&S), anything from astronomy (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/astronomy/) to zoology (https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/integrative-biology/zoology-bs/). Majors that students most frequently pair with history are: economics (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/economics/), English (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/english/), environmental studies (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/environmental-studies/environmental-studies-major/), journalism (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/journalism-mass-communication/), and political science (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/political-science/). History majors can also choose to add certificates in L&S or from outside the college, such as the certificates in business (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/business/school-wide/business-certificate/), education and educational services (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/educational-psychology/education-educational-services-certificate/). In addition to these, some of the most common certificates for history majors are currently: criminal justice (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/criminal-justice/criminal-justice-certificate/), global health (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/agricultural-life-sciences/global-health-certificate/), European studies (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/institute-regional-international-studies/european-certificate/), and digital studies (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/digital-studies/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.

CAREER ADVISING

History is a rigorous but flexible major, and history majors 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 majors 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).

Information on upcoming career events and internship opportunities for history majors are available on the History Major Gateway (https://canvas.wisc.edu/courses/124142/), a Canvas site that serves as a resource for prospective and declared history majors. 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.

Want to see what some of our alumni have done with their history majors? Check out our “featured alumni” profiles on the department website.

HISTORY CAREERS COURSE: “HISTORY AT WORK”

HISTORY 300 History at Work: Professional Skills of the Major is a course intended to help history majors understand how their history 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 majors 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 providing 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.

L&S CAREER RESOURCES

SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science helps students leverage the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and liberal arts degree; explore and try out different career paths; participate in internships; prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications; and network with professionals in the field (alumni and employers). In short, SuccessWorks helps students in the College of Letters & Science discover themselves, find opportunities, and develop the skills they need for success after graduation.

SuccessWorks can also assist students in career advising, résumé and cover letter writing, networking opportunities, and interview skills, as well
as course offerings for undergraduates to begin their career exploration early in their undergraduate career.

Students should set up their profiles in Handshake (https://careers.is.wisc.edu/) to take care of everything they need to explore career events, manage their campus interviews, and apply to jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers around the country.

- SuccessWorks (https://careers.is.wisc.edu/)
- Set up a career advising appointment (https://careers.is.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/)
- INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit, targeted to first- and second-year students)—for more information, see Inter-LS 210: Career Development, Taking Initiative (https://careers.is.wisc.edu/inter-ls-210-career-development-taking-initiative/)
- INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Com B General Education Requirement)
- Handshake (https://careers.is.wisc.edu/handshake/)
- Learn how we’re transforming career preparation: L&S Career Initiative (http://ls.wisc.edu/lsci/)

PEOPLE

Professors Boswell, Cheng, Desan, Enke, Hansen, Hirsch, Houck, Hsia, Kantrowitz, Keller, Kleijwegt, Kodesh, Lederer, McCoy, McDonald, Michels, Mitman, Neville, Nyhart, Plummer, Ratner-Rosenhagen, Reese, Roberts, Shoemaker, Sweet, Thal, Wandel, Young

Associate Professors Callaci, Chamedes, Ciancia, Dennis, Gómez, Hall, Haynes, Hennessy, Iber, Ipsen, Kim (Charles), Kinzley, Lapina, Murthy, Nelson, Taylor, Ussishkin

Assistant Professors Banerjee, Bitzan, Bloch, Brown, Glotzer, Kennedy, Kim (Monica), Ramirez, Rock-Singer, Stolz, Suarez, Useche, Villeneuve, Whiting, Williford

Teaching Associates Carlson, Cullinan, Keyser, Rider

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

HISTORY: THE WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

The history department is committed to integrating undergraduate historical study into the Wisconsin Experience (https://provost.wisc.edu/wisconsin-experience/), UW–Madison’s vision for students’ growth inside and outside the classroom. History majors at UW–Madison have a wide range of opportunities available to help them make the most of their major and carry the study of the past beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR HISTORY MAJORS

ARCHIVE

ARCHIVE (https://uwarchive.wordpress.com/) is an award-winning journal of historical work published annually by the UW–Madison chapter of Phi Alpha Theta. See ARCHIVE’s website (https://uwarchive.wordpress.com/) to view past volumes and find out how you could be published.

Phi Alpha Theta (https://win.wisc.edu/organization/pat/) is a national history honors society whose purpose is to promote the study of history and to bring students, teachers and writers of history together in intellectual and social ways. See the UW–Madison chapter’s page for more information.

Language and Regional/International Studies

History classes and faculty are at the center of UW–Madison’s remarkable collection of resource centers for area studies. IRIS (https://iris.wisc.edu/) is the umbrella organization for UW–Madison’s eight area studies programs. Students interested in these areas can combine their history major with a major in international studies (http://www.ismajor.wisc.edu/) or any of the area studies majors and/or certificates. UW–Madison also has one of the largest selections of language instruction (https://languages.wisc.edu/) in the United States.

Study Abroad

History is a great major for students interested in studying abroad (https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/academics-major-advising-pages-maps/history/) due to its flexibility and because History courses are available in most study abroad programs. The History Department encourages study abroad, and our advising team is happy to help students ensure that they are meeting degree requirements while studying abroad.

Wisconsin Historical Society

Scholars and researchers from all over the country (and world) come to the Wisconsin Historical Society (https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/) (WHS) to do historical research. History majors at UW–Madison simply walk across the street to make use of this world-class institution. The collections of the WHS are an amazing resource for history majors and are utilized by a wide range of our courses. History majors can also develop internships related to the WHS collections and programs. Students who are interested in the history of film and television often double major in communication arts (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/communication-arts/) and get involved with the Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research (http://wcft.commarts.wisc.edu/).

UW-Madison Public History Project

The University of Wisconsin–Madison’s Public History Project (https://publichistoryproject.wisc.edu/) is a multi-year effort to uncover and give voice to those who experienced, challenged and overcame prejudice on campus. Undergraduate history students participate in the project as part of its History Corps researchers, conducting both archival research and oral history interviews with former students, faculty and staff.

Public Humanities Exchange for Undergraduates (HEX-U)

The Public Humanities Exchange for Undergraduates (https://humanities.wisc.edu/public-humanities/hexu/) (HEX-U) is a high-impact program for undergraduate students at UW-Madison who wish to make meaningful connections between their humanities scholarship and the needs of the local community through new models of social engagement. The program provides training in community partnership, mentoring during project design and implementation, and project funding to small cohorts of undergraduate scholars as they plan and implement creative community projects in partnership with Dane County organizations.
RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

THE HISTORY LAB

The History Lab is a resource center for undergraduate students studying, researching, and writing about the past. It is staffed by talented and experienced graduate students from the Department of History, and UW-Madison is one of only a handful of universities in the U.S. to have this kind of history-specific writing support.

Through individual and group tutoring, the Lab focuses on honing students’ abilities to form suitable topics, conduct research, develop arguments and thesis statements, cite evidence properly, and write using an effective process. The lab is also equipped to support challenges faced by English-language learners.

For more information or to make an appointment, see the History Lab website. ([https://history.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/the-history-lab/](https://history.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/the-history-lab/))

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Department of History is committed to supporting undergraduate achievement and encourages applications for the various scholarships and research fellowships made possible by the generosity of its donors. Scholarships are designed to reward outstanding History majors and are awarded annually. Research fellowships allow undergraduates to pursue in-depth historical research under the guidance of Department of History faculty. These awards help defray research costs such as supplies and travel expenses or pay for living expenses to allow students time to craft their papers and conduct research in UW Libraries.

Detailed instructions on how to apply can be found on the Department of History website ([https://history.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/history-the-wisconsin-experience/undergraduate-scholarships/](https://history.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/history-the-wisconsin-experience/undergraduate-scholarships/)). Applications need to be submitted online, via the Wisconsin Scholarship Hub (WISH) ([https://wisc.academicworks.com/](https://wisc.academicworks.com/)).

UNDERGRADUATE WRITING PRIZES

The history department offers an assortment of essay prizes designed to reward a broad range of undergraduate writing—from Senior Theses to term papers to specialized essays in German-Jewish history. The prizes are made possible thanks to the tremendous generosity of our alumni and former members of our faculty. The history department expresses its gratitude for their support in recognizing the achievements of our undergraduates.

Detailed instructions on how to apply can be found on the Department of History website ([https://history.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/history-the-wisconsin-experience/undergraduate-scholarships/](https://history.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/history-the-wisconsin-experience/undergraduate-scholarships/)). Applications need to be submitted online, via the Wisconsin Scholarship Hub (WISH) ([https://wisc.academicworks.com/](https://wisc.academicworks.com/)).