

HISTORY, B.A.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

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 (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/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/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>).

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).

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) (<https://history.wisc.edu/courses/undergraduate-courses/history-300-301/>) 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 (<https://history.wisc.edu/courses/undergraduate-courses/history-300-301/>).

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

Every L&S major opens a world of possibilities. SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps students turn the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and other coursework into fulfilling lives after graduation, whether that means jobs, public service, graduate school or other career pursuits.

In addition to providing basic support like resume reviews and interview practice, SuccessWorks offers ways to explore interests and build career skills from their very first semester/term at UW all the way through graduation and beyond.

Students can explore careers in one-on-one advising, try out different career paths, complete internships, prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications, and connect with supportive alumni and even employers in the fields that inspire them.

- SuccessWorks (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/>)
- Set up a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Enroll in a Career Course (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/career-courses/>) - a great idea for first- and second-year students:
 - INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit)
 - INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Comm B General Education Requirement)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
 - INTER-LS 260 Internship in the Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Activate your Handshake account (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/handshake/>) to apply for jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers recruiting UW-Madison students
- Learn about the impact SuccessWorks has on students' lives (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/about/mission/>)