History

History is the study (research, interpretation, and communication) of what has occurred. Though for some, the field encompasses all events and processes (involving humans and not—hence the terms natural history, human history, recorded history), the “Traditional,” or European conception of history continues to be the study of human events.

Historians study these events to better understand what occurred, why and how it occurred, and its significance for the present and future. In European tradition, history is often seen as linear. A popular European view of history is known as “Universal History,” in which there are fundamental principles (materially- or power-based) guiding all of history and universal to all people and cultures. Other cultural perspectives see history as more cyclical, related to spiritual principals or wider natural processes, related to psychology (psychohistory), and/or varying for different peoples and cultures.

Historians gain a myriad of skills in their work—from research and organization, critical analysis and systems thinking, to communications and cultural awareness—which prepare them to work not only as historians, but as professionals in many fields that require such skills.

Some career possibilities for History majors:

- Actor/Actress
- Anthropologist
- Archaeologist
- Archivist/Curator
- Artist
- Biographer
- Business Manager/Director
- Community Organizer
- Conflict Mediator
- Counselor
- Criminologist
- Economist
- Educator
- Entertainer
- Entrepreneur
- FBI/CIA Agent
- Filmmaker
- Foreign News Reporter
- Foreign Service Officer
- Freelance Writer
- Genealogist
- Gerontologist
- Historian
- Human Service Worker
- Investigative Reporter
- Journalist
- Judge
- Labor Union Leader
- Lawyer
- Lecturer
- Librarian
- Lobbyist
- Market Research Analyst
- Musician
- Newspaper Reporter
- Paralegal Assistant
- Peace Corps Worker
- Political Scientist
- Politician
- Producer
- Program Director
- Psychologist
- Public Administrator
- Publicist
- Research Assistant
- Research Library Assistant
- Screenwriter
- Sociologist
- Speechwriter
- Teacher (Secondary)
- Technical Writer
- Travel Writer
- Urban Administrator
- Urban or Regional Planner
- Writer

Possible employers of History majors:

- Advertising Firms
- Archives
- Businesses and Industries
- Chambers of Commerce
- Colleges & Universities
- Communications Media
- Community Action Programs
- Community Arts Programs
- Community Organizations
- Film & Entertainment Companies
- Historical Societies
- Human Services Organizations
- Labor Unions
- Law Firms
- Libraries
- Local, State, Federal & Tribal Government
- Magazines & Newspapers
- Mental Health Centers
- Museums
- Music Industry
- National Parks
- Political Parties & Campaigns
- Publishing Houses
- Research Foundations
- Social Service Organizations

Professional Organizations & Additional Information:

- American Historical Association
  400 A St, S.E.,
  Washington, DC 20003
  www.historians.org
- American Studies Assoc
  1120 19th St NW, Suite 301
  Washington DC 20036
  www.theasa.net
- Organization of American Historians
  112 N Bryan Ave
  Bloomington IN 47407-5457
  www.oah.org
- Institute for Psychohistory
  140 Riverside Drive
  New York, NY 10024-2605
  www.psychohistory.com
- World History Association
  University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
  2530 Dole Street
  Sakamaki Hall A-203
  Honolulu, HI 96822
  www.thewha.org
- Oral History Association
  Dickinson College
  P.O. Box 1773
  Carlisle, PA 17013
  http://alpha.dickinson.edu/organizations/oha/