What Can I Do With A Major In: History

Western Carolina University Center for Career and Professional Development
828.227.7133, careers.wcu.edu

DESCRIPTION
History is the study of past. By studying history, students learn about how the events of the past have led us to the present day. Through studying the culture, economics, and events of yesteryear through primary research, critical analysis, and the writing of scholarly research papers, students of history will become assets in both the private and public sectors because they have developed skills as both writers and critical thinkers.

WHAT JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?

| Journalist | Foreign Service Officer | Curator |
| Documentary Editors | Foundation Staffer | Editorial Assistant |
| Archivist | Information Specialist | Research Assistant |
| Records Managers | Intelligence Agent | Paralegal |
| Librarian | Legal Assistant | Copywriter |
| Information Manager | Lobbyist | Heritage Manager |
| Advertising Executive | Personnel Manager | Museum/Gallery |
| Analyst | Public Relations Staffer | Broadcaster |
| Secondary School Teacher | Solicitor | Campaign Worker |
| Cultural Resources Manager | Historic Preservation | Archaeologist |
| Congressional Aide | Think Tanks | Information Officer |

WHO EMPLOYS STUDENTS WITH THIS MAJOR?
Schools | Higher Education Institutions | Banks | Accountancy Firm | TV and Radio Broadcasts | Publishing companies | Management Consultancies | Law Firms

INTERNSHIP INFORMATION
At Western Carolina University there are numerous internship opportunities for students. In some cases internships are established through a faculty member in the student's major. Oftentimes students find part-time jobs in an area related to their field of study. When this happens, students should discuss with their academic advisor the possibility of receiving college credit. Generally, three hours of general elective credit can be earned for a minimum of 200 hours of experience.

The internship and co-op programs here in the history department give students a chance to show off their skills and knowledge to the public as well as potential employers. Opportunities abound for those who want to discover more about local history, learn the “ins and outs” of local, state and national archives, organize museum exhibits, and build a lasting legacy of a community’s or people’s past.
A link that might be of interest to students interested in interning is: History Internships & Co-Ops - [http://wcu.edu/academics/departments-schools-colleges/cas/casdepts/history/opportunities-in-history/history-internships-co-ops/](http://wcu.edu/academics/departments-schools-colleges/cas/casdepts/history/opportunities-in-history/history-internships-co-ops/)

Many local businesses have hired WCU students as history interns. Some of these include:

- Museum of the Cherokee Indian
- The National Park Service
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Petersburg Civil War Battlefield
- Fredericksburg Battlefield
- Hanging Rock State Park
- Wachovia Bank
- Mountain Heritage Center
- Mount Mitchell State Park
- Museum of the Albemarle
- Museum of the Cape Fear
- North Carolina State Archives
- Smithsonian Institution

Interested in the classes you’ll be taking? Check your eight semester program here: [http://www.wcu.edu/academics/departments-schools-colleges/cas/casdepts/history/histug/eight-semester-plan-for-b.a.-in-history.asp](http://www.wcu.edu/academics/departments-schools-colleges/cas/casdepts/history/histug/eight-semester-plan-for-b.a.-in-history.asp)

**WHAT SKILLS ARE LEARNED IN THE CLASSROOM?**

Independent Worker | Information Handling & Organization | Curiosity and Creativity | Oral & Written Communication | Problem Solving | Technical Skills | Teamwork | Interdisciplinary Thinking and Training | Research Skills

**KNOWLEDGE**

- solid writing skills and effective speaking skills
- the ability to ask good questions
- research and investigative ability
- the ability to analyze information critically
- the ability to view problems in a larger context, while still paying attention to detail
- cultural knowledge and sensitivity
- foreign language and/or information technology skills

**PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES**

- American Association of Museums: [www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org)
- American Association for State and Local History: [http://www.aaslh.org/](http://www.aaslh.org/)
- For more career options - [http://www.historians.org/jobs-and-professional-development/career-resources/careers-for-history-majors](http://www.historians.org/jobs-and-professional-development/career-resources/careers-for-history-majors)

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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