The study of history examines how men and women lived in the past throughout the world. It is the study and research of major political, cultural, social, and economic events. When students pay special attention to the continuities and changes in human communities over time, and to interactions among people of different cultures, they are able to understand their own life experiences as part of a historical process. University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire offers both a liberal arts major and minor as well as a teaching major and minor in history.

**Typical interests and values of history majors:**
- Reading
- Writing
- Researching
- Attention to detail
- Curiosity about other cultures, lifestyles, and time periods
- Ability to see patterns in seemingly unrelated events

**Knowledge and skills gained from studying history:**

**Knowledge:**
History majors gain knowledge of ancient, medieval, and modern time periods. They also study the history of particular regions, civilizations, and people. History students become familiar with methods of historical research that relate to different historical traditions and develop and present an in-depth research project.

**Skills:**
- Critical reading
- Ability to write/present information persuasively
- Ability to research and analyze information
- Proficiency in bibliographic and statistical skills
- Ability to make keen observations, solve problems, and make appropriate decisions
- Ability to investigate and record findings
- Critical Thinking Skills
- Identify and manage ethical issues
- Ability to see obstacles as a challenge rather than a setback
- Appropriately identify and classify information
- Assess and evaluate your own work as well as the work of others

**Related student and professional organizations:**

**Student:**
- Phi Alpha Theta
- Department Honors in History
- University of Wisconsin Student History Network
- UWEC History Graduate Student Association
- Pre-Law Club
- Forensics

**Professional:**
- American Historical Association
- American Association of Museums
- Oral History Association
- National Council for History Education
- Portal Wisconsin
- Organization of American Historians

**Career fields related to history:**

**Potential Employers:**
A student who has majored in history will be prepared for multiple jobs in both the public and private sector. History majors are effective writers and critical thinkers. These skills will prove beneficial in a variety of fields. Career possibilities include teaching at the college level or in secondary education; working as museum professionals, interpreters, and cultural resource managers with agencies like the National Park Service; and careers in law, archives, urban planning, advertising, foreign and civil service, and management in the corporate world. A degree in history is also excellent preparation for graduate school or a professional degree.
**Potential Job Titles:**

- Archivist
- Market Research Analyst
- Preservation Specialist
- Writer/Editor
- Technical Adviser
- Lawyer

- Museum Curator
- Lobbyist
- Legal Assistant
- Professor/Teacher
- Research Assistant
- Legislative Aide

**Jobs You Might Also Consider...**

- Teacher
- Public Relations Specialist
- Government Official
- Foreign Services Officer

- Historian
- Librarian
- Legal Assistant
- Technical Writer

**Sample entry level jobs held by UW-Eau Claire history graduates:**

- **Research Assistant**, American Transport Research, Roseville, MN
- **Small Exhibit Coordinator**, Chippewa Valley Museum, Eau Claire, WI
- **Recruiter**, Davinci Search, Minneapolis, MN
- **Law Student**, continued education at University of Utah
- **Social Studies Teacher**, Maple Grove School District, Maple Grove, MN
- **District Executive**, Boy Scouts of America, Rice Lake, WI
- **Multimedia Marketing Assistant**, Biztimes Media, Milwaukee, WI
- **Customer Service Specialist**, Humana, Green Bay, WI

**Learn more about history: Department**

- Contact UW–Eau Claire’s Department of History, HHH 701, 836-5501

**Getting started at Career Services:**

- Meet with a career counselor
- Take interest inventory and self-assessment tests
- Utilize Blugold Career Success Network, a database of UW–Eau Claire alumni & friends available for informational interviewing
- Utilize Blugold CareerLink, an online job search database specifically for UWEC students and alum

**Resources at Career Services:**

**Yellow Section**

- Sigi 3 handouts:
  - History
  - Writer Author
- Book sections:

**Orange Section**

- “The Internship Series: The History Internship Book”
- “The Internship Series: Washington Internships in Law & Policy”

**Green Section**

- Resources on graduate schools and preparatory tests including the GRE and LSAT.

**Blue section**

- Resources on creating a resume and cover letter for a career in history.

**Opportunities to enhance skills in history:**

**Internships**

Internships are a way to gain hands-on experience in a position that you may be considering as a potential career. To find an internship in history, visit Career Services (Schofield 230) and speak with a career associate. Contact your adviser or the History Department chair about enrolling in HIST 498 to obtain academic credit for your internship.

**Directed Studies or Independent Study Classes**

By participating in directed studies or independent study classes, students will be able to research an area that they find particularly interesting. Contact your adviser about enrolling in HIST 395, 399, 496, or 499.

**What you can do now:**

- Become a teacher assistant for a professor in the History Department.
- Job shadow a professional in your area of interest or conduct informational interviews.
- Get a part-time job or volunteer in a related field