# History


## About the major:
The study of history examines how men and women throughout the world have lived in the past. It pays special attention to continuities and changes in human communities over time and to interactions among people from different cultures. History students develop excellent critical thinking and communication skills as they learn to evaluate different interpretations of the past and use evidence to support their arguments. History graduates become effective community leaders because they know how political and social institutions have evolved and understand their own life experiences as part of an historical process. Public historians work in a variety of areas, such as museums or the National Park Service, where they interpret history for a public audience.

### Majors:
- History – liberal arts
- History – liberal arts, Public History emphasis
- History – teaching

### Minors:
- History
- History – teaching

## Required GE or University courses:

**Liberal Arts History majors** choose a Bachelor of Arts (foreign language required) or a Bachelor of Science degree within the College of Arts and Science. The General Education requirements differ depending on the degree, so the student should consult the Catalog.

**NOTE:** All history majors fulfill the cultural diversity and foreign culture requirements (for those not needing a foreign language).

**Teaching majors** have more specific G.E. requirements, including:
- GE IA: CJ 201, 202 or 205
- **GE IB:** Math course with a C or higher
- **GE II:** Geog 178 (Conservation of the Environment) or Biol 180 (Conservation of the Environment). If a student takes Geog 178, another Biology course is required.
- **GE III:** Econ 103 (Principles of Microeconomics), Pols 110 (American National Politics); Psyc 261
- **GE IV:** Must include one course from Fine Arts (GEIV-A) and one literature (GE IVD)
- **GE V:** ES 385

**NOTE:** History teaching majors automatically fulfill the western/non-western requirement and the foreign culture requirement.

## Essential Courses:
There are no absolutely essential courses for Liberal Arts majors, but to stay on track History majors should take one course each semester their freshman year and take Hist 288 their sophomore year.

Teaching majors have a more restricted schedule. They must ensure that all their General Education courses meet College of Education requirements. If they do so, it is possible to graduate in 4.5 years.

## Courses to be avoided:
Teaching majors: All GE III courses except Pols 110, Econ 103 and Psyc 261.

### Courses Not Recommend for the First Semester
History majors generally should take no more than one history course each semester during their first year

## Information for exploring students:
Information about careers in history can be found at [http://www.uwec.edu/Career/students/majors/explore/history/index.htm](http://www.uwec.edu/Career/students/majors/explore/history/index.htm)
Admission to the teacher education program:

History teaching majors begin their program of study as “pre-education” majors and must apply (and be admitted) to the College of Education and Human Sciences about 2-3 semesters before their expected graduation. See the Early Adolescence to Adolescence First Year Advising sheet or the University Catalog for requirements.

Pre-program:
To be eligible for the pre-program, in which a student should be enrolled their sophomore year, (ES 212, Initial Teaching Experience in Elementary, Middle and High School Settings), students are required to pass a standardized test—the Praxis Core—preferably in their first year of study. The Praxis core may be waived if a student has a composite ACT score of 23 with a minimum score of 20 on the English, math, and reading subject tests from a single ACT taken within the past 5 years. If a student does not meet all of these ACT criteria, they must take the entire Praxis Core. A student must also have at least a 2.75 resident and total GPA and have earned 14 credits by the time they register for the courses.

Helpful Tips:
Students with AP or IB credit will follow accelerated programs. However, they should begin with a three-credit 100 or 200 level history course (as long as they have not received credit for that specific course). These students will generally take Hist 288 in their third semester and an upper division history course in their fourth semester.

Students with weak ACT reading scores (below 20) will probably encounter difficulty in history courses, and may not want to select a history course as part of their first-semester program.

History majors planning for academic careers should obtain a reading knowledge of at least one modern foreign language.

Liberal Arts majors, including Public History students have a lot of flexibility. They can begin with any three-credit, 100 or 200 level history course. During the third or fourth semesters, students will take Hist 288 (Sophomore Seminar: Methods). This should be taken before any 300 or 400 level course. Generally, these upper-division history courses are taken in the junior and senior year.

Public History students must take Hist 386 (Introduction to Public History), Hist 486 (Seminar in Public History) and Hist 498 (Internship) as part of their 300 and 400 level course work in history.

If possible, students with a Teaching or Social Studies major should begin with Hist 124 (World History to 1500). In the second through fourth semesters they should take Hist 125 (World History Since 1500), and two introductory courses in U.S. history. One of these must be Hist 114 (United States History to 1877). The other can be Hist 115 (United States History Since 1877), Hist 210 (African American History 1865 to Present), Hist 205 (American Women’s History) or Hist/AIS 240 (American Indian History). If scheduling requires, students with a Teaching or Social Studies major may begin with an introductory course other than Hist 124.

Many students preparing to teach history are Broadfield Social Studies comprehensive majors.

Tips for all majors:
- Check out our Online Adviser at http://www.uwec.edu/history/onlineadviser/
- Phi Alpha Theta is the History honorary society open to those who meet criteria set by the national organization.

Contact information:
Dr. Kate Lang
www.uwec.edu/history/
Hibbard Humanities Hall 718
(715) 836-5501

For instructions about how to declare this major:
www.uwec.edu/Registrar/student/chgofmajor/index.htm

UW-Eau Claire respects individual differences. This guide complements rather than substitutes for individual advising.

An example of a 4-year plan in history can be found at: http://www.uwec.edu/AcadAff/degreeplans/history.htm