

HISTORY

<http://historyarthistory.gmu.edu/>

Name and description of the field:

The discipline of History explores how human thought and behavior have changed over time. Historians use primary sources—documents, artwork, literature, film—in an effort to explain what happened in the past, and why. But history is not only about the past: it studies what the past means to us in the present, and how the past has shaped the world today. Students can choose classes from a wide variety of topics—everything from the Civil War and the Russian Revolution to Chinese women’s history and Latin American film. History classes are designed to develop skills in research, writing, communication, and critical thinking.

Special skills or abilities needed to succeed in this major:

Writing skills and oral communication abilities, analytical skills, creativity

Minor in History:

A minor in History is available. Many interdisciplinary minors also include History courses. For more information, see the University Catalog or Undergraduate History Coordinator/Advisor.

Employment Possibilities:

Recent graduates are employed in a variety of jobs because the skills developed in history classes are applicable to nearly every career. Students wanting to pursue careers directly related to their training in history have found such jobs as journalists, government analysts, archivists, museum curators, and park rangers. A large number of our graduates go on to pursue law degrees or teach history at the secondary school level. Many students go to graduate school for an advanced degree in history, museum studies, government/public policy, or library & information science.

According to recent surveys, students graduating from GMU with a B.A. in History have found jobs as:

Analyst, Museum Worker, Archival Technician, Paralegal Specialist, Assistant Language Teacher, Researcher, Historic Interpreter, Systems Administrator, Legal Assistant, Teacher, Library Assistant

Organizations to have employed students graduating from GMU with a B.A. in History:

US Dept. of Justice	Smithsonian Institute
US Dept of Army	SAIC
Embassy of Japan	Fairfax County Public Schools
Gadsby's Tavern Museum	Prince William County Public Schools
US Dept. of Defense	National Archives & Records Administration
Mount Vernon	Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority
USA Today	Public Broadcasting System

Practical experience:

Internships are available at historic sites, museums, government and private historic offices. Students can receive GMU credit for such internships. The Department of History and Art History Undergraduate Coordinator/Advisor in History may be able to assist students in finding internship locations. Students are welcome to consult the Internship Binder in the Undergraduate History Coordinator’s office (Robinson B361) to get ideas of places to contact for internship opportunities.

Career Library Resources – Go to <http://careers.gmu.edu/careerlibrary/wheretostart/hist.pdf> to see resources located in the Career Services Library in room 348, SUB I

Major, Career & Job Hunting Information Online (links to the academic department, associations and other useful sites) – Go to <http://careers.gmu.edu/onlineresources/hist.htm>

Contact Information:

Joan Bristol	Academic Advising Center	Catherine A. McCormick
Department of History and Art History	304 SUB I	Career Services
Robinson B361B	993-2470	348 SUB I
993-1014 or 993-2092		993-2370