# HISTORY
What can I do with this major?

## AREAS

### LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT
- Public policy
- Regional planning
- City or town management
- Legislative, executive, or judicial services
- Program administration
- Community affairs
- Social services
- Law enforcement

### EMPLOYERS
- Counties
- Cities
- Municipalities
- Townships
- Municipal archives
- Libraries
- Museums, parks, and historic sites
- Arts and humanities councils
- School districts
- Departments of state government
- Legislative agencies
- Court systems

### STRATEGIES
- Conduct research that could be useful to your community. Get involved in civic organizations and events and seek leadership roles.
- Employment opportunities in local government tend to follow population trends in terms of growth and decline. Check statistics on growing communities to find the most opportunities. Be prepared to relocate.
- Develop a network of contacts through referrals and informational interviews.
- Complete an internship in a government agency.
- Participate in local or national election campaigns.
- Research government application processes and learn how to best represent yourself as an applicant.

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

### PUBLIC POLICY
- Research
- Intelligence
- Foreign service
- Law enforcement
- Legislative, executive, or judicial services
- Program administration

### EMPLOYERS
- There are over 170 federal departments and agencies:
  - The Smithsonian Institute
  - National Archives and Records
  - Library of Congress
  - National Park Service
  - Federal Bureau of Investigation
  - Central Intelligence Agency

### STRATEGIES
- Take courses or minor in applicable interest area(s).
- Seek leadership roles in relevant campus organizations (e.g., Model United Nations, student government, cross-cultural groups, etc.).
- Write for campus publications focused on national and international affairs.
- Complete a thesis to demonstrate research and writing skills, as well as the ability to think critically and analytically.
- Maintain an excellent undergraduate academic record and consider earning a graduate degree.
- Participate in national campaigns.
- Develop skills in computers, statistics, and data analysis.
- Acquire foreign language competency and travel experience for international positions.
- Complete an internship with the federal government.
- Familiarize self with the government application process. Utilize applicable websites and seek assistance from your college career center.
### POLITICS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elected or appointed leadership</td>
<td>Legislative, executive, or judicial officials</td>
<td>Volunteer to work with public interest groups, political campaigns, political associations, or community service projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campaign management</td>
<td>National, state, or local government</td>
<td>Be prepared to begin a political career as a volunteer before moving to paid positions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff administration</td>
<td>Political action committees</td>
<td>Many elected public officials begin careers in other fields (law, medicine, business) before campaigning for office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special interest advocacy</td>
<td>Political parties</td>
<td>Gain experience and make contacts through internships with government agencies or legislatures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political advising</td>
<td>Campaigns: national, state, or local</td>
<td>Become involved in campus political groups, student government, or student publications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobbying</td>
<td>Industrial, educational, and public interest groups</td>
<td>Seek leadership roles or elected positions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lobbying organizations</td>
<td>Take courses in statistics, public policy, or other specific interest areas.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Large business firms</td>
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</tbody>
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### LAW

**See also What Can I Do With This Major in Law?**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prosecution</td>
<td>Law firms</td>
<td>Plan on attending law school or a paralegal training school/program depending on area of interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defense</td>
<td>Federal, state, and local government</td>
<td>Develop strong research skills and attention to detail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractual</td>
<td>Private practice</td>
<td>Participate in debate or forensic team to hone communication skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate</td>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>Choose courses or a minor to specialize in a particular area of law (e.g., a minor in business for a career in corporate law).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofit or public interest</td>
<td>Special interest groups</td>
<td>Gain experience and build skills through part-time jobs, summer work, or internships in organizations related to your particular interests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Universities and colleges</td>
<td>Shadow an attorney to learn more about the field and various specialties.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mediation</td>
<td>Legal aid societies</td>
<td>Get involved in pre-law and mock trial organizations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law assistance</td>
<td>Nonprofit and public interest organizations (e.g., ACLU, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Legal Services Corporation)</td>
<td>Volunteer with a public advocacy group.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Legal clinics</td>
<td>Seek training and experience with mediation and conflict resolution.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Other private legal services</td>
<td>Maintain a high grade point average and secure strong faculty recommendations. Prepare for the LSAT (Law School Admission Test).</td>
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### Areas

**Nonprofit**
- Administration
- Management
- Public relations
- Program coordination
- Fund raising/Development
- Grant writing
- Writing/Editing
- Volunteer coordination
- Community education

### Employers

- History museums and historical sites
- Historical associations and societies
- Cultural heritage organizations
- Historical projects
- Research and service institutions
- Libraries
- Educational institutions
- Local and national nonprofit agencies
- Trade or professional associations
- Special interest groups
- Nonprofit organizations

### Strategies

Gain experience through extensive volunteering or by completing an internship; these experiences are critical to finding full-time positions.

Obtain leadership roles in relevant campus and community organizations.

Develop strong communication and research skills.

Gain an understanding of budgeting and fiscal management.

Learn how to write grants.

Demonstrate knowledge and experience in a specialty area, time period, or geographic locale.

Research organizations’ values to find a good fit with yours. It is critical that you are knowledgeable about and committed to the work you're going to do.

Investigate term of service or service corps positions as a way to gain entry into the field.

Consider earning a graduate degree for more job opportunities and advancement.

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### Curatorial and Archival Management

**Library Science**

See also What Can I Do With This Major in Information Science?

Functions Include:

- Acquisition
- Preservation
- Arrangement
- Cataloguing/Categorizing
- Exhibition/Installation
- Describing
- Analyzing
- Authenticating
- Maintaining records
- Library administration
- Research
- Education

- Museums
- Historical homes
- Art galleries
- Libraries:
  - College, university, professional schools
  - Public, central and branches
  - Public and private K-12 schools
- Special collections
- Historical societies
- Universities and colleges
- State and local government
- Federal government, (e.g., the National Archives and Records Administration)
- Corporations
- Non-profit organizations
- Research institutions

Earn a graduate degree in museum studies, conservation, information science, or related area. Research prerequisites and take the necessary courses. The most competitive candidates may have more than one graduate degree.

Acquire a strong background in technology.

Obtain an internship in a related organization.

Volunteer at campus or community museums or libraries.

Get involved with relevant student organizations.

Develop excellent written and oral communication skills, organizational skills, and an attention to detail.

Learn about grant writing, budgeting, and legal issues surrounding historical artifacts.

Attend professional conferences, seminars, and trainings.

Earn the "Certified Archivist" designation.

Most curators specialize in a material or objects.
### AREAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Employers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary and secondary:</td>
<td>K-12 schools, public and private</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>Four-year colleges and universities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>Two-year and community colleges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library services</td>
<td>Technical schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Higher education:</td>
<td>Medical and professional schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>Historical sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Museums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information/Library services</td>
<td>Arboretums, gardens, and conservatories</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>Camps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student support services</td>
<td>National and state parks</td>
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<td>Admissions</td>
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<td>Financial aid</td>
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<td>Advising</td>
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<td>Development</td>
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<td>Student affairs</td>
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<td>Alumni affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community education</td>
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### STRATEGIES

- Complete a teacher preparation program to teach in the public school system.
- Obtain teaching certificate/license for desired subject area and/or grade level. Requirements for certification/licensure vary by state. Seek multiple certifications to increase employability.
- Private schools may not require certification or licensure but may prefer candidates with graduate degrees in subject areas.
- Seek experience with youth through summer jobs at camps, churches, or other community organizations.
- Develop excellent presentation and communication skills.
- Become skilled in the use of multimedia.
- Learn how to develop curriculum and workshops. Volunteer or intern in an organization of interest.
- A doctoral degree is required to teach and research at four-year institutions or to enter the highest levels of university administration. A master's or Ph.D. degree is required to teach at two-year schools.
- Earn a master's degree in student personnel, student development, counseling, or library/information sciences for student affairs, higher education administration, and librarian positions.
- Maintain a high grade point average and secure strong faculty recommendations.
- Gain related experience on campus through student leadership opportunities such as peer mentors, resident assistants, or orientation leaders.
- For community education, become an expert in a particular subject and build a local reputation.
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<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BUSINESS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Earn a minor in business.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>Product and service organizations</td>
<td>Develop excellent communication skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>Retail stores</td>
<td>Gain experience in an area of interest through internships or other employment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office administration</td>
<td>Hotels</td>
<td>Obtain leadership roles in campus or community organizations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human resources</td>
<td>Restaurants</td>
<td>Demonstrate excellent interpersonal skills and a high energy level.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training and development</td>
<td>Wholesalers</td>
<td>Hone computer skills and learn software packages including databases, spreadsheets, and presentations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public relations</td>
<td>Manufacturers</td>
<td>Be prepared to start in entry level positions, such as management trainee programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing/Editing</td>
<td>Banks and financial institutions</td>
<td>Consider earning an MBA to advance into higher levels of business management, consulting, research, and brand management.</td>
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<td>Insurance companies</td>
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<td>Real estate agencies</td>
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<td>Consulting firms</td>
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<td>Other business corporations</td>
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<td>MEDIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Editing</td>
<td>Newspapers:</td>
<td>Complete a double major or minor in journalism or broadcasting/electronic media.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporting</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>Obtain an internship or work experience with a newspaper, magazine, radio station, or television station.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circulation</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Join the college newspaper, yearbook, or other publication staff.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>Become proficient in desktop publishing and photography.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publishing</td>
<td>News departments of local, public, and commercial</td>
<td>Learn HTML and other computer programs to prepare for online work.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electronic media</td>
<td>radio and television stations</td>
<td>Develop excellent verbal and written communication skills through communications courses or other writing intensive coursework.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public relations</td>
<td>Wire services</td>
<td>Join professional associations as a student member.</td>
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<tr>
<td>News programming</td>
<td>Magazines and journals</td>
<td>Create a portfolio of published writing samples.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Internet sites</td>
<td>Develop a professional network and become aware of various social medias.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National, state, or regional radio networks</td>
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<td>Independent radio syndications</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Textbook or commercial publishing houses</td>
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GENERAL INFORMATION

• A major in history provides a broad, liberal arts education that helps students develop analytical, critical thinking, and writing skills.
• Some students may choose to pursue History because they enjoy the subject, but wish to pursue careers requiring "any major." In this scenario, develop a career goal, and then obtain the skills, experiences, and education necessary to enter the field.
• An undergraduate degree in history is good preparation for graduate study in history, as well as other areas such as, law, public administration, or business. Research the prerequisites for the degree of interest and tailor program of study to meet curricular requirements.
• Part-time and summer jobs, internships, and volunteer positions are critical to gaining the experience and skills that employers seek.
• Obtain leadership roles in school or community organizations. Get involved in student government, mock trial, debate team, or Model United Nations.
• Excellent verbal and written communication skills are imperative for most careers related to history, politics, or government.
• Prepare to develop a specialty area including both academic training and work experience for history related careers. Develop patience, persistence, and drive to obtain history related jobs.
• Gain experience in fundraising and grant writing techniques. Nonprofit and educational organizations are often funded in this manner.
• Conduct informational interviews to learn about careers of interest and develop a network contacts.
• Research websites and books that address various job opportunities, hiring processes, and pay structure.