

HISTORY

What can I do with this major?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

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

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

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. 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

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

Do extensive research in order to find the area that best fits your interests.

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.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<u>POLITICS</u> Elected or appointed leadership Campaign management Staff administration Special interest advocacy Political advising Lobbying	Legislative, executive, or judicial officials National, state, or local government Political action committees Political parties Campaigns: national, state, or local Industrial, educational, and public interest groups Lobbying organizations Large business firms	Volunteer to work with public interest groups, political campaigns, political associations, or community service projects. Be prepared to begin a political career as a volunteer before moving to paid positions. Many elected public officials begin careers in other fields (law, medicine, business) before campaigning for office. Gain experience and make contacts through internships with government agencies or legislatures. Become involved in campus political groups, student government, or student publications. Seek leadership roles or elected positions. Take courses in statistics, public policy, or other specific interest areas.
<u>LAW</u> <i>See also What Can I Do With This Major in Law?</i> Prosecution Defense Contractual Corporate Nonprofit or public interest Government Mediation Law assistance	Law firms Federal, state, and local government Private practice Corporations Special interest groups Universities and colleges Legal aid societies Nonprofit and public interest organizations (e.g., ACLU, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Legal Services Corporation) Legal clinics Other private legal services	Plan on attending law school or a paralegal training school/program depending on area of interest. Develop strong research skills and attention to detail. Participate in debate or forensic team to hone communication skills. 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). Gain experience and build skills through part-time jobs, summer work, or internships in organizations related to your particular interests. Shadow an attorney to learn more about the field and various specialties. Get involved in pre-law and mock trial organizations. Volunteer with a public advocacy group. Seek training and experience with mediation and conflict resolution. Maintain a high grade point average and secure strong faculty recommendations. Prepare for the LSAT (Law School Admission Test).

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
NONPROFIT Administration Management Public relations Program coordination Fund raising/Development Grant writing Writing/Editing Volunteer coordination Community education	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	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.

INFORMATION 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, and 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 organizational skills, written and oral communication skills, and 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	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<u>EDUCATION</u> Primary and secondary: - Teaching - Administration - Library services Higher education: - Teaching - Research - Information/Library services - Administration - Student support services - Admissions - Financial aid - Advising - Development - Student affairs - Alumni affairs - Community education	K-12 schools, public and private Boards of education Four-year colleges and universities Two-year and community colleges Technical schools Medical and professional schools Museums Historical sites Arboretums, gardens, and conservatories Camps National and state parks	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.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<u>BUSINESS</u> Sales Management Office administration Human resources Training and development Public relations Writing/Editing	Product and service organizations Retail stores Hotels Restaurants Wholesalers Manufacturers Banks and financial institutions Insurance companies Real estate agencies Consulting firms Other business corporations	Earn a minor in business. Develop excellent communication skills. Gain experience in an area of interest through internships or other employment. Obtain leadership roles in campus or community organizations. Demonstrate excellent interpersonal skills and a high energy level. Hone computer skills and learn software packages including databases, spreadsheets, and presentations. Be prepared to start in entry level positions, such as management trainee programs. Consider earning an MBA to advance into higher levels of business management, consulting, research, and brand management.
<u>MEDIA</u> Editing Reporting Circulation Sales Publishing Electronic media Public relations News programming	Newspapers: National Local Trade News departments of local, public, and commercial radio and television stations Wire services Magazines and journals Internet sites National, state, or regional radio networks Independent radio syndications Textbook or commercial publishing houses	Complete a double major or minor in journalism or broadcasting/electronic media. Obtain an internship or work experience with a newspaper, magazine, radio station, or television station. Join the college newspaper, yearbook, or other publication staff. Become proficient in desktop publishing and photography. Learn HTML and other computer programs to prepare for online work. Develop excellent verbal and written communication skills through communications courses or other writing intensive coursework. Join professional associations as a student member. Create a portfolio of published writing samples. Develop a professional network and become aware of various social medias.

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.