The study of history is vital to a liberal arts education because it provides a holistic approach to knowledge; it broadens students’ understanding of commonality and diversity, development of cultures, and the drama of human experience. History touches on the whole range of the human heritage. While focusing on the past, it also helps students understand the present and provides a strong foundation for the future. It prepares students for careers that demand analytical and communication skills, critical thinking, and cultural breadth.

Why UMD

Our program introduces students to major world cultures and provides experiences in the critical use of historical literature and other source materials. It offers classes in five geographical areas (Africa, East Asia, Europe, the Middle East and United States) and on a number of thematic topics. We aim to allow students to gain insight into the histories and cultures of places beyond our borders, making them that much more prepared to succeed within an increasingly global society and marketplace – both in the public and private sector.

Acquired Skills

History majors develop:

- strong oral and written communication skills
- skills in another language
- analytical, creative, and critical thinking skills
- an understanding of diverse cultures

The history major prepares students for careers in government and business, journalism, and teaching; the study of law; and graduate study in history, library and information science, and related fields.

What you can do with this degree?

The Department of History, Political Science & International Studies at UMD is devoted to providing students with analytical skills that are vital for their future successes and for those of our society. It prepares students for careers that demand analytical and communication skills, critical thinking, and cultural breadth. These careers include law, business, consultancy, journalism, teaching, government, the ministry, and the museum and public humanities world. The department responds to the continued - and specifically stated - desire for history majors and history double-majors from large business employers in and out of state.

Graduate Report

Recent UMD Graduates Job Placement Data & Employers

Here’s a sampling of positions History B.A. grads have attained six months to one year after graduation.

- Museum Sales Associate - Experimental Aircraft Association, Oshkosh, WI
- Executive Administrative Assistant & Collections Manager - Koochiching County Historical Society,
International Falls, MN
- Law School - Mitchell Hamline School of Law, St. Paul, MN

For more data see the History B.A. Graduate Follow-Up Report.

For ideas about History B.A. and other majors visit Career & Internship Services.

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