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 minors develop:

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

The history program 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.