

# History

History is a wide-ranging field which allows you to study and research past civilizations and problems, as well as major social, political, cultural, and economic events of the past. With the skills you acquire as a History major, your career options are vast. Teaching, law, and government work are some typical areas of employment to choose from, but you are in no way limited to these fields.

Recent graduates have entered graduate programs, while others have become elementary or high school teachers. If you want to stay within the history field, your career options may be limited with only a bachelor's degree, but improve significantly with a master's degree and Ph.D. A bachelor's degree may qualify you for a number of entry-level jobs such as a research assistant or management trainee. A master's degree qualifies you to teach at the community college level, while a Ph.D. is necessary to teach at universities. A business environment may be suitable with a business minor.

## Skills and Competencies

A History major can obviously qualify you to do many different things—from working in government or education or even business. A traditional path would be that of a historian—someone who researches and analyzes the past. Historians use many sources of information to aid their research, and generally focus on a particular time period. What makes History such a flexible degree is that the research, communication, and quantitative skills stressed in your classes are the skills that employers nationwide—in business, government, and education—seek in potential employees.

## Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education courses and graduation requirements.

### History Core

**HS390 The Historian's Laboratory (4 cr.)**  
**HS490 The History Seminar (4 cr.)**

#### Choose a Concentration:

##### Traditional History Concentration

Choose three courses from the following:

HS201 World History to 1520 (4 cr.)

HS202 World History since 1400 (4 cr.)

HS221 The United States to 1865 (4 cr.)

HS222 The United States Since 1865 (4 cr.)

HS electives (no more than four at the 100 level, no more than four at the 200 level)

##### Global History Concentration

HS130 Globalization & You (4 cr.)

Choose 1:

HS201 World History to 1520 (4 cr.)

HS202 World History since 1400 (4 cr.)

Choose 1:

HS221 The United States to 1865 (4 cr.)

HS222 The United States Since 1865 (4 cr.)

##### Regions & Themes

Choose 2:

HS233 Native American History (4 cr.)

HS251 Latin American History (4 cr.)

HS252 History of the Middle East since 600 (4 cr.)

HS254 History of Africa (4 cr.)

HS255 History of Asia (4 cr.)

Choose 1:

HS315 Imperialism (4 cr.)

HS320 The Atlantic World (4 cr.)

HS339 United States Immigration History (4 cr.)

HS359 Themes in Global History (4 cr.)

HS Electives- Minimum 3 cr. at the 300 level or above

Detailed course descriptions can be found at [www.nmu.edu/bulletin](http://www.nmu.edu/bulletin).

## Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advice Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

## Additional Considerations

Foreign language skills are valuable or even required for some of the positions listed. You can gain excellent experience in the government field by finding an internship related to your interests.

History is a good choice, often selected, for students who are interested in going on to Law School. A business minor may be helpful, but sometimes relevant work experience is more beneficial. Coupling the two is optimal.

Remember to take any necessary exams early; it can take six weeks for results to be sent to the schools to which you applied. Foreign language competency, sometimes in two languages, is required in many graduate programs.

## Job Outlook

History is always a tricky field due to the amount of interested applicants for the job field. Overall the field is expected to grow as fast as average, but the enormous amount of people entering the field should limit job potential to those who can really stand out. Starting salary varies with career paths.

# Potential Careers

NMU's History Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Archivist  
Banker  
Biographer  
Curator  
FBI/CIA Agent  
Foreign Service Officer  
Genealogist  
Gerontologist  
Historian  
Insurance Agent  
Lawyer  
Legislative Aide  
Librarian  
Manager  
Politician  
Professor  
Research Analyst  
Sales Representative  
Teacher

# Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:  
Academic & Career Advisement Center  
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2971  
[www.nmu.edu/acac](http://www.nmu.edu/acac)

Department of History  
200A Gries Hall  
906-227-2512  
[www.nmu.edu/history](http://www.nmu.edu/history)

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:  
Career Services  
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2800  
[www.nmu.edu/careers](http://www.nmu.edu/careers)

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:  
Center for Student Enrichment  
1206 University Center  
906-227-2439  
[www.nmu.edu/cse](http://www.nmu.edu/cse)

History Club

M.A.R.S. of Albion

Internet Resource Links:  
[www.careers.org](http://www.careers.org)  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

For Career Information with National Organizations:

[www.theaha.org](http://www.theaha.org) -American Historical Association  
[www.oah.org](http://www.oah.org) -Organization of Am. Historians



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY**

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

The Academic & Career Advisement Center  
2020



What to do with  
a major in...

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