

Career

Paths

HISTORY

A major in history provides a broad, liberal arts education. Develop a career goal, and then obtain the skills, experiences, and education necessary to enter that 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

Local and State Government

Example Career Paths: Public policy | Regional planning | City or town management | Legislative, executive, or judicial services | Program administration | General services | Community affairs | Social services | Law enforcement

Potential 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

Professional Associations: [American Association for State and Local History](#) | [American Association of Museums](#)

Federal Government

Example Career Paths: Public Policy | Research | Intelligence | Foreign service | Law enforcement | General services | Legislative, executive, or judicial services | Program administration

Potential Employers: Over 170 different federal departments and agencies:

The Smithsonian Institute | National Archives and Records | Library of Congress | National Park Service | Federal Bureau of Investigation | Central Intelligence Agency | Foreign Service

Professional Associations: [American Historical Association](#) | [National Archives Assembly](#) | [Society for History in the Federal Government](#)

Politics

Example Career Paths: Elected or appointed leadership | Campaign management | Staff administration | Special interest advocacy | Political advising | Lobbying

Potential Employers: 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

Professional Associations: [American Political Science Association](#) | [Organization of American Historians](#)

Law

Example Career Paths: Prosecution | Defense | Contractual | Corporate | Nonprofit or public interest | Government | Mediation | Other specialties | Law assistance

Potential Employers: Law firms | Federal, state, and local government | Private practice | Corporations | Special interest groups | Universities and colleges | Legal aid societies | Nonprofit and public interest organizations | Legal clinics | Other private legal services

Professional Associations: [American Society for Legal History](#) | [Law and Society Association](#)

Nonprofit

Example Career Paths: Administration | Management | Public relations | Program coordination | Fund raising/development | Grant writing | Writing/Editing | Volunteer coordination | Community education

Potential 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

Professional Associations: [American Historical Association](#) | [Organization of American Historians](#)

Information Science

Example Career Paths: Functions:

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

Potential Employers: Museums | Historical homes | Art galleries | Libraries | Special collections | Historical societies | Universities and colleges | State and local government | Federal government, particularly the National Archives and Records Administration | Corporations | Non-profit organizations | Research institutions

Professional Associations: [American Historical Association](#), [Digital History](#) | [Association for Computers and the Humanities](#) | [Digital Library Federation](#) | [Society of American Archivists](#)

Education

Example Career Paths: Primary and secondary | Higher education | Community education

Potential Employers: 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

Professional Associations: [National Council for History Education](#)

Business

Example Career Paths: Sales | Management | Office administration | Human resources | Training and development | Public relations | Writing/Editing

Potential Employers: Product and service organizations | Retail stores | Hotels | Restaurants | Wholesalers | Manufacturers | Banks and financial institutions | Insurance companies | Real estate agencies | Consulting firms | Other business corporations

Professional Associations: [Business History Conference](#) | [Economic History Association](#)

Media

Example Career Paths: Editing | Reporting | Circulation | Sales | Publishing | Electronic media | Public relations | News programming

Potential Employers: Newspapers | 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

Professional Associations: [American Journalism Historians Association](#) | [Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, History Division](#) | [International Association for Media and History](#)

Preparing for your Career

- 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.
- 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.
- Become familiar with the government application process. Utilize applicable websites and seek assistance from your college career center.

This resource was adapted from What Can I Do With My Major.

For more, visit <https://web.uri.edu/career/wcidwmm/>

WCIDWMM

What Can I Do With This Major? features 100 major profiles with information on common career paths, types of employers that hire in the field, and strategies to maximize opportunities. Scroll to the...

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