

History Majors & Future Careers

Q: I love history but what can I do with a history major?



Transferable skills

Some history majors become professional historians, teachers or professors, however, most pursue work in other fields. The reason for this is that majors gain a number of skills that are easily transferred and useful in many careers. In any profession skills such as critical thinking, effective writing, research and problem solving and the ability to communicate coherent arguments orally are integral to future success.

- **Critical Thinking Skills:** A significant part of any job is making informed decisions based on a critical analysis of facts and information. Looking at things from many perspectives, assessing sources and documents; history majors bring four years of rigorous thinking and analysis to their future careers.
- **Writing Skills:** Communicating ideas that are well presented and thoughtful is vital for success. History majors have learned the art of careful reading and writing and they bring this well-developed skill set to any job.
- **Research and Problem Solving:** Research involves asking questions and seeking answers, it requires curiosity and the ability to organize material into a coherent narrative. Researching the origin or root of a policy often provides context to current practice and can bring perspective and insight.
- **Oral Communication:** In the workplace, it is important to communicate clearly and effectively. Through individual presentations, discussion sections and group projects, students learn the art of verbal communication and develop the ability to speak persuasively.

The Short answer is Everything

From business to law, politics to non-profits, teaching to researching, history majors gain the skills necessary to succeed in any profession.

Careers for History Majors

Business

CEO
Entrepreneur
Systems Analyst
Research Analyst
Accounts Manager
Business Manager
Contract Historian
Director of Nonprofit Organization

Communications

Freelance Journalist
Documentary Editor
Communications Manager
Technical Writer
Editor/Editorial Services
Production Assistant
Television Producer
Web Designer
Producer of Multimedia Material

Libraries

Archivist
Information Manager
Records Management Associate
Collections Developer
Reference Librarian
Special Collections Librarian

Education

Elementary School Teacher
Secondary School Teacher
Special Education Teacher
Professor
College Administrator
K-12 Administrator
Student Services Advisor

Government & Law

Public Policy Advocate
Political Strategist
Foreign Service Officer
FBI/CIA Agent
Paralegal
Corporate Lawyer
Family Lawyer
Legal Advocate
Legislative Staff Assistant
Public Policy Advisor
Legal Analyst

Public History

Governmental Historian
Oral Historian
Park Service Historian
History Consulting
Cultural Resources Manager
Historical Research Associate
Historic Site Manager
Historic Preservation Specialist
Military Historian (each branch of military)

Museums

Curator
Archivist
Archives or Record Manager
Museum Fundraiser
Collections Specialist
Museum Educator
Conservator