HISTORY (Graduate) – WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

STUDENTS/ALUMNI

Description on Major
MA History - prepares students for challenging and exciting careers in teaching, policy analysis, politics, public service, public relations, communications, and research, writing, and editing. The department offers five areas of concentration as follows: American history, European history, military history, Atlantic World history, and public history.

What is learned in the classroom?
MA History - American history, European history, military history, Atlantic World history, and public history.

Specific Knowledge Skills
- Research and interpret past and present events and forecast possible future trends
- Appreciate, understand, compile and apply diverse historical and cultural perspectives to a situation
- Gather, synthesize and analyze historical and contemporary information
- Identify precedents for policy development, decision making and strategic planning
- Investigate regulatory guidelines and make recommendations for compliance and preservation
- Authenticate materials, information and data for the purpose of ensuring accuracy and integrity
- Interpret and compare historical and contemporary information (for example, demographics)
- Produce well-researched material, integrating current and past interpretations and perspectives and develop effective presentation material to communicate information to various groups
- Ensure accuracy of historical information when creating or editing published materials or displays

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What is learned through the classroom?
Able to think critically, write effectively, and assess the dynamics of the world around them.

- Explaining ideas
- Interpreting events and ideas
- Writing and presenting information
- Examining evidence
- Analyzing ideas and information

UNC-W Career Center - History

Valuable Transferable Skills
Information-Gathering and Communication Skills
- The skills required to identify and access a wide range of relevant information and resources
- The ability to compile and organize facts and information and to comprehend and apply new and/or unfamiliar information to different situations and settings
- Skills in preparing interesting, creative and informative presentations which target diverse audiences
- The ability to develop attractive/effective reports, presentations and materials using current technology

Thinking, Planning and Organizational Skills
- The ability to learn, understand and interpret information and apply knowledge to new situations
- The ability to set priorities, meet deadlines and effectively plan/manage time, data and resources
- Problem-solving skills and the ability to make well-reasoned decisions, think creatively and search for, identify and consider all sides of an issue
- Skills to effectively analyze and interpret a wide range of information and data to discuss, support and/or reject ideas, opinions, reports, theories and proposals
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Teamwork and Management Skills
- Skills enabling you to work effectively as part of a team by identifying your role and contributing, through leading, teaching, motivating and/or encouraging others, to the success of the team
- An understanding of how to successfully identify, plan and contribute to the goals of a project
- The ability to oversee, supervise and/or contribute to a project from beginning to end including determining outcomes, planning details, making decisions, assigning roles and completing task

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ECU Alumni
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Park Service
- Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
- United State Coast Guard

- East Carolina University
- University of Rhode Island
- University of West Florida

EMLOYERS

Attributes employers seek on a candidate’s resume - NACE’s Job Outlook 2015
1. Leadership
2. Ability to work in a team
3. Communication skills (written)
4. Problem-solving skills
5. Strong work ethic
6. Analytical/quantitative skills
7. Technical Skills
8. Communication skills (verbal)
9. Initiative
10. Computer skills

Employers rate the importance of candidate skills/qualities - NACE’s Job Outlook 2015
1. Ability to work in a team structure
2. Ability to make decisions and solve problems
3. Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
4. Ability to plan, organize and prioritize work
5. Ability to obtain and process information
6. Ability to analyze quantitative data
7. Technical knowledge related to the job
8. Proficiency with computer software programs
9. Ability to create and/or edit written reports
10. Ability to sell or influence others

MORE RESOURCES

Other Career Centers:
- Florida State University
  - Finding and Using Graduate Student Resources
    [http://career.fsu.edu/IMAGES/PDFS/Guides/FindingAndUsingGraduateStudentResources.pdf](http://career.fsu.edu/IMAGES/PDFS/Guides/FindingAndUsingGraduateStudentResources.pdf)
- Salisbury University
  - What Can You do With a Graduate Degree in History?
    [http://www.salisbury.edu/careerservices/Students/GraduateMajors/History.html](http://www.salisbury.edu/careerservices/Students/GraduateMajors/History.html)

Other Resources
- The Versatile PhD - [http://versatilephd.com/](http://versatilephd.com/)
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- National Postdoctoral Association - http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/
- Postdoc Jobs - http://www.postdocjobs.com/
- PhDs.org - http://www.phds.org/
- GradShare - http://www.gradshare.com
- Smithsonian Institution Career Center - http://www.si.edu/ohr
- The National Archives - http://www.archives.gov/careers/
- American Association for State & Local History - http://www.aaslh.org/
- Society for American Archaeology - http://www.saa.org/
- O*NET - http://www.onetonline.org/

Articles/Publications:
- Careers with a History Degree: Job Info and Employment Outlook - http://education-portal.com/careers_with_a_history_degree.html
- What to Do With a Degree in History - Alternative Careers - http://careerplanning.about.com/od/exploringoccupations/a/degree-in-history.htm

NOTE
It is important to understand that employers hire people, not degrees. The skills and knowledge you develop as a result of your education, as well as in your work and community activities, have the greatest impact on hiring decisions. (Wilfrid Laurier University - A Career Overview)

FOR MORE INFORMATION
East Carolina University Career Services - http://www.ecu.edu/career/