An education is 'liberal' in that it liberates the mind from the bondage of habit and custom, producing people who can function with sensitivity and alertness as citizens of the whole world.” — Martha C. Nussbaum, Cultivating Humanity (1997)

Leadership opportunities

Careers reported by History majors…

- lawyers and judges
- teachers and school administrators
- physicians and nurses
- management analysts
- librarians
- financial managers
- real estate
- legislators
- accountants and auditors
- human resources
- archivists and curators
- marketing and sales
- computer systems analysts
- social workers and counselors
- photographers
- public relations
- editors

—Source: American Community Survey, 2010-2014
From major to career

History majors enjoy their careers. According to a 2018 report by the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, almost 87% of all workers with a BA in the humanities reported they were satisfied with their jobs in 2015. For workers with a bachelor's degree in the humanities and then an advanced degree (in any field), some 90% report being satisfied with their careers.

How do History majors do in their earning potential? History majors have the highest median wages of any humanities degree. With graduate degrees, history majors earn the most among humanities majors. (Source: Economic Value of College Majors, Georgetown University, 2015)

What skills can you learn as a History major?
- Project management (working in teams, problem solving, organizing meetings, keeping deadlines)
- Entrepreneurship (designing projects, conducting research, applying for scholarships, contacting experts in the field, study abroad)
- Communication (writing essays, giving presentations, learning languages, participating in class discussion)
- Knowledge and information skills (conducting research, compiling information, learning new IT applications)

Leadership opportunities

The History Department honor society is a chapter of the national History honor society Phi Alpha Theta. Our chapter has been awarded the national “Best Chapter” prize within our size division four times since its founding, most recently in 2018.

Our PAT chapter helps organize an annual student conference which brings together History undergraduate and graduate students from across the state. Students present their research and can win awards. In addition, the PAT students fundraise to send members to the national conference in the continental US. PAT has faculty advisors but its activities are student led and organized, with both graduate and undergraduate officers elected by their peers. Many History students join PAT as a great way to make friends, gain leadership experience, expand their academic horizons, and travel!

"Nothing capable of being memorized is history." — R. G. Collingwood

"People often land jobs in fields other than their majors; even when they find a job in that field, they have to re-train and do something else. That's just the way a modern economy works. People do best when they know how to think critically and creatively, how to speak, how to write, how to debate, how to do research and how to make decisions on the basis of a dispassionate evaluation of the facts before them. History prepares you to do a wide variety of things well. What could be more practical than that?" — Stephen Schloesser, Loyola University

"I look for people who have done mathematics. Philosophy. Languages. And really, History is kind of the king." — Rachel Maddow, when asked what college majors are advisable in job candidates, 2013