

# History

2115 Francis Scott Key Hall  
(301) 405-4265

<http://history.umd.edu/undergraduate>

## Key Features of a History Major

- History, most simply, means “story.” For some scholars, history begins when humans start to craft words and images of themselves. For others, history “begins” with the Big Bang and counts man as only the most influential and destructive of the many species which inhabit the world.
- History also explores the nature of memory: How do people choose to imagine or memorialize themselves? How can a single event be “told” in many different ways? How does a historian sift and evaluate the available evidence in order to interpret these various tellings of history?
- Historians use a wide variety of sources to craft visions of the past: the diary of a 10th century Japanese “lady-in-waiting”; the letters of a soldier in the trenches of World War I; newspaper cartoons satirizing women’s fashions; the contents of a Viking burial ship; tax records on the medieval brewing of beer; inscriptions on Mayan temples; or travel accounts of pilgrimages to Mecca, Jerusalem, and Varanasi.
- History courses develop skills such as critical thinking, analytical writing, perceptive reading, and eloquent speaking.
- Historians assist in the search for personal identity and in the lifelong effort to understand change, continuity, and the links between past, present, and future.

## Career Options and Salaries with a History Major

History majors go on to specialized training in graduate or professional schools (in history or law for example), or move directly into private business (banking, public relations, general business, communications), or government service (State Department, National Parks Service, Congress). They pursue courses of study that will lead to teaching in a high school or university, research, management in higher education, or historical editing. Others have entered the growing field of public history, serving as historians for government agencies, private corporations, museums, and other organizations devoted to historical preservation and restoration.

Salaries for Historians vary widely, depending upon the career track that is chosen. Generally, the range is \$30,950 to \$84,860; however, some historians earn \$95,690 or more.

Archivists and Museum Curators	\$46,710*
Historians	\$55,800
Teaching	\$57,200

\*Salary information taken from *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2015-2016 ed.* (<http://stats.bls.gov/oco/>)

Additional information on salaries and careers can be found through the History department: [History](#).

## Advising

If you are considering a major in history, you can easily meet with an advisor in the History Department to answer any questions you may have.

- They hold regular walk-in hours: <http://history.umd.edu/undergraduate/current-students/advising>.
- Email: [historyadvising@umd.edu](mailto:historyadvising@umd.edu)
- Location: Room 2131C, Francis Scott Key Hall
- Phone: (301) 405-0072

## Declaring a History Major

- *History is not a Limited Enrollment Program. If you have decided to major in this field, you can declare immediately!*

When you declare that you will major in History, you are also declaring that you will be a student in the College of Arts and Humanities (ARHU), which houses the History Department. There are two levels in your process of declaring the major and getting advising: the Department (History) and the College (Arts and Humanities). The College will advise you regarding your General Education or CORE requirements, and the Department will advise you regarding your major requirements. The History Department recommends that students meet with an advisor at each level every semester.

1) Students wishing to declare history as a major must meet with an advisor by attending the “history majors’ workshop” or by meeting with an advisor individually. Contact Dr. David Freund ([dmfreund@umd.edu](mailto:dmfreund@umd.edu)) to schedule your advising meeting. The advisor will go over the program, requirements, internships, study abroad, etc. After the general information session the advisor meets with each student to plan a curriculum to meet his/her personal interests. The workshop lasts about 15-20 minutes, depending on how many students attend.

An undergraduate advisor assists each major in planning a curriculum to meet his or her personal interests. A "program plan," approved by the History advisor, should be filed with the department as soon as possible. We recommend that students meet with an assigned advisor once every semester or sign a waiver during registration.

2) Students must complete the ARHU [Foreign Language Placement Test](#) (FLPT must be taken in a proctored environment if students are seeking exemption from [The Global Engagement Requirement](#)). Please note that students’ majors will not be changed until they have an FLPT score on file or have satisfied prerequisites via AP credit or earned college credit.

3) Make an appointment to meet with an advisor in the ARHU Office of Student Affairs by calling (301) 405-2108. You will be advised on University (Gen Ed or CORE) and [College](#) requirements and then be officially changed to your new major. Be sure to bring the “Academic Plan Checklist” form with your History advisor's signature and stamp to your appointment. **Enrollment in the major is not complete until an ARHU advisor has signed the Four-Year Plan worksheet.**

## Four Year Plan (General Education)

### First Year:

ENGL 101 (AW)	3	Natural Sciences (NS)	3
MATH (MA)	3/4	Analytic Reasoning (AR)	3/4
UNIV 101	1	Humanities (HU)	3
ARHU 158	3	Elective 1xx-4xx	3
Humanities (HU)	3	<u>HIST 1xx-2xx (HS)</u>	3
<u>HIST 1xx-2xx (HS)</u>	3		15/16 credits
	16/17 credits		

### Second Year:

Elective 1xx-4xx	3	Oral Communication (OC)	3
Global Engagement #1	3	Global Engagement #2	3
Scholarship in Practice (SP)	3	Elective 1xx-4xx	3
Elective 1xx-4xx	3	HIST 208	3
<u>HIST 1xx-2xx</u>	3	<u>HIST Conc. #1 (1xx-4xx)</u>	3
	15 credits		15 credits

### Third Year:

Natural Science Lab	4	Elective 1xx-4xx	3
Elective 1xx-4xx	3	Elective 3xx-4xx	3
Elective 3xx-4xx	3	HIST Out. Conc. #1 (1xx-4xx)	3
HIST Conc. #2 (3xx-4xx)	3	HIST Out. Conc. #2 (3xx-4xx)	3
<u>HIST Conc. #3 (3xx-4xx)</u>	3	<u>Supporting Area #1 (3xx-4xx)</u>	3
	16 credits		15 credits

### Fourth Year:

Elective 1xx-4xx	3	Elective 3xx-4xx	3
Elective 3xx-4xx	3	HIST Out. Conc. #3 (3xx-4xx)	3
HIST Conc. #4 (3xx-4xx)	3	HIST408	3
HIST Conc. #5 (3xx-4xx)	3	Supporting Area #2 (3xx-4xx)	3
<u>Professional Writing (PW)</u>	3	<u>Supporting Area #3 (3xx-4xx)</u>	3
	15 credits		15 credits

**TOTAL = 120 credits**

## Four Year Plan (CORE)

### First Year:

English 101	3
Math 111 or Stat 100	3
UNIV 100 or 101	1
Global Engagement #1	3
<u>History #1 (SH)</u>	<u>3</u>
	13 credits

Non-Lab Science (PS/LS)	3
Core (HL, HA, HO)	3
Core (SB)	3
Global Engagement #2	3
<u>History #2</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

### Second Year:

Core (SB)	3
Core (HL, HA, HO)	3
Science or Math (PS/MS/LS) 3/4	
<u>History #3</u>	<u>3</u>
	12/13 credits

Lab Science	4
Core (HA, HL, HO)	3
Core (Diversity)	3
HIST 208	3
<u>HIST Concentration #1</u>	<u>3</u>
	16 credits

### Third Year:

Advanced Studies #1	3
ENGL 39x	3
Elective 1xx-4xx	3
HIST Outside Conc. #1	3
<u>HIST Concentration #2</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Advanced Studies #2	3
Elective 1xx-4xx	3
HIST Concentration #3	3
HIST Outside Conc. #2	3
<u>Supporting Area #1</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

### Fourth Year:

Elective 3xx-4xx	3
Elective 3xx-4xx	3
HIST Conc. #4 or HIST408	3
HIST Outside Conc. #3	3
<u>Supporting Area #2</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

Elective 1xx-4xx	3
Elective 3xx-4xx	3
HIST Conc. #4 or HIST408	3
HIST Concentration #5	3
<u>Supporting Area #2</u>	<u>3</u>
	15 credits

**TOTAL = 120 credits**

\*For information about the "Language Requirement", see  
<http://www.arhu.umd.edu/undergraduate/advising/requirements>.

## Q & A

***Can I meet with an advisor in the History Department before I declare?***

Yes! You can meet with an advisor before you declare this major and even before you are sure if you want to *be* a major. If you are considering this major, we recommend that you talk with an advisor to help you in your decision-making process.

***Can I double major in History and another major?***

Yes, but you will need the permission of both majors.

***Does the History Department offer any special programs or certificates?***

Yes, the History Department offers a Central European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (CERES) major and a Middle Eastern Studies major, as well as a certificate in East Asian Studies and a concentration in Science, Technology, and Society.

***Is there a minor available in History?***

There is no minor in “general” history. However, the department does offer a minor in Middle East Studies. It consists of 15 credits, or 5 classes. For more information, you may contact the History Department (see above) or the minor advisor, Dr. Antoine Borrut ([aborrut@umd.edu](mailto:aborrut@umd.edu); 301-405-7448).