

Interested in This Major?

Current Students: Visit us in Holton Hall, Room 342, call us at 414-229-4361, or email history@uwm.edu

Not a UWM Student yet? Call our Admissions Counselor at 414-229-7711 or email let-sci@uwm.edu

web: uwm.edu/history/



What is History?

History is more than simply fact-gathering and memorization. Like all of the liberal arts, historical study is a process of discovery, analysis, and communications.

Studying history prepares students to engage the world through their civic participation, professional life, and personal relationships.

History students explore the past by conducting research in original sources and published scholarship. They analyze evidence discovered in documents, maps, numbers, photographs, artifacts, music, and digital sources. They construct arguments, propose new interpretations, and express conclusions.

Career Opportunities

History majors make good candidates for a wide range of jobs because of the skills developed through rigorous coursework. The study of history requires the ability to investigate, analyze and communicate complex interrelationships, and the curiosity to seek out answers from multiple sources. These same skills are key to becoming a successful leader and decision-maker in business, government, law, journalism, marketing, education, research and politics.

History majors graduate with skills that can be applied to a variety of careers.

- Excellent verbal and written communication
- The ability to think critically
- Creative problem-solving and decision-making skills
- Ability to work in a team

93% of employers say these skills matter most when they are hiring new employees! (Survey done by the National Association of Colleges and Employers.)

There is no “typical” job for a history major. Our graduates can be found in all types of companies and in all types of roles.

Currently, you’ll find our alumni at places like Milwaukee Public Schools, Northwestern Mutual, Aurora Healthcare, numerous historical societies and museums, big and small law firms, American Girl, Kohl’s, the City of Milwaukee and countless other private and public sector organizations.

Requirements for the Major

The history major requires 36 credits with a 2.5 GPA in all courses in the major distributed as follows:

at least 6 credits in European history	
at least 6 credits in U.S. history	
at least 9 credits in non-Western or global history	
at least 3 credits in a course dealing with the period before 1500	
at least 18 credits in courses numbered 300 and above (at least 15 of which must be taken at UWM)	
Hist 600 – Seminar in History: (Subtitle) (History majors with a GPA of 3.33 or higher in all history credits attempted may, with the consent of the faculty thesis advisor and the department chair, take Hist 681-682, a two-semester senior thesis project, in lieu of Hist 600)	
one of the following:	
Hist 288	Seminar: Theory and Practice of Historical Writing
Hist 293	Seminar on Historical Method: Theory and Approach
Hist 294	Seminar on Historical Method: Research Techniques
Hist 594	Methods and Theory in the Historical Study of Religion: (Subtitle)
Hist 595	The Quantitative Analysis of Historical Data
Hist 596	Maps as Historical Sources

History Minor

The history minor is comprised of 18 credits:

at least 3 credits in European history
at least 3 credits in U.S. history
at least 3 credits in non-Western or global history
at least 9 credits in courses numbered 300 or above

History minors must maintain a 2.5 GPA in all history credits and at least 9 upper-level credits in history must be taken at UWM.

Online Major and Minor

The requirements for the major and minor in History can be completed online.

Combined with the “First Sixty Credits” program, which provides online courses necessary to complete the University’s General Education Requirements, a student opting for the online history major may be able to earn the degree entirely online.



The only degree requirement not available online is foreign language. For students who still need foreign language, they can work with their advisor to explore alternative ways to obtain those credits. Most often, students either come to UWM for those classes if they are located in the Milwaukee area, or they take the courses at a college near them and then transfer the credits back to UWM.

Research Opportunities

The History Department is an active partner with UWM’s Office of Undergraduate Research. Undergraduates have the opportunity to enhance their education by completing a focused research experience, similar to the type of work that graduate students engage in. Students participating in the program work closely with one or more faculty members to conduct research, read and analyze primary and secondary sources, choose a topic, formulate a thesis, develop an argument, cite sources and produce final documentation.

Current Faculty Research

Current UWM faculty members are conducting research on a wide variety of topics, peoples, countries, and time periods. Some examples are:

- African American History, Race and Law
- The Encyclopedia of Milwaukee—a comprehensive source about Milwaukee’s history

- Gender and Politics
- German and Polish nationalism
- Hmong in America
- Japan and international law
- Russian popular culture
- History of science, technology, and business
- Digital and public history
- Religious history

For a list of current faculty research and how to get involved visit our webpage: <http://uwm.edu/history/research/>

Related Certificates

The College offers more than 20 certificate programs that can be completed with an undergraduate degree or as stand-alone programs. Certificates require 18 to 21 credits in a focused subject area. They are similar to a minor but include coursework from a variety of disciplines. Of particular interest to students of history are the certificates in:

- American Indian Studies
- Ancient Mediterranean Studies
- Asian Studies
- Celtic Studies
- Comparative Ethnic Studies
- French & Francophone Studies
- Hmong Diaspora Studies
- Latin American & Caribbean Studies
- Middle Eastern & North African Studies
- Peace Studies & Conflict Resolution
- Russian & East European Studies
- Scandinavian Studies
- Urban Studies

At many large universities, research opportunities for undergraduate students are limited. At UWM, you can gain hands-on experience working side-by-side with faculty, and many students graduate with multiple experiences to list on their resumé.

