

History

MAJOR MAP

How to use the map

This map is designed to give you information about your chosen major that will help keep you on track for graduation within 4 years. This page will help orient you to the “big picture” ideas like the topics and areas of interest inside your major, the kinds of courses you will take, university policies including admissions, and other general topics. The chart on the second page will help you to develop a productive plan to make the most of your 4 years at East Carolina University and prepare yourself for the job market after graduation.

Remember, it is important that you diversify your experiences, both for success in your degree program and for success outside of school. While coursework is critically important, it should not be your only focus. The chart below will show you how to incorporate other kinds of experiences that will expand your knowledge of your chosen field and make you a more desirable job candidate. The map is only a guideline. Remember to speak with your advisor often to learn about new opportunities, clarify concerns, and develop a plan that is right for you.



Questions?

East Carolina University offers an array of support to help you grow and learn from your first day of orientation until your graduation. New Student Orientation, Pirate to Pirate Mentoring, the University Writing Center, and the Career Center are only a few of the services and centers available to assist you throughout your time on campus.

WORKPLACE SUCCESS

What employers want

As a History major, you will pursue a career that requires specific skills and experiences. These often include:

1. Obtaining and interpreting information from sources relevant to your field of interest
2. The ability to understand and communicate information both orally and in written form
3. Preparing materials for preservation, storage, or display
4. Collecting information by means of observations, interviews, or surveys
5. Identifying information by categorizing, estimating, recognizing differences or similarities, and detecting changes in circumstances or events

WHAT CAN I LEARN?

As a History major, you will focus on developing a practically applicable understanding of the study of the past that will help you as you prepare for graduate school or your chosen career path. You will learn key information about a variety of topics specific to the study of History while developing skills and knowledge that are important to the discipline. These include:

- Knowledge of appropriate processes for the conservation and preservation of manuscripts, records, and other artifacts;
- The ability to gather historical data from sources such as archives, court reports, diaries, news files, and photographs, as well as collect data sources such as books, pamphlets, and periodicals;
- Knowledge of how to research and prepare manuscripts in support of public programming and the development of exhibits at historic sites, museums, libraries, and archives;
- The ability to conduct historical research as a basis for the identification, conservation, and reconstruction of historic places and materials;
- The ability to present historical accounts in terms of individuals or social, ethnic, political, economic, or geographic groupings.



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THOMAS HARRIOT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

History



ABOUT THE CONCENTRATION

The Department of History's undergraduate programs educate students in the diversity and experience of the global past. They also prepare students to enter a wide variety of careers, by developing their ability to engage in critical thinking. History students learn to look at the human past in all its complexity, and find pattern and meaning in ambiguous and complicated sets of facts. They learn to recognize the enormous range of human experiences across the centuries, and to express their findings orally and in writing. Some students immediately employ these timeless skills in the working world, while many others choose to continue their education at law schools or in pursuit of graduate and doctoral degrees.

A history degree prepares students for challenging and exciting careers in teaching, policy analysis, politics, public service, public relations, communications, and research, writing, and editing. ECU history graduates have found employment in schools,

government agencies, international and non-profit agencies, museums, archives, and historic sites. History has long been recognized as one of the ideal undergraduate preparations for careers in law, journalism, public policy, business, and public history.

Chances are that today's college graduates will experience several changes of career during the course of their working life. Given this workplace reality, many students see the advantages of using their college years to equip themselves with a broad array of time-tested skills. A degree in History, one of the core liberal arts disciplines in the Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, provides students with such education. History graduates are able to think critically, write effectively, and assess the dynamics of the world around them. History graduates learn how to become life-long learners, capable of success in a wide variety of fields. No matter what the future holds, there will always be jobs for people with these abilities.

DEGREE OPTIONS

The History Department at ECU offers students the opportunity to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree in History, which

includes a four-semester language sequence. Students may also choose to complete a minor in Public History.



ADMISSIONS INFO

You can apply to the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences through the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website at www.ecu.edu/admissions. To be considered for admission, freshmen applicants will submit their high school transcript and standardized test scores. Transfer applicants will submit official transcripts from all previously attended institutions. Application deadlines and specific admissions requirements for freshmen and transfer applicants are listed on the website.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

All students pursuing a degree in History should plan to take HIST 2000: Introduction to History. This course introduces students to the study and application of History as a discipline, including common methods of research and analysis that will help you throughout later history courses. This course is foundational to your History degree, so the earlier you take it, the better off you will be.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

The History department strives to provide students with opportunities to apply their coursework in real-world situations and continue to develop their passion for the study of the past. To further this goal, the department can help to arrange internships with local area museums, state parks, the university archives, rare books and other special collections, and the North Carolina Collection. The department also offers regular study abroad experiences in Japan and Africa that can help students engage with other cultures and their rich histories in person.

FIRST YEAR >>>

SECOND YEAR >>>

THIRD YEAR >>>

FOURTH YEAR >>>

POST-GRAD OPTIONS



THE COURSES YOU NEED

Begin working on general education requirements and foreign language courses. Also, register for HIST 2000: Introduction to History, and one of the following: HIST 1030, HIST 1031, HIST 1050, or HIST 1051



GAIN RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Explore your major and career options in consultation with your advisor. By the end of your first year you should have developed plans to complete specific internships, develop the experience necessary for the kind of employment you want, or begin to identify potential graduate schools.



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Emails from the department will let you know about upcoming guest lectures, including the annual Brewster Lecture, as well as internship opportunities and other special events.



THINK GLOBALLY

Being internationally aware and culturally competent is increasingly important. Think about ways you could build these skills, which may include foreign language or Global Understanding courses, study abroad, or internationally-focused courses or student organizations.



CAREER PREPAREDNESS

Visit [Career Services](#) to learn about their resources. Check out the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) and [Virtual Job Shadow](#) to explore potential careers. Log in to [Handshake](#) to set up your profile, check out career events, and begin to explore potential employers and job opportunities.

Continue foreign language study at 2003 and 2004 levels. Also make sure that you are making progress on your general education requirements and that you have registered for two of the following: HIST 1030, HIST 1031, HIST 1050, or HIST 1051

Meet with [Career Services](#) often to work on your post-graduation plans. Seek information on setting up internships by exploring on-campus opportunities at Joyner Special Collections or at the listed off-campus providers (local area museums, etc.). Use the resources available through [Career Services](#) to identify common skills in your career field.

Join student organizations that suit your interests, which may include the History Honor Society, [Phi Alpha Theta](#) (GPA dependent). For a full list of student organizations, visit [OrgSync](#).

Integrate internationally-oriented classes into your electives and consider a minor or second major in an international field or foreign language. Consider a summer or semester-long study abroad program. Apply for study abroad scholarships in the early fall.

Meet with your Career Counselor to explore your goals and develop your résumé. Attend career fairs and other employer-related activities. Speak to your instructors and advisors about career options often.

During your third year, you should focus on completing your general education requirements and continuing to make progress in your required foreign language courses. Also make sure that you are registered for a minimum of four HIST courses at the 3000 level.

Internships, part-time jobs, student leadership positions, and volunteer or community engagement activities can help build your résumé and give you valuable experience. Connect directly with faculty members who share your interests to explore your opportunities, network, and identify future goals.

Connect with the [Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement](#) to explore local opportunities. Also consider contacting community partners using the [Orgsync](#) directory. To build your professional network, join a professional organization like [The American Historical Association](#).

Make the most of your return from your study abroad or internship program by becoming more active in your student organizations. Work with the [Office of Global Affairs](#) and the [Career Center](#) to learn how to leverage your study abroad experience to improve your job placement possibilities.

Develop your [LinkedIn](#) profile. Meet with your Career Counselor to discuss postgraduation plans. If needed, research graduate schools and program requirements. Continue to attend career fairs and other employer-related career events.

Complete any remaining general education requirements and finish your Foreign Language requirement. Also register for two HIST courses at the 3000 level in addition to HIST 4000 and one additional course at the 4000 or 5000 level. Ensure that you have enough credit hours to graduate.

Volunteering for political, governmental, or social organizations is a great way to get experience in your field, build your résumé, test your interest in working with diverse populations, and develop your professional network. During your final year you should also participate in ECU's [Research and Creative Achievement Week](#).

Submit a proposal to present a polished research paper from one of your classes at East Carolina University's [Research and Creative Achievement Week](#) or a regional or national conference in your field.

Take on a leadership position in one of your globally-oriented student organizations. Complete your program by incorporating more internationally-focused courses.

Meet with your Career Counselor to put your post-graduation plans into action. Refine your résumé, [LinkedIn](#) profile, and interview skills. Complete the Pirate Employment Survey.

APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS EACH YEAR

LOOK INTO INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Teaching
- Policy Analysis
- Politics
- Public Service
- Public Relations
- Communications
- Research, Writing, and Editing
- International and Non-Profit Agencies
- Museums
- Archives
- Historic Sites

VISIT US ONLINE

For more information and an interactive map PDF, visit: ecu.edu/cs-cas/history

