



History majors have a wide variety of career options. For example, President George Bush majored in history at Yale University.

What Can I Do With a History Major?

WHAT IS HISTORY?

History is a social science that studies the events of our past. Most colleges divide the study of history into ancient, medieval, and modern segments and offer many concentrations. The study of history at the college level is a lot more than just memorizing dates and famous events. It is the careful analysis and study of the events of the past in order to address the present and prepare for the future. History is growing more popular as a college major. In fact, the American Historical Association reports that the number of students pursuing an undergraduate major in history in the 2000-01 academic year increased more than 6 percent from the 1999-2000 academic year.

WHAT WILL I LEARN IF I MAJOR IN HISTORY?

Studying history will teach you how to analyze information and ideas; develop research, writing, and oral communication skills; and learn to appreciate and understand other cultures.

WHAT TYPES OF CAREERS CAN I GET WITH A HISTORY MAJOR?

History majors have many career options. You can become a historian, teacher, curator, archivist, museum director, writer, tour guide, elected official, editor, advertising worker, and virtually any other career that requires you to think critically. Some people pursue an undergraduate degree in history to prepare for advanced studies in library science, government, religion, law, political science, business, education, or other areas.

WHAT MUCH CAN I EARN AS A HISTORY MAJOR?

History majors earn a wide variety of salaries based on the fields in which they work. The average starting salary for history graduates in summer 2003 was \$32,208, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY MAJOR?

BOOKS:

- ✓ *Careers for Students of History* (American Historical Association, National Council on Public History, Public History Program at the University of South Carolina, 2002) is an excellent book for people interested in history careers. It profiles interesting career options for history majors in museums, archives, publishing, historic preservation, education, government, and consulting. *Careers for Students of History* also profiles almost 20 professionals working in these fields. Visit www.ncph.org for more information.
- ✓ *Becoming a Historian: A Survival Manual* (American Historical Association, 2003) offers an overview of graduate study in history, from applying and paying for graduate school to searching for a job, acing interviews, and surviving your first year as a teacher. Visit www.theaha.org for more information.
- ✓ *The Directory of History Departments and Organizations in the United States and Canada, 2002-2003* (American Historical Association, 2002) contains information on more than 800 colleges, universities, historical organizations, government organizations, and other resources for history majors. A limited online edition of the 2001-2002 print directory is available at www.theaha.org/pubs/directory.

WEB SITES:

- ✓ National Council for History Education (www.history.org/nche), Organization of American Historians (www.oah.org), Princeton Review: Find a Major (www.princetonreview.com/college/research/majors), American Association for State and Local History (www.aaslh.org), National Council on Public History (www.ncph.org), Yahoo! Resources for History (<http://dir.yahoo.com/Arts/Humanities/History/Organizations>).

