

Careers for Students of History

You're a History major. Think about what you are trained to do. Yes, you know some cool facts and can talk knowledgeably about some big historical issues, such as: does history repeat itself? More important, you understand and can analyze and explain complex changes in the economy, government, and society over broad spans of time. You can think historically.

You have also acquired a broad range of skills that prospective employers value: how to collect, manage, and analyze information; how to do research; how to write clearly and effectively; how to give a strong spoken presentation.

To what kinds of careers can your training and skills lead? Here are actual job titles of some recent UD graduates who were History majors, arranged by category:

Business: Personal Banker, JP Morgan Chase
Guest Relations Specialist, Walt Disney World Resorts
Customs Broker, United Parcel Services
Credit Analyst, Barclay's Bank
Market Research Analyst, Deloitte Consulting
Customer Service Representative, U.S. Airways
Financial Consultant

Government, Law, Advocacy: Vice-President of the United States (yes, Joe Biden was a History/Political Science double-major)
Lawyer
Special Assistant to a U.S. Senator
Navy SEAL; U.S. Army
National Park Service, Cultural Resources Specialist; see article in *Messenger*, 2008
http://www.udel.edu/udmessenger/vol16no3/stories/features_bies.html]

Writing, Editing, Journalism: Newspaper reporter
Documentary filmmaker: <http://firstpersondocumentary.org/directors-statement>
TV Programmer and Administrator, Corporation for Public Broadcasting
Copy Editor
Reporting Assistant, Dow Jones & Co.

Research: Research Assistant, American Institute for Research
Research Coordinator, Corporate Executive Board

Education: High School teacher, Teach for America
English Language Assistant, French Ministry of Education
Education Director, Learning Stages: <http://joesalvatore.com/>
Education Director, City of New York Parks and Recreation

Information Management: Administrative Assistant, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Library Aide, UD Morris Library
Museum manager

Career Preparation Suggestions for History Students at UD

1) **Internships** provide excellent opportunities to get “hands-on” experience in History and related fields; if taken for credit, either as HIST 464 or as UNIV 364, an internship can fulfill UD’s Discovery Learning Experience (DLE) requirement.

In recent years, UD History majors have completed internships at, among other locations, the Delaware State Legislature, Fort Delaware, the Hagley Museum and Library, the Historical Society of Delaware, the Buffalo Bill Historical Museum in Cody, Wyoming, W.R. Gore & Associates, Newlin Grist Mill, the Lewes (Delaware) Historical Society, the “Lost Towns” Project in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, WHYY radio in Philadelphia, the National Constitution Center, the Henry Hudson replica ship “Half Moon” in New York, and the Historical Society of Palm Beach County, Florida.

For students seeking internships, here are a few web sites of interest:

UD Career Services Center: <http://www.udel.edu/CSC/newbluehenjobs.html>

Legislative Fellows Program: <http://www.ipa.udel.edu/legfellows/>

American Historical Association: www.historians.org

Center for History and New Media, George Mason University: chnm.gmu.edu/

National Archives and Records Administration: www.archives.gov

National Constitution Center, Philadelphia: www.constitutioncenter.org

National Park Service: www.nps.gov

National Trust for Historic Preservation: www.nationaltrust.org

Preservation Action: www.preservationaction.org

Society for History in the Federal Government: www.shfg.org

Smithsonian Institution www.si.edu

Student Conservation Association: www.thesca.org

2) **Summer work** in a field related to the student’s career interests. A summer job in a business or legal firm, at a newspaper or magazine, at a historic site or national park, or with a publisher enables one to get a sense of possible careers in those fields.

3) Choosing a **double major** or taking a **minor** field in a related area. Students interested in public service or legal careers often combine History with Political Science or Legal Studies. Students thinking about museum or library careers find the following combinations appealing: History and Art History; History and English; History and Anthropology; History and Material Culture Studies. History majors interested in careers in journalism take the English Department’s minor in Journalism; a double major in History and English can lead to a career in editorial or publishing work. Combining History with Sociology or Women’s Studies can prepare one for a career in advocacy, public service, law enforcement, or at a non-profit agency.

4) Acquiring **additional skills**, such as computer or foreign language training.

5) Planning ahead for **graduate school training** in History, Library Science, Law, Business, Archival Management, or Museum Studies.