History

MAJOR MAP

How to use the map
This map is designed to give you information about your chosen major that will help you keep 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.

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:

1. Knowledge of appropriate processes for the conservation and preservation of manuscripts, records, and other artifacts;
2. 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;
3. 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;
4. The ability to conduct historical research as a basis for the identification, conservation, and reconstruction of historic places and materials;
5. The ability to present historical accounts in terms of individuals or social, ethnic, political, economic, or geographic groupings.

*Adapted from the National Center for O*NET Development. 19-3093.00 O*NET CH-Line. Retrieved October 17, 2017

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.

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

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.

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.

ALL MAJORS CAN LEARN
As a History major, you will:
1. Learn to understand and communicate information both orally and in written form
2. Learn to conduct historical research as a basis for the identification, conservation, and reconstruction of historic places and materials
3. Learn how to research and prepare manuscripts in support of public programming and the development of exhibits at historic sites, museums, libraries, and archives
4. Learn to conduct historical research as a basis for the identification, conservation, and reconstruction of historic places and materials
5. Learn to present historical accounts in terms of individuals or social, ethnic, political, economic, or geographic groupings

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**History MAJOR MAP**

### FIRST YEAR
- **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.

### SECOND YEAR
- **THE COURSES YOU NEED**
  - 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.

- **GAIN RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**
  - 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.

- **COMMUNITY CONNECTION**
  - 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.

- **THINK GLOBALLY**
  - 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.

- **CAREER PREPAREDNESS**
  - 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.

### THIRD YEAR
- **THE COURSES YOU NEED**
  - 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.

- **GAIN RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**
  - 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.

- **COMMUNITY CONNECTION**
  - 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.

- **THINK GLOBALLY**
  - 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.

- **CAREER PREPAREDNESS**
  - 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.

### FOURTH YEAR
- **THE COURSES YOU NEED**
  - 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.

- **GAIN RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**
  - 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.

- **COMMUNITY CONNECTION**
  - 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.

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

- **CAREER PREPAREDNESS**
  - 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.

### POST-GRAD OPTIONS
- 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