



# History

*“What is history? An echo of the past in the future; a reflex from the future on the past.” – Victor Hugo*

*The study of History, arguably the most comprehensive of the liberal arts, broadens students’ perceptions and their understanding of the contemporary world through a critical study of the past. The study of History not only helps students develop an informed awareness of the human experience in all its diversity, it teaches the leaders of tomorrow how to communicate thoughtfully and clearly, and it prepares them for high-quality employment in an unlimited number of fields.*

## THE PROGRAM

The History program helps students to develop the practical research and communication skills that provide a foundation for graduate work, for the study of law, for teaching, for careers in archival and library science, and for a variety of careers in business and other professions.

The program offers entry-level survey courses that fulfill the University’s history core requirement as well as specialized upper-division courses in a variety of topics ranging from Roman history to modern China that specifically serve history majors and minors. The program also offers internship opportunities that provide history majors with valuable hands-on experience working in libraries, museums, and other partner institutions.

## THE MAJOR

The Department of History offers a 33-credit major that allows students to complete coursework in the following topics:

- African History
- Asian History
- Greek and Roman History
- Latin American History
- Modern European History
- U.S. History

Examples of courses include:

- World History 1500-Present
- The Ancient City
- Russia & the World
- History of Northern Ireland
- Native American History
- U.S. Since 1945
- African Environmental History
- History of Mexico
- African American History

## THE MINOR

Students majoring in other programs who have an interest in history may choose to complete a History minor. The general History minor consists of 18 credits (six courses) and has two required courses: Survey of Western Civilization I and either Survey of Western Civilization II or World History 1500-Present. Students may then complete the History minor with four History elective courses.

Students may also pursue 18-credit minors in Latin American History, Asian History, or History of Race and Ethnic Communities.

## DISTINCT OPPORTUNITIES

Many History students choose to **study abroad** for a semester or an academic year. Gonzaga offers History courses at its Florence campus during the Fall, Spring, and Summer terms. Students have also enjoyed opportunities to take courses with GU History professors in Turkey and Rome.

The History program provides opportunities for **internships** for variable credit. An internship at a local non-profit, library, or archive provides an invaluable learning experience, an opportunity to explore a potential career field, a chance to learn and teach history beyond the classroom, and a vehicle for gaining hands-on professional skills.

Some students majoring and minoring in History choose to obtain **teacher certification** that will allow them to pursue careers as secondary school history teachers. Faculty advisors in the History Department and School of Education assist these students in planning their programs to meet certification requirements.



## GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Recent graduates have gained admission into graduate programs at the following institutions:

- Georgetown University
- Gonzaga University School of Law
- Indiana University
- John F. Kennedy University
- Marquette University
- Oxford University
- University of Colorado - Boulder
- University of Louisiana - Lafayette
- University of Michigan
- University of Oregon
- University of Washington
- Vanderbilt University
- Washington State University
- Yale University

## OUTCOMES

A liberal arts education develops a student's ability to write effectively, speak eloquently, and think critically. A liberal arts education further provides students with a broad background in citizenship and culture. Graduates of Gonzaga's History program typically find employment in fields that value these attributes. These include business, education, law, government, journalism, and publishing.

A sample of employers for recent Gonzaga History graduates includes:

- A variety of school districts and colleges
- Fort Nisqually Living History Museum
- Google Launch Pad
- NextGen Climate
- Ronald McDonald House of Charities

Gonzaga's History program also prepares students for graduate study in history and in archival and library science, as well as for careers in museum work and public history.



## Faculty Contact

**Ann Ostendorf, Ph.D.**  
**Dept. Chair**  
[ostendorf@gonzaga.edu](mailto:ostendorf@gonzaga.edu)

**For more information:**  
[gonzaga.edu/history](http://gonzaga.edu/history)