

Career Paths for History Majors and How to Pursue Them

Business

Why it's a good choice: The critical thinking and communication skills that History majors learn, along with our students' ability to analyze how societies change over time, constitute a good preparation for careers in business.

What to do: C.S.U.'s College of Business offers a minor in Business Administration; see the web site (<http://www.biz.colostate.edu/undergraduatePrograms/academicPrograms/Pages/businessMinor.aspx>) for information about the minor.

Graduate School in History (M.A. and / or Ph.D.)

Why it's a good choice: If you love history and have the aptitude, graduate studies can provide intellectual stimulation and lead to a career teaching history at the university level or working in the field of public history (see below).

What to do: Talk to a History Department faculty member who teaches in your field of interest (U.S., European, Latin American, African, or Asian history) about graduate programs and about the courses you should plan to take now to prepare for graduate school. The History Department at C.S.U. offers an M.A. in History; our graduates have been admitted to some of the top Ph.D. programs in the U.S.

Pre-Law

Why it's a good choice: History, with its emphasis on critical thinking and communication skills (both oral and written) is excellent preparation for law school.

What to do: Make an appointment with Pre-Law advisor Blane Harding (Blane.Harding@colostate.edu). He can tell you about recommended courses to prepare for the law school admission exam, as well as provide information about law schools and C.S.U. scholarships for pre-law students.

Public History

Why it's a good choice: Public history – the profession of presenting history to the public through museums, archives, national parks, historical buildings, or writing about history for a public audience – is a natural fit for students who want to work in history outside the traditional teaching professions.

What to do: Take a course about public history (HIST 479 / Practice of Public History, HIST 478 / Heritage Resource Management, HIST 476 / History of America's National Parks). Talk to Professors Fish-Kashay or Ore – our specialists in public history – about careers, other useful undergraduate courses, and our M.A. program's concentration in public history, which has an excellent placement record for internships and jobs.

Social Studies Teaching

Why it's a good choice: Teaching history and related subjects in the public schools is a wonderful career with many employment opportunities.

What to do: Talk to an academic advisor in the History Department about Social Studies Teaching concentration in the History major, or look at the information on the History Department's web site at <http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/Hist> to see if it's right for you. Please note that a 3.0 grade point average is needed for admission to C.S.U.'s education program.

Other Resources to Explore Careers in History:

The C.S.U. Career Center offers information and advice about academic majors and careers at <http://career.stuser.colostate.edu>.

The American Historical Association's booklet Careers for Students of History is available online at <http://www.historians.org/pubs/careers/index.htm>. Explore the rest of the web site, too!