

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.

Digital History Technologies

Why it's a good choice: Technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), network imaging, mobile technologies, and Web 2.0 are changing how we study and represent historical processes such as environmental change, migration, and economic activity. Acquiring digital skills while polishing the historians' craft of synthesizing, analyzing and interpreting information can make students more competitive for various jobs in government, public history (see below), NGOs, and the private sector. These skills may also make students more competitive for graduate degree programs.

What to do: Enroll in HIST480A5 Historical Methodology in the Digital Age (course number may change in future semesters) and pursue a minor in Geography, offered through the Department of Anthropology, including courses applicable to the minor that incorporate remote sensing and GIS techniques.

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(s) of interest 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: The History major, with its emphasis on critical thinking and communication skills (both oral and written), is excellent preparation for law school.

What to do: Review the pre-law advising resources at: <http://polisci.colostate.edu/undergraduate/pre-law> or make an appointment with College of Liberal Arts pre-law Advisor Dr. Courtenay Daum in the Political Science Department at Courtenay.daum@colostate.edu

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 and landscapes; film and new media; or writing histories for government, corporate, or public audiences – is a good fit for students who want to work in history outside the traditional teaching professions.

What to do: Take a course about public history (for example, HIST 479 / Practice of Public History, HIST 478 / Heritage Resource Management, or HIST 476 / History of America's National Parks). Talk to History faculty members about other useful undergraduate courses, careers in this subfield, 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 the requirements for the Social Studies Teaching concentration in the History major and visit the School of Teacher Education and Principal

Preparation web site at <http://www.stepp.caahs.colostate.edu/>. 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!

What Have They Done with Their History Degree?

A small sample of what recent CSU undergraduates have done while pursuing or after completing their history degrees.

Internships

Bee Family Farm
Fort Collins Museum of Discovery
Public Lands History Center
Scotts Bluff National Monument
Smithsonian
Historic Denver
Molly Brown House Museum

History Graduate School

College of William and Mary	University of Minnesota
Colorado State University	University of Utah
UC Santa Barbara	University of Chicago
University of Colorado	University of Wisconsin
University of Notre Dame	Washington University
University of Washington	

Law School and other Professional Schools

Florida State University, Masters in Higher Education Program
Stanford Law School
University of Illinois Law School
University of Colorado, Religious Studies
University of Nebraska Law School
University of Oklahoma Medical School
Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
CSU College of Veterinary Medicine

Careers

Professor of Religious Studies, Hamilton College
Photographer
Writer
Social Studies Teacher
National Park Service
United States Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps