



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

History

Department of History, College of Arts & Sciences

Career Opportunities

Since History claims the study of all human behavior as its domain, it is not surprising that Western Illinois University History graduates have entered a variety of careers. Many have found jobs in management, research, and sales with private companies. An almost equal number have pursued careers in education, primarily as secondary school teachers. A substantial number have elected to continue their education in either graduate or professional schools. The study of history is excellent preparation for law school, graduate programs in liberal arts and business, and other professional programs. Other graduates have pursued careers in archival/library work, government, and the military.

As one of the History department's Distinguished Alumni observed recently, "An education in history at Western Illinois University prepared me thoroughly to compete in the business world."

Another commented that "The world changes so quickly that it is virtually impossible to teach someone a skill that will still be in demand even five years after graduation, let alone 20. A History education, however, gives one the skills necessary to be successful in any endeavor."

Program Objective

The successful and varied careers of Western's History graduates stem from the nature of their chosen discipline. The fundamental goal of the study of history is to provide students with an understanding of human behavior over time and place and to help them develop the ability to ask relevant questions, draw meaningful conclusions from disparate data, and present these conclusions clearly and cogently in oral and written forms.

Faculty

The 17 members of the Department of History are outstanding teachers and scholars with doctoral degrees from some of the finest universities in the world. Although many of Western Illinois University's historians have gained national and international reputations as scholars through their publications and presentations, all faculty regularly teach classes at the freshman and sophomore levels as well as at the upper-division and graduate levels. As a result, all Western History courses are taught by full members of the History faculty; graduate student assistants provide individualized tutoring, as needed, in the department's Academic Assistance Center.

Student-Faculty Interaction

The History department stresses excellent teaching, outstanding advising, and close student-faculty interaction. Student evaluations of faculty reflect the emphasis on teaching. The department's academic adviser works closely with students in planning their course of study. Small classes and individualized study courses are available to all students. Students and alumni have consistently praised the quality of instruction and advising they received from the History faculty at Western because of this attention.

One recent History graduate wrote that "The strongest aspect of my experience at Western was the ability to relate directly to my professors."

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

At Western, student-faculty interaction extends beyond the classroom. Students can join the Associated Students of History (ASH), which regularly holds seminars, shows movies, takes field trips, and plans many social events for both students and faculty. If they qualify, students can also join Western's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the international history honor society. Western's History students regularly present their research at regional Phi Alpha Theta conferences, and our local chapter sponsors an online journal of students' original historical research papers, the *Western Illinois Historical Review*.

Western Illinois University History students have many opportunities to participate in individual undergraduate research projects with History faculty members. Our students participate each year in the University's Undergraduate Research Day and win Undergraduate Research Grants from the College of Arts and Sciences each semester.

Program of Study

The department offers majors in History and History – Teacher Certification, both leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree; an undergraduate History minor; and the Master of Arts degree in History.

Major

A minimum of 33 semester hours (SH) is required. Of these, 18 SH must be earned at the upper-division level at a four-year college or university. By taking appropriate education courses, you can earn certification to teach history and/or other social science courses at the middle or senior high school levels.

Minor

The minor in History nicely complements many majors. It requires 18 SH of History courses, at least six of which must be earned at a four-year college or university.

Transfer Students

Many students enter our History program after attending a community college. If you're attending a community college in Illinois or eastern Iowa, your college probably has a transfer agreement with Western. Your adviser should have a suggested program of study to prepare you for studying history at Western. If you plan to study with us after community college, please contact us early. We'd like to help make your transfer as easy as possible.

Facilities

The Department of History is located in Morgan Hall, a modern structure with electronic ("smart") classrooms, seminar rooms, and computer laboratories. Morgan Hall, like all University academic buildings, has wireless Web access throughout all of the floors.

Department Scholarships

Thanks to the dedication of our current and retired faculty, our generous alumni, and many other friends of the Department of History, we are able to offer 11 scholarships with stipends of \$1,000 each per year to History majors. To be considered for these scholarships, you must have an ACT composite score of at least 28.

Leslie F. Malpass Library

The Malpass Library is an architectural and visual showplace, as well as a superb learning center. The library and its five branches house more than one million cataloged volumes, 3,300 current journal subscriptions, and 25 foreign and domestic newspapers. In addition, the library provides computer access to resources worldwide, including 800 other Illinois libraries with more than 22 million volumes. When necessary, the interlibrary loan program can have materials in students' hands within a day or two.

Campus Visits

The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open most weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM when the University is in session. Group information sessions are available at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and campus tours are conducted at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM daily. Individual appointments with an admissions counselor, advisers/faculty, or a financial aid adviser may be arranged during the week. The Admissions Reception Center is open from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM most Saturdays when the University is in session. A group information session is available at 10:00 AM, and a campus tour is conducted at 11:00 AM. An individual appointment with an admissions counselor may be arranged. You may schedule your visit or tour online at admissions.wiu.edu by selecting "Visit Campus." You may also schedule a visit, tour, or individual appointment by calling toll free (877) PICKWIU [742-5948] or (309) 298-3157, or by e-mailing admissions@wiu.edu.



wiu.edu/history

Department of History

438 Morgan Hall • Western Illinois University
1 University Circle • Macomb, IL 61455-1390
Phone: (309) 298-1053

