



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

History – Teacher Certification

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. History majors who pursue a teacher education degree find positions teaching history and social studies in middle schools and high schools throughout Illinois as well as elsewhere in the nation. Many have gone on to positions of leadership in their schools as well.

Program Objective

Western Illinois University's state and nationally accredited History – Teacher Certification program prepares students to teach all fields and periods of history as well as other social studies courses as required by the State of Illinois. Courses in history, other social sciences, and teaching methods, as well as field experiences teaching in the classroom, prepare students for their final semester as a full-time student teacher. Upon graduation, students are qualified for certification to teach in the secondary schools, both middle schools and high schools.

Faculty

The 17 faculty 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 the upper-division level. As a result, all of the 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. Due to this attention, students and alumni have consistently praised the quality of instruction and advising they received from the History faculty at Western.

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

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 education 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's History education 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.

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Program of Study

The History – Teacher Certification major leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree from Western Illinois University. Our program has been designed to prepare our students to pass the State's Subject Matter Certification Test in History/Social Studies.

Major

The History – Teacher Certification program includes six required History courses and eight additional History courses chosen from a variety of areas of specialization. In addition, as required to pass the State Certification Exam in History/Social Studies, our program also includes a course on Illinois history; additional history or political science courses focusing on politics and international relations; and courses in geography, economics, and other social science disciplines. A variety of professional education courses, including teaching methods courses offered through Western's College of Education and Human Services (COEHS), prepare students to succeed as student teachers in middle schools or high schools as well as for careers teaching history and other social studies in secondary schools after graduation.



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. It is especially important for teacher education majors to be aware of courses they must take as freshmen and sophomores in order to complete their History – Teacher Certification degree at Western on schedule.

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. Morgan is located directly across the street from Horrabin Hall, where the COEHS is located and where students' professional education classes are held. Horrabin's classrooms are specifically designed to develop students' abilities to teach using the latest in teaching technology.

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 both History and History – Teacher Certification majors. To be considered for these scholarships, you must have an ACT composite score of at least 28. One of these scholarships, the Larry T. Balsamo Scholarship, is specifically set aside for History – Teacher Certification students only; the other ten are available for the most outstanding students in either the History major or the History – Teacher Certification major.

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

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