Career Opportunities
Western Illinois University’s History graduates have entered a variety of careers. Many have found jobs in law, management, research, and sales with private companies. An almost equal number have pursued careers in education, primarily as secondary school teachers. Other graduates have pursued careers in archival or library work, government, and the military. 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 and for graduate programs in museum studies, historic preservation, liberal arts disciplines, and business.

As one of the Department of History’s Distinguished Alumni observed recently, “An education in history at Western Illinois University thoroughly prepared me 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 twenty. A degree in History, 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 cultures and traditions that have shaped the present and to develop their ability to solve problems by asking relevant questions, drawing meaningful conclusions from disparate evidence, and presenting those conclusions clearly and cogently in oral and written forms.

Majors
The department offers undergraduate majors in History, History – Teacher Certification, and History – Pre-Law, all leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree. At least 36 semester hours (s.h.) in History is required for each of the three History degrees. History – Teacher Certification majors graduate with state certification to teach history and/or other social studies subjects at the middle school or high school levels. History – Pre-Law majors graduate with the skills and background necessary to do well on the LSAT exam and in law school.

Transfer Students
Many students enter our History program after attending a community college. 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 make your transfer as easy as possible.

Faculty
The 16 members of the Department of History faculty are award-winning teachers and scholars, with advanced degrees from some of the finest universities in the world. Although many of Western’s outstanding History faculty have gained national and international reputations as scholars through their publications and conference presentations, all History faculty regularly teach classes at all levels, including freshman surveys, sophomore seminars, specialized upper-division courses, and senior seminars. As a result, all WIU History courses are taught by full members of the History faculty dedicated to contributing to the success
of our students. Graduate student assistants, selected from among the most outstanding graduate students pursuing the M.A. in History at WIU, provide additional individualized tutoring for those students needing it through 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 History majors. 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 work individually with my History professors.”

At Western, student-faculty interaction extends beyond the classroom. Students can join the Associated Students of History (ASH), which regularly holds professional development seminars, 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.

**Research, Presentation, Publication, and Study-Abroad Opportunities**

All History majors are eligible for research funding to cover the costs of conducting or presenting their historical research. Each year, the History department provides opportunities for its students to give presentations on-campus at WIU’s Undergraduate Research Day and off-campus at various academic conferences. In addition, WIU’s *Western Illinois Historical Review* publishes articles each year representing the most outstanding research produced by WIU History majors. History department faculty regularly lead short-term study-abroad programs for interested students, and students may also spend a semester studying abroad if they wish.

**Minors**

The History department offers three minors, each of which effectively complements and enriches many major programs. The Legal History minor is suitable for students planning careers in the law who are not enrolled in the History – Pre-Law major. The Modern Global History minor is appropriate for many majors, including International Relations, Comparative Politics, International Business, International Agriculture, International Studies, Law Enforcement and Justice Administration, Military Science, Spanish, and French, among many others. The general History minor offers the flexibility to suit any major. Each of the department’s three minors requires 18 SH of History courses.

**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**

The Department of History offers a number of four-year and two-year scholarships with annual stipends of $1,000 or $2,000 each. To be considered for these scholarships, you must have an ACT composite score of at least 24.

**Leslie F. Malpass Library**

The Malpass Library is a superb learning center and educational resource. 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.

Of particular interest to History’s Pre-Law majors, Malpass Library also provides access to thousands of online databases, including WestLaw, LexisNexis, and the Congressional Serial Set. The Library also provides a wealth of printed legal references.

For History's Teacher Certification majors, WIU's Curriculum Library contains approximately 45,000 volumes, including curriculum guides, K-12 textbook series, teaching aids, and books for children and young adults.