

UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS



History Department

The object of the history program at the University of Dallas is to foster a habit of thinking historically. Students should learn how to formulate historical questions, how to develop evidence to answer such questions, and how to organize an argument that is at once rigorous and expressed with literary grace. The core courses in the history curriculum introduce the fundamental elements of the Western heritage and Christian tradition and demonstrate the contribution of historical thinking to mature and thoughtful reflection on the human condition. The elective courses in the history curriculum initiate students in the application of the historical method in areas of particular interest. This method engages the power of the imagination to draw connections among various kinds of evidence in order to comprehend the complexity of human motivation and historical causation.

Senior Thesis

The history program at the University of Dallas culminates in a junior seminar and senior thesis. In the spring semester of the junior year, all history majors enroll in the History Seminar in which they study intensively how the Western historical tradition has developed and contemporary approaches to the study of history. During this spring semester, students also decide on the topic for their senior thesis and write an introductory prospectus that will guide their research. In the subsequent fall semester of the senior year, majors enroll in History Thesis in which they work with faculty to complete the extended research project that constitutes the department's comprehensive examination. The successful major, therefore, will not just have learned about history, they will have worked with primary sources and fashioned their own interpretation of the historical record. They will have *done* history.

The Sommerfeldt Senior Thesis Award: The Department of History recognizes excellence in the senior thesis thanks to a generous gift of Dr. John Sommerfeldt, emeritus professor of history and former president of the University of Dallas.

History Four-Year Plan:

Freshman Year

English 1301	3	English 1302	3
History 1311	3	History 1312	3
Art, Drama, Music or Math	3	Art, Drama, Music or Math	3
Language 1301 (or 2311)	3	Language 1302 (or 2312)	3
Philosophy	3	Theology 1310	3
Fall Semester Credits	15	Spring Semester Credits	15

Junior Year

History Electives	6	History 4347	3
Philosophy 3311	3	History Elective	3
Science	3	Electives	6
Economics 1311	3	Science	4
Fall Semester Credits	15	Spring Semester Credits	16

Sophomore Year (Actual schedule depends on when you go to Rome.)

English 2311 and 2312	6
History 2301 and 2302	6
Philosophy 2323	3
Theology 2311	3
Economics 1311	3
Language or Science	6
Politics 1311	3
Total Sophomore Year Credits	30

Senior Year

History 4348	3	History Electives	6
History Elective	3	Electives	9
Philosophy Elective	3		
Electives	6		
Fall Semester Credits	15	Spring Semester Credits	15

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Concentrations and Professional Programs

History majors typically pursue a wide variety of careers in law, public policy, international affairs, international business, or education. The following concentrations and professional programs are among the many that may be a valuable complement to a degree in history:

- International Studies concentration
- Human Sciences concentration
- Medieval & Renaissance studies
- Pre-law program
- Teacher certification

Internships and Conferences

There are many opportunities for UD history majors to gain experience outside the classroom. Among the most valuable of these experiences are internships. History majors may also participate in a variety of academic conferences and conferences on topics of social and political interest. Among these conferences are the Phi Alpha Theta regional conferences, the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, and the Baylor University Institute for Faith and Learning.

Action Items for History Majors

- From your freshman year, **work closely with your academic adviser** to fashion a program that both challenges and excites you.
- As you get acclimated to academic work in college, **join campus clubs and organizations** that support your interests, such as the Alexander Hamilton Society.
- In fall semester of your sophomore and junior years, work with your academic adviser and the Office of Personal Career Development to **explore research opportunities and internships** that, in particular, make use of your summer break.
- **Join Phi Alpha Theta**, the History honor society, if you are invited. Becoming a member provides opportunities for academic conferences and even publication.
- At the beginning of the fall semester of your senior year, have a post-graduate plan of action. **Prepare your resume**. If you are going to need letters of recommendation, begin to approach faculty with whom you have worked.

Applying your interests, skills and values in a changing world

Examples of recent history major internships include:

Lectureship intern, U.S. Archives, George W. Bush Presidential Library
Intern, Dallas Holocaust Museum
Intern, Historical Library of the Economic Research Department
Intern, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas
Summer Journalism Intern, Franklin Center
Marketing Intern, Winstead PC
Research Intern, Heritage Foundation

Examples of the professional destinations of recent history major graduates include:

Pediatrician, Massachusetts General Hospital
Second Lieutenant, United States Army
Advertising Associate, The Richards Group
Business Analyst, Fannie Mae
Editor, Southwest Airlines Insight Magazine
Law Clerk for Judge Colloton of the Eighth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals
Campus Dean, Saint Monica Academy
Managing Partner, Village Baking Company

Examples of institutions where recent history majors graduates have pursued professional degrees:

University of Nottingham (United Kingdom)
Cambridge University
University of Notre Dame (Graduate School and School of Law)
University of Virginia School of Law
University of California Los Angeles
University of Kansas
Rutgers University
George Washington University School of Medicine