

Students in history build their knowledge of the past and develop their research skills. The curriculum stresses the provisional nature of knowledge and ambiguity as part of the explorations of the past and its varied perspectives. All history students acquire minors in other disciplines. These include fields like geography, middle and secondary education, political science, psychology, and business. History provides a strong and flexible foundation for many different career paths because of the skills it hones – reading, thinking, analyzing, and writing.

HOW TO USE THE ACTION PLAN

Use the Action Plan timeline to explore potential career paths and plan for success during and after your college experience. The Action Plan provides suggestions and a place to start the conversation with your advisor, but every person and every career journey is unique. Customize your own personal action plan using the **My History Action Plan** tool (next page).

Maximize the time you have in college to prepare for your future. What do you want to do after you graduate with an History degree?

The Action Plan helps you to come up with tentative goals (remember, it's ok if these change as you continue to learn more about yourself and the field!) so you can start working on short-term steps to help you reach those goals or shift directions. Remember, you do not have to do this all on your own, get the support you need from your department and from Student Support Services like **Career Services and Advising (CSA)**.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Reading:
Extract and construct meaning from texts and non-textual sources.

Historical Knowledge:
Explore issues, objects, or works from the past through the collection and analysis of evidence that results in informed conclusions or judgments.

Global and Intercultural Fluency:
Critically analyze and engage with complex, interdependent global systems and legacies.

Communication:
Effectively convey historical and other knowledge and analysis orally and in writing.

Critical Thinking:
Obtain information about and explore issues, ideas, artifacts, data, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.

Career Management:
Identify and articulate skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to career goals, and identify areas necessary for professional growth.

ALUMNI CAREER FIELDS



WHY CONSIDER AN INTERNSHIP?

- Discover areas of interest
- Gain experience in potential career field
- Build your professional network

ALUMNI STORY MATTHEW GOGUEN '12

Internship: Fitchburg Historical Society

“ Today, I am an Environmental Historian working in litigation with attorneys, and it's my job to visit libraries and archives throughout the country to collect documents and understand the past. All of the skills I use now were learned in classes at Fitchburg State and practiced at the Fitchburg Historical Society. I was very fortunate to have an internship at the Historical Society, which had acquired a large collection of blueprints and architectural drawings, specs and correspondence from H.M. Francis & Sons, a nationally recognized architectural firm. The impact this internship had on my career was tremendous and sent me on the path to graduate school. ”



EXAMPLES OF PAST INTERNSHIPS

- American Antiquarian Society, film assistant
- Fidelity Investments, administrative intern
- Snow Riders of Nashaway, GIS researcher
- U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, research assistant

Take a look at the suggested activities in the Action Plan below. You do not need to complete all these tasks, but it is a place to start generating ideas. Think about what you would like to work on now in order to feel well prepared to enter your career field or graduate school upon graduation. Use the blank My Action Plan tool with your advisor to come up with the action items that are priorities for you. Revisit and revise this action plan each semester.

FIRST YEAR

SOPHOMORE YEAR

JUNIOR YEAR

SENIOR YEAR

ACHIEVE ACADEMIC MILESTONES

Take courses that introduce you to the core concepts of history and which interest and challenge you, particularly when selecting your general education classes. Reflect on how these classes line up with future careers.

If applicable, in the fall semester, declare your intention of completing the minor in Middle and Secondary Education (5-12).

Students in the initial licensure concentration: take Communication/Literacy MTEL.

Take courses that deepen your understanding of the core concepts and introduce you to historical methods.

Declare a minor or a double major, and begin corresponding coursework.

For licensure students, complete a "first stage review."

Deepen your historical understanding by taking electives in the major.

Licensure students must complete the history subject MTEL and a "second stage review."

Employ your research, writing, and critical thinking skills and your knowledge of historical methods to create a capstone project in the Senior Seminar.

For licensure students, complete upper-level teaching methods courses and semester-long student teaching.

Go over remaining degree requirements with your advisor and apply for graduation.

BUILD EXPERIENCE

Take a career strength/skills assessment.
Consider a part-time job to build your experience.
Activate your Handshake account

Search out and apply for summer jobs and internships that will build relevant experience.
Speak to a professor about specific interests and research opportunities, such as the Undergraduate Conference for Research and Creative Practices.

Pursue a research opportunity (e.g., a research project with a professor for the Undergraduate Conference) that involves an historical subject.
Attend events with employers on campus, including career fairs, and seek out opportunities to network within the Economics, History, and Political Science (EHPS) department.

Search out and apply for internships in your career field.

Develop a list of potential employers and check for recruitment events as well as open positions.

If enrolled in the Initial Licensure concentration, complete student teaching.

Apply to jobs starting in January, if not September.

Keep track of and follow up with job applications.

JOIN THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Join one or two university clubs and organizations that reflect your interests, and participate in, manage, or support campus athletics.
Attend campus events that interest you.

Join Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society.
Consider writing for the campus newspaper or joining student government.

Seek out leadership positions in campus clubs, activities, and in academic honor societies.

Assist in the recruitment for Phi Alpha Theta, and consider supporting broader campus recruitment efforts.

EXPLORE CIVIC & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Seek out local organizations and events of interest, and look for research opportunities about which you are passionate.

Talk with your advisor about opportunities to study abroad, and consider engaging with different institutions and organizations during academic breaks.

Consider volunteering with local agencies, archives, businesses, or libraries.

Consider participating in a service organization, the military, or a fellowship program after graduation.

PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Familiarize yourself with CSA workshops and services.
Create resume and have it approved by an advisor in CSA Center.

Talk to your advisor about opportunities within your major for internships/experiential learning.
Consider participating in alumni job shadowing or informational interviews with professionals in potential career fields.
Begin to collect material for a professional portfolio.

Attend a CSA workshop or one-on-one meeting to go over cover letters and interview preparation.
Update Handshake profile.
Create a LinkedIn account and other accounts on industry-specific platforms (i.e., SchoolSpring).
Consider graduate/professional programs, and decide if they are right for you and your career path.

Take any necessary entrance exams and complete any applications for graduate or professional programs.
Practice skills by doing at least 2 mock interviews and getting feedback.
Finalize your professional portfolio (if applicable) and resume.