

School of Arts and Sciences

HISTORY

www.pitt.edu/~pitthist

You will find studying history at the undergraduate level at the University of Pittsburgh a little different than the memorization of historical people, events, and dates that you've done in the past. The curriculum considers history from a more international perspective and compares the histories of different countries, regions, and periods through reading, class discussion, writing, and research. Courses integrate materials from a variety of fields such as anthropology, economics, literature, political science, and sociology to illustrate and help you understand the particular regions, time periods, and topics you explore.

A wide range of history courses is offered each semester, covering topics such as military, economic, and women's history; radicalism; race and ethnicity; gender and sexuality; urban history; and law. The department's area studies programs in U.S., East Asian, Latin American, and European (Western European, Eastern European, and Russian) history rank among the best in the nation. Some of the subjects that faculty actively research include women's employment history, Japanese economic history, slavery and abolition around the world, and the Lake Superior Ojibway Indians. Students from the United States and other countries are attracted to the quality, diversity, and depth of study offered in the University's Department of History.

An undergraduate degree in history offers you many options for a career. Although the common path for a history graduate was once teaching, the diversified education you receive in this program prepares you for many types of careers, including business or civil service, foreign service, museum conservator, documentarian, and politics.

Required Courses

You must complete a minimum of 30 credits in history courses, distributed as follows:

- Core courses totaling 15 credits, including at least one course in each of the following areas:**
(Examples of courses offered in each category are listed.)

Pre-1500 History (Among many others, Consult advisor)

HIST 0751 Ancient Worlds
HIST 1100/1111 Medieval History 1 and 2
HIST 1116 Introduction to the Renaissance
HIST 1190 Medieval Government and Society
HIST 1781 Roman History

U.S. History

HIST 0600 United States to 1877
HIST 0601 United States 1865–Present
HIST 0670 Afro American History 1
HIST 0671 Afro American History 2

European History

HIST 0100 Western Civilization 1
HIST 0101 Western Civilization 2
HIST 0200 East European Civilization
HIST 1240 Political East Europe

Non-Western History (includes Latin America, Asia, Eastern Europe, Russia, Africa, and the Middle East)

(Among many others, Consult advisor)
HIST 1070 The Rise of the Modern Pan-African Movement
HIST 1240 Political Eastern Europe
HIST 1313 History of the Russian Revolution
HIST 1315 Stalin
HIST 1433 Modern Japan
HIST 1460 History of Japanese Women
HIST 1476 Chinese Religious Traditions
HIST 1560 Women in Latin American History
HIST 1586 Latin American Revolutions
HIST 1766 Modern Israel

2. Required seminar for majors (HIST 1000 or 1001)

This course teaches students how historians work by examining various interpretations of a common event or series of events and looking at historiographical literature. In general, the course teaches you how to ask and answer questions that are fundamental to the study of history. These classes are writing (W) courses.

3. Concentration (12 credits)

You are required to take four courses in a subject area of history determined by you with the help of a history undergraduate advisor. Concentrations can be created with a group of courses that focus on a chronological period, geographical area, or historical theme. Students usually declare a concentration during their junior year.

4. One elective history course. Any history course.

Afro-American History	Modern Germany 1866-1945
American Legal History	Modern Japan
American Workers 19th Century	Modern Jewry
American Workers 20th Century	Modern Latin America
Atlantic History to 1800	Origins of Christianity
Britain 1750-1880	Political East Europe
Caribbean History	Reform, Rebellion, and Revolution
Civil War History	Religion in Asia
Colonial Latin America	Religion in India
East Europe Civilization	Religion in Modern America
English Origins of American Law	Religions of the West
Exploring the Samurai	Renaissance and Reform in Europe
Graduate Teaching Seminar	Roman History
History Medicine and Health Care	Russia to 1860
History of Africa Since 1800	Social Change
History of Black Pittsburgh	Soviet Russia
History of Pittsburgh	The Idea of Europe 1914-2004
History of Sports	The Irish in America
History of the Holocaust	The Ottoman Empire 1300-1923
Intellectual Foundations of Capitalism	Tudor England
Introduction to Islamic Civilization	U.S. Popular Culture
Ireland	United States 1865-Present
Japan and the West, 1500-1850	United States And the Holocaust
Japanese Religious Traditions	United States Colonial
Jews in the United States	United States Since 1945
Latin American Reading	United States to 1877
Magic, Medicine, And Science	United States Women
Medieval History	Western Civilization
Modern East Asian Civilization	World History
Modern France 1780-1880	World War I

Foreign Language

No specific language courses are required for the undergraduate history degree. If you are interested in graduate study in history, however, all graduate departments of history require proficiency in at least one foreign language, and many require competency in two languages for completion of a PhD degree.

Departmental Honors Program

Students with a quality point average of 3.50 in history and 3.35 overall may be invited to join the departmental honors program, which entails six additional credits beyond the 30 credits required for the major. The program culminates in the preparation of an undergraduate thesis based on primary research. This is an excellent opportunity for motivated students to work on a topic of their own choosing, in close cooperation with a faculty member, and also to prepare for application for graduate study.

For more information on the history program, please contact:

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For more information about other majors, contact:

University of Pittsburgh
Office of Admissions and Financial Aid
Alumni Hall, 4227 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260-6601
412-624-PITT
E-mail: oafa@pitt.edu
www.oafa.pitt.edu

Special Programs and Opportunities

Certificate Programs

These optional programs allow students to complete a concentrated area of study in addition to their major. They consist of 18–24 credits of course work and in many cases can be used to fulfill the related area requirement of any School of Arts and Sciences degree. Some certificate programs that are particularly complementary to a history degree include children’s literature, German language, Jewish studies, Medieval and Renaissance studies, and women’s studies.

History majors will be especially interested in the Certificate in Historic Preservation, which combines information on history, anthropology, and art history to teach students about landscape preservation. In preserving historic areas, this program emphasizes not only saving buildings, but related spaces and communities as well.

The **Centers for Asian Studies, Latin American Studies, Russian and East European Studies, and West European Studies** offer certificate programs in each of these areas that are distinguished by the U.S. Department of Education as the best of their kind for research, teaching, and public service. As part of the University Center for International Studies (UCIS), these centers combine the talents of hundreds of faculty members from many departments to offer a variety of courses as well as research opportunities, study abroad programs, and public service programs. These efforts collectively help to increase our understanding of the world and create partnerships with international institutions and scholars. Other UCIS certificate programs include African, European Union, and global studies.

Phi Alpha Theta

This organization is a professional honor society that promotes the study of history by encouraging research, teaching, publication, and information exchange among students, teachers, and writers of history. It is unique in its encouragement of students conducting historical research and publishing. Through intellectual and social events, Phi Alpha Theta encourages students and faculty to interact beyond the classroom by sponsoring trips to historic sites, bringing speakers to campus, sponsoring career forums for history majors, and promoting scholarship in the field of history.

Internships

Having an internship can be one of the most enlightening and productive aspects of your undergraduate education. It not only gives you a closer look at working in a particular field but can help you gain a competitive edge, make contacts in the marketplace, and earn credits toward your degree. Pittsburgh is an exciting place for internship opportunities that relate to a history education. You can work for organizations such as the Institute for Politics, which places students in city and state governments; the Jewish Community Center; and the Washington County Historical Society, as well as many corporate headquarters and a wealth of cultural organizations, including the Carnegie system of museums. Beyond Pittsburgh, students complete internships in cities such as Philadelphia, Pa.; Washington, D.C.; New York, N.Y.; and their own hometowns every year. Additionally, students may choose to enroll in the history department’s internship program whereby the credits earned will form part of the major.

Study Abroad

Studying abroad is an exciting way to add an international perspective to your undergraduate education and strengthen your credentials as a graduate. The following programs sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh are particularly well suited to history majors:

Pitt in London, England is offered both fall and spring semesters. This program combines courses taught by a Pitt faculty member and British faculty from various institutions of higher education in London. Subjects include history, literature, film, politics, and theater. Students also may complete an internship with an organization in London for valuable work experience in fields such as museum management, politics, education, and communications. You can choose to live in a student residence or with a family in Wimbledon. Field trips to historical and cultural sites such as Stratford-on-Avon and Stonehenge are included in the program.

Pitt in India is a 10-week summer program at the University of Hyderabad, an ethnically and religiously diverse city in central India with a history dating back to the 14th century. Both local faculty and Pitt faculty teach students about the history, culture, geography, and social and religious issues of the area through classroom work and field trips. Students also choose between a reading and research program on the topic of their choice or a course specializing in one cultural area such as the Hindi language, religion, dance, cinema, or literature. Students can live on campus or with an Indian family.

Pitt in the Czech Republic is a summer program in the city of Prague, considered one of the most beautiful and architecturally diverse cities in the world. Students take a course on the art, social, and political history of the Czech Republic and visit many monuments, museums, churches, and towns that illustrate this history. Through independent study, students also can complete projects of their own creation. Costs for housing in a local hotel, two meals a day, and field trips are included.