

**Undergraduate Handbook  
Department of History  
Oklahoma State University**

Updated August 2020

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DEPARTMENT OF  
**HISTORY**  
College of Arts and Sciences

## **Welcome to the History Department!**

We are delighted that you are interested in the study of history, and want to welcome you and answer any questions that you may have.

The study of history offers a rich space for understanding the full laboratory of human experience over time. At OSU specifically, studying history gives you access to welcoming and brilliant faculty members who teach and research a wide range of topics. Our course catalog includes courses on everything from American History to Middle Eastern History, from history of food to the history of music, and so much more.

We have a lively and active undergraduate culture, with frequent History Club events, and a corresponding graduate student community and honor society, Phi Alpha Theta.

This handbook includes information about the Department of History, and is also available online. Please contact us with any questions!

Sarah Mutschelknaus  
Undergraduate Advisor

Address: 101B SSH  
Email: [sarah.mutschelknaus@okstate.edu](mailto:sarah.mutschelknaus@okstate.edu)  
Phone (405) 744-8197  
Appointment Calendar: [STAR.okstate.edu](http://STAR.okstate.edu)

## Why Study History?

(Adapted from Peter N. Stearns, 1998, American Historical Association)

History is very useful, actually indispensable, but the products of historical study are less tangible, sometimes less immediate, than those that stem from some other disciplines. History should be studied because it is essential to individuals and to society, and because it harbors beauty.

### History Helps Us Understand People and Societies

Major aspects of a society's operation, like mass elections, missionary activities, or military alliances, cannot be set up as precise experiments. Consequently, history must serve, however imperfectly, as our laboratory, and data from the past must serve as our most vital evidence in the unavoidable quest to figure out why our complex species behaves as it does in societal settings. This, fundamentally, is why we cannot stay away from history: it offers the only extensive evidential base for the contemplation and analysis of how societies function, and people need to have some sense of how societies function simply to run their own lives.

### History Helps Us Understand Change and How the Society We Live in Came to Be

The past causes the present, and so the future. Any time we try to know why something happened—whether a shift in political party dominance in the American Congress, a major change in the teenage suicide rate, or a war in the Balkans or the Middle East—we have to look for factors that took shape earlier. Sometimes fairly recent history will suffice to explain a major development, but often we need to look further back to identify the causes of change. Only through studying history can we grasp how things change; only through history can we begin to comprehend the factors that cause change; and only through history can we understand what elements of a society persist despite change.

### The Importance of History in Our Own Lives

- History well told is beautiful. History is one of the few remaining *narrative* disciplines.
- History provides a terrain for moral contemplation. Studying the stories of individuals and situations in the past allows a student of history to test his or her own moral sense, to hone it against some of the real complexities individuals have faced in difficult settings.
- History provides identity, giving us a sense of where we've come from.
- A study of history is essential for good citizenship, encouraging habits of mind that are vital for responsible public behavior, whether as a national or community leader, an informed voter, a petitioner, or a simple observer.

### What Skills Does a Student of History Develop?

- The ability to assess evidence.
- The ability to assess conflicting interpretations.
- Experience in assessing past examples of change.
- Broad perspective that provides the range and flexibility required in many work situations.
- Basic writing and speaking skills

## History Faculty

**Laura Arata** (Ph.D., 2014, Washington State) - Assistant Professor - Public History; American West; Race and Gender

**Kurt Anderson** (Ph.D., 2011, Oklahoma State) – Lecturer - U.S. West, Oklahoma History

**Richard J. Boles** (Ph.D., 2013, George Washington) - Assistant Professor - Colonial and Revolutionary America; Native American History; African American History; Religious History

**Thomas A. Carlson** (Ph.D., 2012, Princeton) - Assistant Professor - Middle East History; Muslim-Christian Relations; Islamization

**David D'Andrea** (Ph.D., 1999, Virginia) – Professor - Early Modern Europe; Italy; Christianity

**Yongtao Du** (Ph.D., 2006, Illinois-Urbana) - Associate Professor - East Asia

**Jared Eberle** (Ph.D., 2018, Oklahoma State University) - Lecturer – Native North America; Modern US; History of Activism

**Sarah Foss** (Ph.D., 2018, Indiana University) – Assistant Professor – Latin America; Indigenous; Cold War, Race and Ethnicity

**Emily Graham** (Ph.D., 2009, St. Andrews-Scotland) - Assistant Professor - Medieval Europe; Gender History; Religious History

**Sarah Griswold** (Ph.D., 2018, New York University) - Assistant Professor – Modern Europe; French Empire; Race, Religion & Ethnicity; Heritage and Museum Studies

**Brian Hosmer** (Ph.D., 1993, University of Texas at Austin) – Professor and Department Head – American West; Native American and Indigenous; Public History; US post-1865

**Holly Karibo** (Ph.D., 2012, Toronto) - Assistant Professor - North American Borderlands; American Social and Cultural; Women, Gender, and Sexuality; Drug History

**John Kinder** (Ph.D., 2007, Minnesota) - Associate Professor - American Studies; War, Modernism

**Greg Kosc** (Ph.D., 2010, University of Texas at Arlington) - Lecturer – African American History; American West; European History; US post-1865

**Kallie Kosc** (Ph.D., 2019, Texas Christian University) - Assistant Professor – US pre-1865; Native American and Indigenous

**Jason E. Lavery** (Ph.D., 1997, Yale) – Professor - Early Modern Europe; Germany

**Ry Marcattilio-McCracken** (Ph.D., Oklahoma State University) – Lecturer - U.S.; Science, Technology, and Medicine

**Douglas Miller** (Ph.D., 2014, Oklahoma) - Assistant Professor and Director of Graduate Studies - Native American History; Mass Incarceration;

**Jennifer Murray** (Ph.D., 2010, Auburn) – Teaching Assistant Professor – American Military History; Civil War

**Justin Prince** (Ph.D., Oklahoma State University) – Lecturer -U.S. History, U.S. West, U.S. Military History

**Matthew Schauer** (Ph.D., 2012, Pennsylvania) - Assistant Professor - Modern Europe (Modern Britain Focus); Global Empires (Modern Britain Focus); History of Anthropology

**Tonia Sharlach** (Ph.D., 1999, Harvard) - Professor - Ancient Near East

**Michael M. Smith** (Ph.D., 1971, Texas Christian) - Emeritus Professor - Mexico; Latin America

**Brandy T. Wells** (Ph.D., 2015, Ohio State University) - Assistant Professor – U.S. History; African American History; Women and Gender

## History Courses

- 1010 Studies in American History
- 1103 Survey of American History
- 1483 (H) American History to 1865
- 1493 (H,D) American History Since 1865
- 1613 (H) Western Civilization to 1500
- 1623 (H) Western Civilization after 1500
- 1713 (H) Survey of Eastern Civilization
- 1813 (H) World History from Ancient Times to 1500
- 1823 (H) World History 1500 to Present
- 2023 (H) History of the Present
- 2333 (H) American Thought and Culture: Survey
- 2343 (H) Religion in America
- 2513 (H) Plantation to Plate
- 3013 (H) Ancient Egypt and Israel
- 3023 (H) Ancient Greece
- 3033 (H) Ancient Rome
- 3043 (H) Ancient Mesopotamia
- 3053 (I,S) Introduction to Central Asian Studies
- 3093 (H) Historical Geography of N. America to 1800
- 3113 (H,I) Germany Since 1815
- 3123 (H,I) The History of Modern Africa
- 3133 (D, H) African Diaspora History
- 3153 (H) Russia to 1861
- 3163 (H,I) Russia Since 1861
- 3203 (H) The Medieval World, 500-1500
- 3233 (H) Late Medieval World, 1000-1450
- 3243 (H) Renaissance, 1350-1517
- 3253 Absolutism and Enlightenment, 1648-1789
- 3263 (H) Modern Europe, 1815-1914
- 3273 (H,I) Modern Europe Since 1914
- 3323 (H) Modern France, 1789-Present
- 3333 (H,I) History of the Second World War
- 3343 (H,I) World War I in Modern European Culture
- 3353 (H) Mediterranean World
- 3363 (H) Popular Religion in the West, 1300-1700
- 3373 (H) The Medieval English World: 700-1400
- 3383 (H) Tudor-Stuart England
- 3393 (H) Modern England: 1714-Present
- 3403 (H) East Asia to 1800
- 3413 (H,I) East Asia Since 1800
- 3423 (H,I) Modern Japan
- 3433 (H,I) Modern China
- 3443 (H) Gender Relations in Chinese History
- 3453 (H) Colonial Latin America
- 3463 (H,I) Modern Latin America
- 3473 (H) British Empire & Commonwealth of Nations
- 3483 (H) Reformation Europe, 1517-1648
- 3493 (H,I) Scandinavia Since 1500
- 3503 (H) Islamic Civilization 600-18003513 (H,I) Modern Middle East Since 1800
- 3523 (H,I) History of South Asia 1700 – Present
- 3543 (H,I) Israel & Palestine in Modern Times
- 3573 (H, I) The Mongol Empire
- 3583 (H) Minorities in the Middle East
- 3593 (H) Intro to Museum and Cultural Studies
- 3613 (H) American Colonial Period to 1750
- 3623 (H) Era of the American Revolution
- 3633 (H) Early National Period, 1787-1828
- 3643 (H) Antebellum America, 1828-1850
- 3653 Civil War and Reconstruction, 1850-1877
- 3663 (H) US 1877-1919
- 3673 (D,H) United States History, 1919-45
- 3683 (D,H) United States History since 1945
- 3693 (H) The Modern West
- 3703 (D, H) Oklahoma History
- 3713 (D,H) Women in the American West
- 3753 (D,H) Trans-Mississippi West
- 3763 (D,H) American Southwest
- 3773 (S) Old South
- 3793 (D,H) Native American History
- 3803 (H) History of Food
- 3853 (D,H) History of the North American Borderlands
- 3903 Introduction to the Study of History
- 3913 (H) History of Medicine
- 3953 Religion in Modern Europe
- 3963 (H) Ideas and Ideologies in Modern Europe
- 4033 (H) Introduction to Public History
- 4063 Historic Preservation
- 4073 Digital Methods in History
- 4093 Oral History: Theory and Methodology
- 4153 (D,H) African American History 1619-1865
- 4163 (D,H) African American History 1865-1954
- 4173 (D,H) Black Intellectual History
- 4253 (H) American Foreign Relations to 1945
- 4273 (H) American Foreign Relations Since 1945
- 4333 (D) History of Sexuality in the US
- 4353 (H) American Military History
- 4363 (D,H) US History through Popular & Unpopular Music
- 4403 (H) Religion in the Medieval World
- 4413 (H) Sex and Gender in the Medieval World
- 4453 (H) History and Film
- 4463 (H) American Cultural History to 1865
- 4483 (H) American Cultural History Since 1865
- 4493 (D,H) The Frontier in American Memory
- 4503 (H) American Urban History
- 4513 (S) American Economic History
- 4523 (H) American Environmental History
- 4543 (H, I) Vietnam War
- 4553 (D) Gender in America
- 4563 (H,I) Cold War
- 4593 (H) America in International Perspective
- 4883 (H,I) History of Modern Southeast Asia
- 4903 Senior Seminar
- 4990 Undergraduate Internship

## Undergraduate History Degrees

The Department of History at Oklahoma State University offers three Bachelor of Arts degrees. Students have a wide-variety of courses to choose from, spanning American, European, and World history.

### **History, B.A.**

The flexibility of the History B.A. easily allows for 20+ hours of upper-division coursework in related humanities or social sciences fields, allowing students to incorporate minors and second majors.

### **History: Business Essentials, B.A.**

The Business Essentials degree option allows students to incorporate coursework that will help prepare them for a career in business. This degree is designed to fit with the [CAS2MBA](#) program, OSU's 4+1 accelerated MBA.

### **History: Pre-Law, B.A.**

Students interested in pursuing law school are encouraged to consider the Pre-Law degree option, which allows for coursework that helps students prepare for a career in law (i.e., Environmental Law and Policy, Agricultural Law, Courts and Judicial Process, etc.).

Degree sheets with specific requirements listed change each year. You will typically work off of the degree sheet that corresponds to the year that you became a History major. You can always see all the degree sheets and compare across years here: <https://registrar.okstate.edu/Degree-Requirements>. **The backs of the degree sheets always offer the fine print** that define what is considered Arts and Humanities, Natural Science course, etc. General Education courses are designated with a specific letter in parentheses (A) Analytic/Math, (H) Humanities, (N) Natural Science, or (S) Social Science. U/D stands for upper-division, which refers to course numbers that begin with a 3 or 4.

## History Minor

A minor in history can make your transcript stand out; help you develop skills in writing, organizing information, and critical thinking; and signal your liberal arts foundation to prospective employers and graduate or professional schools. The requirements are 18 hours of HIST courses, of which 12 hours must be upper-division (3000- or 4000-level). You must keep a minimum GPA of 2.5 in these courses with no grade below "C," and a minimum of 6 hours must be earned in residence at OSU. Speak with the History advisor with questions, or fill out the paperwork in the College of Arts & Sciences, 213 Life Sciences East.

## Proposed Four-Year Degree Plan (120 Total Hours)

College of: Arts & Sciences

Degree/Major: BA/History

Academic Year: 2020-2021

The following is an example plan, to be used as a guide, in consultation with academic advisor.

Year One					
Fall Semester			Spring Semester		
A&S	1111	First Year Seminar	ENGL	1213	Freshman Composition II
ENGL	1113	Freshman Composition I	POLS	1113	Intro to American Government
HIST	1103	Survey of American History		3 hrs	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester foreign language
	4 hrs	Natural Science (N) with Lab (L)		3 hrs	Arts & Humanities with (I) (not HIST)
	3 hours	1 <sup>st</sup> semester foreign language	HIST	3 hrs	1613, 1713, or 1813
Total: 14 credit hours			Total: 15 credit hours		
Get involved with student organizations.			Registering at Career services is free!		

Year Two					
Fall Semester			Spring Semester		
HIST	3 hrs	1623 or 1823		3 hrs	Electives
	3 hrs	MATH or STAT (A)		3 hrs	(S) Social Sciences course
	3 hrs	General Ed (not HIST) with Diversity (D)		3 hrs	Arts & Humanities, Non-Western (not HIST)
HIST	3903	Intro to the Study of History		3 hrs	PHIL 1313
	3 hrs	3 <sup>rd</sup> semester foreign language		3 hrs	Additional General Ed (not HIST)
Total: 15 credit hours			Total: 15 credit hours		
This would be a good time to visit the Study Abroad Office.			Start looking into 2nd Major or Minor.		

Year Three					
Fall Semester			Spring Semester		
HIST	3 hours	Upper-Division American History	HIST	3 hrs	Upper-Division World History
HIST	3 hours	Upper-Division World History	HIST	3 hrs	Upper-Division European History
	3 hours	Upper-Division Related w/ GenEd	HIST	3 hrs	Upper-Division American History
	3 hours	Additional General Ed (not HIST)		3 hrs	Arts & Humanities (not HIST)
	4 hours	Natural Sciences (N)		3 hrs	Upper-Division Related w/ GenEd
Total: 16 credit hours			Total: 15 credit hours		
Interested in an internship? This is an ideal time to research possibilities.			Apply for departmental honors, if interested.		

Year Four					
Fall Semester			Spring Semester		
HIST	3 hrs	Upper-Division European History	HIST	4903	Senior Seminar
HIST	3 hrs	Upper-Division History	HIST	3 hrs	Upper-Division History
HIST	3 hrs	Upper-Division History	HIST	3 hrs	Upper-Division History
	3 hrs	Upper-Division Related		3 hrs	Upper-Division Related
	3 hrs	Electives		3 hrs	Electives
Total: 15 credit hours			Total: 15 credit hours		
Be prepared to apply for Spring graduation this semester. Check on 2nd Major or Minor.			Celebrate your accomplishment at May Graduation with your fellow Cowboys!!		

## Enrollment Advising

See all the information about enrolling here: <https://registrar.okstate.edu/Registration-and-Enrollment>

- **Plan Ahead.** Ahead of meeting with your advisor before your enrollment date, review your degree sheet and all the requirements of your major. Use this, along with the course listings online, to prepare a proposed schedule with specific courses for next semester. For students who have completed 90 hours, you can download your most recent Grad Check and Degree Sheets via STAR [star.okstate.edu](http://star.okstate.edu) (under Reports).
  - From the Student Self-Service page on Banner, you can check for holds, check your enrollment date, view general education courses, and view available courses and times. This is also where you'll officially register after your advising meeting.
  - Fill out a proposed Enrollment Advising Form (next page) before coming to your advising meeting.
- **Schedule Your Appointment.** You should meet with your advisor in the weeks before your enrollment date, making an appointment via STAR [star.okstate.edu](http://star.okstate.edu).
  - Make note of the purpose of our meeting in the STAR notes: indicate "enrollment."
  - Schedule these meetings as far in advance as possible.
  - If you cannot make your appointment, cancel via STAR as soon as possible, so that another student may be able to take your spot. If you are late to your appointment, you may be asked to reschedule.
  - If you are unable to meet in person for any reason, please email me to arrange an alternate means by which we can touch base to confirm your schedule and lift your registration hold.

### Advisor Responsibilities—What You Can Expect Your Advisor to Do:

- Understand and effectively communicate the curriculum, graduation requirements, and university and college policies and procedures.
- Guide you to pursue your educational goals and create a realistic and clear academic plan.
- Assist you with planning academic paths consistent with your abilities and interests.
- Provide a safe and confidential space to ask questions, discuss interests, and express concerns.
- Monitor and accurately document your progress towards meeting your educational goals.
- Be accessible for individual advising appointments requested in advance.
- Help you make decisions, but not make decisions for you.

### Student Responsibilities—What Is Expected of You:

- Actively read your advisor's email messages and check your OSU email daily.
- Schedule and keep appointments with your advisor each semester.
- Silence your cell phone beforehand, and please do not use your phone during advising appointments.
- Come prepared for advising appointment; keep official documents organized.
- Actively participate in your advising meeting by asking questions, by sharing and clarifying goals, and by providing accurate information regarding your interests and abilities.
- Follow the University policy regarding Academic Integrity: [academicintegrity.okstate.edu](http://academicintegrity.okstate.edu)
- Accept responsibility for academic decisions, performance, and your actions.

**ENROLLMENT ADVISING FORM**

[ ] Fall [ ] Spring [ ] Sum **Year:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BannerID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Major(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Option(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Minor(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**ENROLLMENT DATE**

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**Current Holds:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 [ ] Honors (Old Central)  
 [ ] Immunization (uhs.okstate.edu)  
 [ ] Bursar (113 SU)  
 [ ] Res Life (100 Iba Hall)  
 [ ] Advisor  
 [ ] 1is2many.okstate.edu/training

[ ] ISS (250 SU)  
 [ ] HS transcript (219 SU)  
 [ ] College / University  
 transcript (219 SU)  
 [ ] Other

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

CRN	Course Prefix	Course Number	Credit Hours	Prerequisite(s)	Alternate Courses / Notes
				<b>Total credit hours</b>	

**Additional comments or directions:**

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**Advisor**  
**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student**  
**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## History Club

History Club is more than just a fun student organization—it is a way to become a real part of the History Department community. Becoming involved in History Club has many benefits:

- A chance to get to know other History majors and to build relationships that will strengthen your academic and social lives.
- An opportunity to interact with faculty outside of class, getting to know them as real people and not just intimidating figures in front of the classroom (also comes in handy when soliciting recommendation letters).
- The chance to develop leadership and planning experience.
- Access to lots of fun events, ranging from historical trivia night to guest speakers, from career preparation events to movie nights, from field trips to study nights. And lots of free food!
- A space to get to work more closely with the undergraduate advisor.

Events are usually held 2-3 times a month. Check the website for the up to date schedule:

<http://history.okstate.edu/academics/history-club>

## Phi Alpha Theta

Phi Alpha Theta is a professional society whose mission is to promote the study of history through the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication, and the exchange of learning and ideas among historians. We seek to bring students, teachers, and professionals in all fields of history together for intellectual and social exchanges that promote and assist historical endeavors by our members in a variety of ways.

Undergraduate students wishing to join should have completed at least 12 semester hours in history with a GPA of at least 3.1 in history and have a GPA of 3.0 or better overall. Undergraduate membership is not limited to history majors. Membership requires a \$40 initiation fee and a \$10 annual chapter fee.

Phi Alpha Theta events include a colloquium series presented by members of the history faculty and graduate students, an end-of-year honors banquet. Our chapter also provides travel funding for members presenting conference papers. Those interested in Phi Alpha Theta and the history department are welcome to attend our monthly socials, where faculty and students share refreshments and conversation in the Murray Hall Parlor. Please see the events page on the History Department for specific dates and times. Phi Alpha Theta Faculty Advisor: Dr. Douglas Miller, Assistant Professor of History, [douglas.miller@okstate.edu](mailto:douglas.miller@okstate.edu).

## Undergraduate Office Space

In response to student demand, we have created a space within the History department for dedicated undergraduate office space, to be used as a regular place to work on campus, a place to stash your books, and a place to interact with other History majors. The big office at the end of the north hallway, S. Murray Rm. 122, houses 11 cubicles, each with a desk, computer, and shelf, and a printer for the whole office. The department will call for applications for these desks before each semester begins, and at least 1 desk will remain open for drop-in use, to be open to all History majors during work hours. Students assigned a desk will be given keys to the building and the office, to be used at any time. Some tips to keep in mind for students interacting in the shared workspace, given that it's often hard to balance social interaction with the quiet space many need to really focus on their work:

- If there are others in the office, keep your conversations to a minimum.
- Try to read others' body language to pick up on whether they are trying to have quiet work time.
- Take extended conversations, in person or on phone, away from the work area.
- If you listen to music while you work, do so with headphones or ear buds.
- Ask whether someone is busy before approaching for a conversation.
- Be respectful, flexible, and honest. Respectfully express your situation to others (“I don’t mean to be rude, but I’m trying to meet my deadline; could you take the conversation to the hallway?”). Be kind.

## Scholarships and Prizes in History

- The History Department has a wide range of scholarship opportunities available to its undergraduate majors. The scholarships are announced toward the end of each fall semester, via email (usually coming from the Scholarship Committee, via department administrator Susan Oliver, with reminders from your advisor). They are typically due at the beginning of February, to be applied the following academic year.
- For each award, all applicants must submit: 1) a completed OSU History Department Scholarship Application; 2) an up-to-date unofficial transcript of courses and grades; and 3) a resume reflecting academic achievements and extracurricular activities. Several of the awards, as noted, also require a brief letter of recommendation from a History Department faculty member.
- You can see a full list of scholarships on our website:  
<http://history.okstate.edu/images/UNDERGRADUATE-AWARDS-2017.pdf>
- You are encouraged to apply for these scholarships! They offer you financial support and a way to be closely involved with our department.

## After Graduation

Contrary to the way it often feels when you are asked to make decisions about what to major in, or what job to get, college is really just the beginning of a lifelong series of explorations. What you do here does not dictate or determine what you will be doing in 10 years. There can be a lot of pressure to feel like the decision you make now requires a certain next step and so on, such that you feel like every decision now is fraught with the *rest of your life*. It can be helpful not to put so much pressure on your current decisions. However, that isn't to discount the anxiety you feel about what you will do upon graduation. Here are some concrete suggestions:

1. Go to see a Career Counselor. This is a free service provided by OSU, and gives you a chance to explore lots of cool resources and options, including personality assessments, resume help, mock interviews etc. You can schedule an appointment with a CAS Career Counselor at [https://cas.okstate.edu/advising/career\\_services.html](https://cas.okstate.edu/advising/career_services.html) or see the broader Career Services site at Hire OSU Grads [www.hireosugrads.com](http://www.hireosugrads.com)
2. Spend some time reading history career guides. The American Historical Association has a good one: [Careers for History Majors](#). Think about which of these general career paths best lines up with your skills, interests, goals, desires for certain amenities (commute, size of city, income, etc.)
3. Browse some general job sites and click through to jobs that catch your eye. Read the descriptions and see what skills/degrees they require to help you think about next steps in your education, or kinds of experience you want to acquire through internships or the like. Check out [usajobs.gov](http://usajobs.gov) for Government jobs, [idealist.org](http://idealist.org) for nonprofit jobs, [higherjobs.com](http://higherjobs.com) for jobs in higher education institutions.
4. Consider an internship. Some common sites for internships for history majors here in town are the OSU Museum of Art, the OSU Oral History Research Program, the OSU Library Special Collections and University Archives, the Sheerar Museum of Stillwater History. The department also offers HIST 4980 Jobs in History every other semester or so, where you can get set up with a practicum site through the course. See all our internship information here: <http://history.okstate.edu/academics/undergraduate/internships>
5. Think about programs like Americorps, Peace Corps, City Year, Teach for America, or others, which are service programs that match you with valuable service opportunities and often provide a stipend, leadership training, student loan payments, and other such opportunities. These can be great transition experiences.

Check out the career guides on the following pages, and talk to your advisor for more guidance.

# Career Paths for History Majors and How to Pursue Them

## Oklahoma State University

### Business

Why it's a good choice: The critical thinking and communication skills that History majors learn, along with our students' ability to analyze how societies change over time, are a good preparation for careers in business.

What to do: OSU's Spears School of Business offers a range of minors. See the full list here:

<https://registrar.okstate.edu/2017-2018-Spears-School-of-Business-Minors>. You might consider Business Sustainability, Entrepreneurship, General Business, International Business, or Nonprofit Management.

### Digital History Technologies

Why it's a good choice: Technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), network imaging, mobile technologies, and web design are changing how we study and represent historical processes such as environmental change, migration, and economic activity. Acquiring digital skills can make students more competitive for various jobs in government, public history, NGOs, and the private sector.

What to do: Enroll in HIST 4073 Digital Methods in History, and pursue a minor in Geography, including courses that incorporate remote sensing and GIS technologies. Contact Dr. Jennifer Borland [jennifer.borland@okstate.edu](mailto:jennifer.borland@okstate.edu) to find out more about the Digital Humanities Initiative.

### Graduate School in History (M.A. and/or Ph.D.)

Why it's a good choice: If you love history and have the aptitude, graduate studies can provide intellectual stimulation and lead to a career teaching history at the university level or working in the field of public history (see below), especially if you get funding for graduate work.

What to do: Talk to a History Department faculty member who teaches in your field(s) of interest about graduate programs and about the courses you should plan to take now to prepare for graduate school. The History Department at OSU offers an M.A. and Ph.D. in History. Explore our website [history.okstate.edu](http://history.okstate.edu) or contact the Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Richard Rohrs, [richard.rohrs@okstate.edu](mailto:richard.rohrs@okstate.edu) to learn more.

### Nonprofit Organizations

Why it's a good choice: Working in nonprofit organizations requires knowledge of a broad range of areas and skills. The History major prepares you for writing, critical thinking, data analysis, and public presentations.

What to do: Consider graduate certificates in Nonprofit Management or Sustainable Business through the Spears School of Business. Take POLS 4000 Nonprofits and NGOs, with Dr. Haley Murphy, or contact her for more information [haley.c.murphy@okstate.edu](mailto:haley.c.murphy@okstate.edu). Volunteer or intern with a local nonprofit.

### Pre-Law

Why it's a good choice: The History major, with its emphasis on critical thinking and communication skills (both oral and written), is excellent preparation for law school.

What to do: Consider the pre-law track of the History major. Review the pre-law advising resources at [prelaw.okstate.edu](http://prelaw.okstate.edu) and make an appointment with the Prelaw advisor Keely James [keely.james@okstate.edu](mailto:keely.james@okstate.edu).

### Public History

Why it's a good choice: Public history—the profession of presenting history to the public through museums; archives; national parks; historical buildings and landscapes; film and new media; or writing histories for government,

corporate, or public audiences—is a good fit for students who want to work in history outside the teaching professions.

**What to do:** Talk with our public history faculty members, Dr. Bill Bryans [bill.bryans@okstate.edu](mailto:bill.bryans@okstate.edu) and Dr. Laura Arata [larata@okstate.edu](mailto:larata@okstate.edu), and public history graduate students. The Art History program also often has Museum Studies courses to consider. Volunteer or do an internship for credit (HIST 4990) at a local museum, archive, or oral history program. Talk to History faculty members about other useful undergraduate courses, careers in this subfield, and our M.A. program's concentration in public history, which has an excellent placement record for internship and jobs.

### **Public Policy**

**Why it's a good choice:** If you'd like to work in government, administration, or even nonprofits, a history degree can help you get there.

**What to do:** Consider a minor in Political Science, with courses from the Public Policy track: POLS 3493, 4403, 4413, 4453, 4593. Talk to your advisor about a Master of Public Administration degree. Volunteer or intern in local, state, or federal government positions.

### **Social Studies Teaching**

**Why it's a good choice:** Teaching history and related subjects in the K-12 schools is a great career with many employment opportunities. Our education system needs teachers with rigorous historical training.

**What to do:** Talk to your History academic advisor about how the Social Studies certification requirements fit with the History degree and how many additional hours it will take. Visit [education.okstate.edu/peu/certification](http://education.okstate.edu/peu/certification) to see the Social Studies requirements. Also consider other methods of teaching—in private schools, abroad, or through on-the-job certification.

**Other Resources to Explore Careers in History:** Make an appointment to see a career counselor, see job listings, and take a career assessment at OSU's career services: [hireosugrads.com](http://hireosugrads.com). The American Historical Association's booklet Careers for Students of History is available online at <http://www.historians.org/pubs/careers/index.htm>. Explore the rest of the web site, too!

### **What Have They Done with Their History Degree?**

A small sample of what recent OSU graduates have done while pursuing or after completing their history degrees.

**Internships:** National Wrestling Hall of Fame; Philbrook Museum of Art; OSU Museum of Art, Oklahoma Oral History Research Program; Sheerar Museum; OSU Special Collections and University Archives

**Further Education:** Purdue University History PhD program; Cambridge University History PhD program; University of Texas-Arlington History PhD program; IUPUI Museum Studies Masters program; University of Arkansas Law School; University of Oklahoma Law School; University of Arizona Masters of Public Health program; University of Oklahoma Masters of Public Administration

**Nonprofit Work:** City Year; Oklahoma American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma; Let's Fix This

**Museums:** Cherokee Strip Museum; Gilcrease Museum; Philbrook Museum of Art

**Business:** Cornerstone Corporation; The Persimmon Group; Kicker Corporation

**Careers:** U.S. Foreign Service; Photographer; Writer; Social Studies teacher; National Park Service; Sustainable Farmer; U.S. Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps; International Consultant; Academic Advisor; Librarian