MAJORING IN HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

WHY STUDY HISTORY?

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

College of Arts & Sciences
Department of History
What can you do with a History degree?

**Critical Thinking & Communication Skills**

Training in history gives you the ability to think critically, to formulate strong arguments based on evidence, and to express yourself clearly and persuasively in oral presentations, writing, and a variety of digital media. These are all skills that are tremendously useful in a variety of fields.

But don’t take our word for it. Check out what leaders in business, law, engineering, and other fields have been saying for years: historical skills are in demand today. (see history.ua.edu/careers-in-history/)

According to the UA Career Center, about half of all employers generally do not care what your actual major is. They are looking for a particular kind of thinker, someone with precisely the skills our major provides! Your future employers will build on those skills to teach you what you need to know to do your job.

So, it is perhaps no wonder that according to the most recent UA data, nearly 90% of our graduates go on to be gainfully employed, many of them outside of the field of education?

**Global Perspective**

Apart from your particular career, history gives you skills that are valuable in a global culture and in a modern democracy.

“Myth-busting” instincts - Your ability to evaluate and analyze evidence will make it easy for you to spot these dangerous elements in our public discourse.

How to be a balanced, well-informed citizen, whatever your political persuasion - Think about a current controversial issue like our debate over Confederate flag and monuments. With an understanding of the history and context around these pieces of public memory, you can contribute to the public discourse at a high level. This holds true with a range of other issues, from the history of religions, like Christianity or Islam, to the history of women, or civil rights.

**The Basis of a Meaningful Life**

Apart from what job you get or how much money you make, cultivating a sense of history helps you develop a sense of your place in the world, past and present. Your family, your faith, your community, our nation — all of these have pasts, and as a history major you have an opportunity to begin a lifelong relationship of learning about them.