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## WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... HISTORY

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### **OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:**

“History provides students with a greatly enriched view of the world around them as well as numerous real-world skills that will prove useful in many professional occupations. The study of history helps us to understand who we are and where we have been. That knowledge, in turn, helps to shape our future choices and directions. A major in history with its emphases on research, writing and creative and analytical thought prepares students for graduate student in history and in other fields, or for work in professions such as law, teaching, business, management, and publishing” (from the UNM History Department website).

### **EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT:**

A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required. However, depending on the field, many employers also require graduate school (for example, many professional historical or academic jobs will require a graduate degree).

### **EMPLOYERS/INDUSTRIES & SUGGESTED STRATEGY:**

Please ask your Career Advisor (CDF) for identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

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**Government:** Federal agencies (e.g., Smithsonian Institute, Library of Congress, Foreign Service) – State and local agencies (e.g., archives and libraries, museums, parks, historical sites, arts and humanities councils)

**Suggested Strategy:** Gain related experience in student government or other similar organizations. Complete an internship with a governmental agency. Develop foreign language skills for overseas work. Consider a variety of entry-level positions in all branches of government. An advanced degree may be required or aid employability.

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**Politics:** Elected/appointed public officials – National political party headquarters – Public interest/advocacy groups – Campaigns

**Suggested Strategy:** Volunteer to work with interested groups or agencies. Participate in student government. Gain experience and make contacts through internships and informational interviewing with government agencies or public officials. Consider political science coursework or minor.

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**Law:** Law firms – Corporate legal departments – Government agencies – Public advocacy groups

**Suggested Strategy:** Participate in pre-law associations and seek pre-law advising through the College of Arts and Sciences. Gain experience through summer or part-time work in a law firm. Volunteer with a public advocacy group. Earn law degree.

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**Nonprofit organizations:** History museums and historical sites – Historical associations/societies – Cultural heritage organizations – Historical projects – Research and service organizations

**Suggested Strategy:** Volunteer or intern with nonprofit organizations of interest. Considering coursework in other related areas.

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**Curatorial/Archival Management:** Museums – Historical homes – Art galleries – Special collections – Historical societies – Libraries – Universities/colleges – National, state, local government – Corporations – Nonprofit organizations – Research institutes

**Suggested Strategy:** Obtain an internship or volunteer in a related organization. Acquire strong “transferable skills” such as computer, written/oral communication, and organizational skills. An advanced degree may be required.

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**Journalism:** Broadcast – Print – News departments of local, public, and commercial radio and TV stations – Newspapers – National, state, and regional radio networks – Syndicated radio services

**Suggested Strategy:** Obtain an internship or volunteer with campus or local newspaper, radio or TV station. Consider obtaining a double major or minor journalism or broadcasting/electronic media.

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**Education:** Elementary, Secondary, Higher Education Teaching – Community Education – Public and private schools – Colleges/universities – Museums – Zoological parks, gardens, conservatories, refuges – Camps – National and state parks

**Suggested Strategy:** Obtain related experience (for university teaching, consider conducting research with a professor to help develop specialty area). Obtain teaching certification for public school teaching. Obtain graduate degree for college/university teaching. Develop “transferable skills” such as presentation, multimedia and curriculum development.

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**Business:** Management – Sales – Office Administration – All major retail firms – Wholesales – Manufacturers – Insurance and real estate companies – Financial institutions – Nonprofit organizations

**Suggested Strategy:** Consider a minor in business. Obtain related experience. Consider an MBA for consulting work.

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**INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:**

**H-Net Humanities and Social Sciences Resources**  
**American Association of Museums**  
**American Historical Association**  
**Museum Employment Resource Center**

<http://www.hnet.org/>  
<http://www.aam-us.org/>  
<http://www.historians.org/>  
<http://www.museum-employment.com/>

**OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:**



<http://online.onetcenter.org>



<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>