



History

“What is history? An echo of the past in the future; a reflex from the future on the past.” – Victor Hugo

The study of history broadens students’ understanding of the contemporary world through a critical study of the past. Through this program, students develop an informed awareness of the diversity of human experience, cultivate a nuanced understanding of complex situations, and learn how to communicate thoughtfully and clearly. Gonzaga History students graduate prepared for high-quality employment in an unlimited number of fields.

THE PROGRAM

The History program helps students to develop the thinking, research, and communication skills that provide a foundation for graduate work, the study of law, teaching, careers in museums and historical preservation, and other careers in the corporate and non-profit worlds.

The program offers entry-level survey courses that fulfill the University’s History Core requirement, specialized upper-division courses in a variety of topics, and required methodology courses for majors and minors that lead to a strong cohort experience. Many classes are cross-listed with other programs making History an ideal second major or minor. The program also offers internship opportunities that provide valuable hands-on experience working in libraries and museums. Our active national honor society, Phi Alpha Theta, offers opportunities to present at conferences and creates a social space for history lovers on campus.

THE MAJOR

The Department of History offers a 33-credit major that allows students to complete coursework in:

- African history
- Asian history
- European history
- Greek and Roman history
- Latin American history
- Middle East history
- United States history

Examples of courses include:

- African American History
- African Environmental History
- History of Mexico
- History of Northern Ireland
- Islamic Medicine
- Native American Activism
- Russia & the World
- The Pacific Northwest
- The Ancient City
- U.S. Since 1945

THE MINOR

Students majoring in other programs who have an interest in history may choose to complete a History minor. The general History minor consists of 18 credits (six courses) and includes one required course that introduces students to the discipline, as well as two lower- and three upper-division courses of a student's choosing. Alternatively, students may choose to pursue 18-credit specialized minors in Latin American History, Asian History, or the History of Race and Ethnic Communities.

DISTINCT OPPORTUNITIES

Many History students choose to **study abroad** for a semester or an academic year. Gonzaga offers History courses at its Florence campus and with GU History professors in Turkey and Rome.

The History program provides opportunities for **internships** for variable credit. An internship at a local non-profit, library, or museum provides an invaluable learning experience, an opportunity to explore a potential career field, a chance to learn history beyond the classroom, and a vehicle for gaining hands-on professional skills.

Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society, provides opportunities for students to present their research at conferences, organize and participate in history-related events, and socialize with other history students.

Some students majoring and minoring in History choose to obtain **teacher certification** that will allow them to pursue careers as history or social studies teachers. Faculty advisors in the History Department and School of Education assist these students in planning their programs to meet certification requirements.

OUTCOMES

A liberal arts education develops a student's abilities to think critically, evaluate evidence, navigate complexity, write effectively, and speak eloquently. A liberal arts education also provides students with a broad background in their own and others' civic identities and diverse cultures. Graduates of Gonzaga's History program find employment in fields that value these skills and perspectives. A survey of more than 1,000 Gonzaga History graduates shows that 41% work for corporations, 27% work in education, 12% work in the legal field, 9% work in government, and 7% work for non-profits.

Employers of Gonzaga History graduates include Amazon, Apple, Boeing, BuzzFeed, Google, Meta, Microsoft, the City of Los Angeles, the State of Washington, Catholic Charities, the YMCA, the Pew Research Center, and the Smithsonian Institution.

Gonzaga's History program also prepares students for graduate and professional study in History, Law, and Library and Information Science as well as careers in museums and historic preservation.



GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Recent graduates have gained admission into graduate programs at the following institutions:

- Georgetown University
- Harvard University
- John F. Kennedy University
- Loyola University Chicago
- Marquette University
- Oxford University
- University of Colorado - Boulder
- University of Cork
- University of Georgia
- University of Michigan
- University of Oregon
- University of Washington
- Vanderbilt University
- Washington State University
- Yale University



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