Why do human beings do what they do? Historians answer this basic question by looking at human behavior in widely divergent places and times. By leaving our own time and place behind, historians encounter beliefs, behaviors and practices that are strikingly different from our own.

Studying history creates comprehension of complexity and diversity. This is an essential skill for negotiating today’s multicultural, globalized world. A history major provides students with other skills too: the ability to write clearly and persuasively, and to understand complicated events in a nuanced, sophisticated way. History majors learn to read newspapers, political speeches and documents in a critical fashion, a particularly vital skill in today’s information-rich world.

Pursuing History at Ohio State
All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions.

Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in history within the College of Arts and Sciences. Any student who wishes more information about history at Ohio State should contact the Undergraduate History Office at 614-292-6793 or visit history.osu.edu.

History Requirements
A major program in history consists of a minimum of 33 semester hours of course work at the 2000-level and above. After consultation with and approval by the student’s advisor, a student may apply up to six hours of course work from outside the Department of History to the major. All students must complete History 2800, Introduction to the Discipline of History, a 4000-level readings seminar, and a 4000-level research seminar. These courses fulfill nine of the 33 hours of the major. Honors sections of the seminars are available and required for students in the Honors Program.

Students majoring in history will acquire historical knowledge of at least two cultures as well as knowledge spanning chronological periods before and after 1750. Students select at least 12 credit hours in one of six geographic areas and/or eight thematic areas to provide depth.

Geographical concentrations
Possible areas of geographic concentration include North America; Latin America; Europe (including Russia); Near East, Middle East, Central Asia, and/or South Asia; East Asia; and Africa.

Thematic concentrations
- history of environment, science and technology
- women’s history
- military history
- international (diplomatic) history
- history of colonialism and comparative empires
- religious history
- history of race, ethnicity and nation
- history of the state (power, culture, society)

Students may also arrange their own thematic concentrations with permission of an advisor.

Students also take at least 12 credit hours in other areas for breadth. At least six hours of the major need to be from courses covering historical periods before 1750 and at least six hours from courses in periods after 1750.

Although a grade of C- will be permitted in courses comprising the major program (except in the case of History 2800 in which at least a C is required), the minimum overall cumulative point-hour ratio of the major must be a 2.0.

Students contemplating a history major should try to take History 2800, Introduction to the Discipline of History, early in their career. The 4000-level seminars are taken during the junior and senior years.

The Department of History at Ohio State contains some of the university’s finest teachers: nearly half the department’s faculty have won prizes for their teaching.

Co-Curricular Opportunities
Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. History 3191, History Internship, allows students to work directly with professionals using the skills of the historian. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

These experiences enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about cultures and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.
Honors & Scholars Programs
Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling, and unique housing options. For more information about these opportunities, refer to the Honors and Scholars website at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Career Prospects in History
The skills you learn in history—critical thinking, careful reading, well-crafted writing—are essential tools for a wide range of careers: law, teaching, social work, economics, advertising, banking, and government work. History trains you broadly. It opens up possibilities rather than narrowing your focus to a single career.

Reports from the job placement office at Ohio State indicate that former history majors are working in business, banking, teaching, government work, social work, library and archival work, publishing, and law. History has always been recognized as one of the best undergraduate programs for those planning to go into law, but professional and business schools also value a well-rounded liberal education as a basis upon which to build their programs. Of course, many students go into graduate work in history, and the Undergraduate History Office maintains information on graduate programs at other universities.

To assist students with career planning, every spring the Undergraduate History Office offers a Career Night for all history majors. This event features a panel of history faculty and successful alumni who speak on various topics such as “Graduate Studies in History” and “History and Careers in Law.” Students who have attended this Career Night in the past have found it very informative and helpful. We encourage all interested students to come and participate.

Career Counseling and Job Placement
Students can explore career options by utilizing Career Connection as well as the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office. Providing complimentary services, Career Connection focuses on helping students establish a career direction, while the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office assists students with finding internships—experiences that are essential to testing out the suitability of career fields they are considering. Located in 48 Townshend Hall, the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office also assists seniors and recent graduates with finding entry-level career employment. More information about both offices is found at asccareerservices.osu.edu and careerconnection.osu.edu.

Revised December 2013. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the history program, please visit history.osu.edu.

Contact information:
Maria Mazon | Department of History | 106 Dulles Hall
230 West 17th Avenue | Columbus, Ohio 43210-1367
614-292-2674