In 1775 Patrick Henry wrote, “I know no way of judging the future but by the past.” In this spirit, the goal of the history department at Wichita State University is a thorough examination of the forces that have shaped our world to provide students a historical perspective for the future.

The department offers a program of study that is varied and flexible. You will select from four areas of concentration: ancient and Medieval, modern European, American, and local and community history. Other courses are available in such areas as urban history, military history, world history, women’s history, legal history, family history, Kansas history and the Holocaust.

History shares with other liberal arts disciplines the virtue of training individuals to think; to understand opposing viewpoints and interpretations; to locate and work with primary sources; and to develop solutions to today’s problems. Skills developed by the study and writing of history—research, critical analysis and the logical and effective communication of ideas—are important tools that can be adapted to a wide range of professional pursuits.

Indeed, there are few intellectual or professional endeavors without historical basis. History, often in combination with courses or majors in other disciplines, leads to many career opportunities that are frequently overlooked. Students with degrees in history have entered such fields as law, politics, archives, records management, communications, professional, writing, business, teaching, government, the military, the ministry, and library and museum work.

Wichita State’s history faculty is able to provide extensive counseling on departmental, college and university requirements, career planning and future opportunities for history majors.

Related Opportunities
As a history student, you may participate in Phi Alpha Theta, the history honorary society. You are encouraged to enter your work in state, regional and national competitions.

If eligible, you may be selected for university academic honor societies such as Phi Kappa Phi and Mortar Board. You may also consider being part of the Society of Public Historians. The department also offers several paper awards and other honors to both undergraduates and graduate students.

Related Programs
If you are like many history majors, you will take additional classes in political science, literature, philosophy, journalism or business. It is possible to major in history and earn certification to teach history and social studies in the secondary schools.

General Education Program Requirements
What is the overall goal?
The goal of general education is to enable you to live a rich, meaningful life by developing: an informed appreciation of the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences; an ability to intelligently follow and participate in current events; and a sensitive and tutored appreciation of diverse cultures and ways of living.

What are the expected outcomes?
Embedded throughout general education and furthered in the major are the skills that enable graduates to contribute productively to society and the on-going culture. Therefore, upon graduation the faculty expects you to:
- Have acquired knowledge in the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences
- Think critically and independently
- Write and speak effectively
- Employ analytical reasoning and problem solving techniques

Admission
When you choose to study history, you will be admitted to the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. You will be assigned a faculty advisor in the history department who will help you develop your program of study and who will outline specific requirements. If you are still deciding on a major when you start taking classes at WSU, the Liberal Arts and Sciences Advising Center can help you explore career and major options.
Major Requirements
At least 33 total history hours, including:

Three credit hours in one of the following courses
- The Human Adventure: World Civilization Since 1500 - 3 credit hours
- History of Western Civilization II since 1648 - 3 credit hours
- World Civilization to 1500 - 3 credit hours

Three credit hours in either
- History of the United States I: Colonial to 1865 - 3 credit hours
- History of the United States II: Since 1865 - 3 credit hours

And both
- Introduction to Historical Research and Writing - 3 credit hours
- Historiography - 3 credit hours

One course at the 500 or 600 level in each of the following areas:
- Ancient and Medieval - 3 credit hours
- Modern Europe - 3 credit hours
- American (including Latin America) - 3 credit hours

Plus 12 additional hours with six of those hours at 300 level or above courses.

There are additional requirements to earn certification to teach history/social studies in secondary schools. Consult the College of Education.

*Some of the courses listed in Major Requirements will count toward the LAS General Education requirements.

For more information
If you have further questions or would like to schedule a campus visit, please contact the Office of Admissions.

Marcus Welcome Center  wichita.edu/admissions
Office of Admissions  wichita.edu/visit
1845 Fairmount
Wichita, KS 67260-0124

KSDegreeStats.org

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For more information on History at WSU visit wichita.edu/history or call (316) 978-3150.