

History

Learning Goals

1. To accomplish a critical reading of sources.
2. To develop a familiarity with a variety of time periods and geographical regions.
3. To develop a familiarity with different historical themes, approaches, and interpretations.
4. To gain experience in research.
5. To plan and organize independent research projects.
6. To hone analytical skills.
7. To improve writing skills.

About the major

History is essential to all knowledge because everything has a past. Taking account of this universality, the Middlebury History Department covers virtually every part of the globe, from the United States to South Asia, from Russia to the Caribbean, from Japan to Western Europe. The members of the department also specialize in many different approaches to history, from social, political, and intellectual to environmental, ethnic, or gender-based and cultural. We expect that every history major will take courses in a variety of fields and will familiarize themselves with different ways of interpreting the past.

Our major program is unique in structure and unrivaled in depth. Students graduate from the department having learned the basic skills of historical analysis and writing through a variety of lecture and seminar courses, as well as through two extended research projects.

The department is closely tied to both the international studies and environmental studies programs, and we have served double majors in almost every area, from mathematics to political science to theatre. Every student at a liberal arts college should consider taking courses in history.

“Even though I also got an MBA, it is the rigorous analytical skills I learned as a history major that I use all the time.”

—Caroline Sneath McBride '75
*Cofounder and Senior Advisor,
Forum Partners*

Reasons you might choose this major

- You have a curiosity about the world you live in and how it came to be and a passion for learning about how the past informs and shapes the present.
- You love written narratives and the complex stories that unfold between the covers of a book, in a 19th-century diary, or on an ancient piece of parchment.
- You have a particular interest, such as warfare, the environment, inequality, national identity, or politics, and wish to dive into historical perspectives on and approaches to that theme, subject, or place.



Translating Learning into Professional Competencies

Throughout your time at Middlebury, you will develop and enhance the following core professional competencies, skills, and dispositions highly valued by employers that will prepare you for leadership and success in any given field:

Critical Thinking: Exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems.

Oral/Written Communications: Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms.

Teamwork/Collaboration: Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers from diverse backgrounds.

Leadership: Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals, and use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others.

Professionalism/Work Ethic: Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits.

Global/Intercultural Fluency: Value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and religions.

Digital Technology: Leverage existing digital technologies ethically and efficiently to solve problems, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

Career Management: Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to career goals, and identify areas necessary for professional development.

Where history majors go

Applying your learning through internships . . .

Students pursue internships and research in a variety of fields, enabling them to apply their liberal arts learning in real-world settings. Internships, research, and self-directed projects enrich your academic experience and help prepare you for life after Middlebury. Students have interned or done research at the following:

Commonweal Magazine	Locus Analytics
State of Vermont Agency of Education	The United States Senate
HealthRight International	Northwestern Global Engagement Studies Institute
Frederick County State's Attorney Office	Responsible Endowments Coalition
Sports Illustrated	Organizing for America
Library of Congress European Division	Sikelia Productions-HBO
Orleans County Historical Society	Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project
White House Office of Communications	Emily's List
Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation	Sustainable World Initiative
Voice of America	The Malaria Policy Center
Mississippi Department of Archives and History	

. . . leading to meaningful, dynamic, and engaging career paths.

See just some of the many interesting ways our graduates have applied their liberal arts learning to engage the world. If you want to see what other Middlebury alumni are doing now, log into Midd2Midd and search by major. [go/midd2midd](#)

Slate Magazine, <i>Political and Foreign Affairs Editor</i>	Center for American Progress, <i>Director, East and Southeast Asia</i>
National Wildlife Refuge Association, <i>Vice President, Strategic Programs and Development</i>	Greater New York Hospital Association, <i>Senior Vice President, Health Finance</i>
Global Rescue, <i>CEO and Founder</i>	Independent Petroleum Association of America, <i>Vice President, Economics and International Affairs</i>
The News Hour with Jim Lehrer, <i>Senior Correspondent</i>	Lightsource Renewable Energy, <i>Director of Project Acquisitions</i>
Timberland, <i>Senior Vice President, Human Resources</i>	St. Boniface Haiti Foundation, <i>President, CEO</i>
CIA, <i>Analyst</i>	Jed Root, Inc., <i>Director of Exhibitions and Publications</i>
U.S. Department of Education, <i>Attorney, Office for Civil Rights</i>	Walt Disney Studios Home Entertainment, <i>Executive Director, Business Development and Digital Product</i>
New York Historical Society, <i>Project Historian</i>	Accenture, <i>Health & Public Service, Management Consulting</i>
The World Bank, <i>Senior Country Officer</i>	NFL, <i>Assistant Labor Relations Counsel</i>
The Herald Group, <i>Vice President, Public Affairs</i>	
FSG Social Impact Advisors, <i>Managing Director</i>	
Congressman Kevin McCarthy, <i>Chief of Staff</i>	