

Career and Graduate School Information for History Majors

George Dameron, Chair (2014-2015)—March 8, 2015

Department of History

The most important resource for History majors at Saint Michael's College as they think about careers after college is the [Career Development Office](#) (Klein Hall), Chris Clary, Director (x2548).

What can History majors do with their degree?

[The American Historical Profession \(Careers for History majors\)](#) provides some answers. History majors are represented in a wide variety of careers, including many in business, law, public history, historical associations, education (elementary and secondary), historical sites (National Park Service, state parks), archives, government service, and many more.

Saint Michael's College History alumni represent a wide variety of careers: business (insurance, food services), law (non-profits, immigration, among others), public history (curator), education (primary and secondary school teaching), editing (for a state university press, for example), college teaching at the university level (professional historian), and many more.

For jobs and careers outside college and university teaching (and research), see [“History Jobs Outside Academia” \(American Historical Association\)](#).

Academia: Graduate School in History:

According to the American Historical Association, there is [slight improvement in the number of jobs being offered in academia \(2012\)](#). However, any student interested in graduate work in History

should understand that the number of applicants relative to positions advertised continues to increase and that the number of graduate students pursuing a Ph.D. continues to be “exceptionally high” relative to the number of available jobs.

The Department of History advises that majors considering graduate programs in History begin planning by the second semester of their sophomore year. We recommend:

- Students plan early to complete the number of language courses required for graduation work by the time of their graduation. For prospective historians of Europe, this normally will require reading knowledge at least one and possibly two European languages other than English. Language preparation needs to begin early. Students interested in pre-modern History (Ancient or Medieval) also need to start Latin very early in their college career.
- For those graduates interested in pursuing research degrees in History, the Department of History recommends that students first consider entering a Masters degree program at a state university such as the University of Vermont, the University of Massachusetts, the University of Connecticut, or the University of New Hampshire. After receiving the MA, students can then decide if they wish to continue to pursue a Ph. D. Medievalists may wish to consider the MA program at Western Michigan University or the University of Leeds in the UK.
- An important resource for majors interested in pursuing research degrees in History should also consult the [American Historical Association blog for recent \(January 2012\) information about job trends and opportunities in academia.](#)

Education

Saint Michael's College offers majors in Arts Education, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, and there is also a Secondary School Licensure program. For information, contact Dr. Jonathan Silverman, Chair of the [Department of Education](#).

Historic Preservation

The University of Vermont offers an excellent degree (MA) in [historic preservation](#), and Saint Michael's College history majors have enrolled in the program in the past.

Historical Societies (Local, State, Federal):

For career opportunities in historical societies, please visit the Web site of the [Career Center of the American Association of State and Local History](#).

Museum Studies (Careers in Museums):

There are various career opportunities working in national, state, local, or private museums. The principal Web site for information is the [Job HQ of the American Association of Museums](#). With a Masters Degree in Museum Studies, various opportunities are available: curator, archivist, conservator, museum administration, and arts education.

Among the best graduate programs in Museum Studies is [The Graduate Program at Cooperstown \(New York\)](#), NYU Museum Studies, George Washington University (Museum Studies), and Tufts University (Museum Studies)

Professional Associations with information about career opportunities:

American Association of Museums (Art Museums)

American Institute for Conservation

Association of State and Local History (History Museums)

The Legal Profession: Law School

For students considering law school, studying History is excellent preparation. Please go to the [Pre-law Web site](#) (Saint Michael's College) and contact a pre-law advisor: Chris Clary (Director, Office of Career Development, Klein 132, x2548) or Dr. Traci Griffith (Chair, Media Studies, Journalism, and Digital Arts; Bergeron 107, x2692).

Compiled by Dr. George Dameron, Chair and Professor (Department of History)