Students choose to study history for three main reasons. First, it represents the record of all human experience and helps fully illustrate the forces that influence our world. It is central to a liberal arts education and a defining feature of the Jesuit tradition. It has long been considered the foundation of the humanities because it provides a general framework and a unifying perspective for many more narrowly specialized disciplines. Second, it is highly enjoyable; real stories are often much more fascinating than fiction, and the detective work needed to dig into sources can be thrilling. Third, it teaches a skillset that remains in strong demand on the ever-changing job market: analytical thinking, effective use of evidence, research and writing skills, rhetorical abilities and an understanding of cultural differences.

The department of history at Saint Louis University follows a long tradition. It has been providing a solid foundation of historical understanding to the undergraduate students of SLU for more than a century and a half. The program begins with introductions to European, non-Western and American history and a primer in how to master the tools of the historical craft. Students then take courses in more specific historical areas that allow exploration of certain subjects in greater depth. Finally, students take a seminar that requires them to research and write in more narrowly focused areas. Some students may opt to write an Honors thesis.

The department of history participates in the activities of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, the Center for Intercultural Studies and the Center for International Studies. History majors are also encouraged to explore minors and concentrations available at Saint Louis University, including African American studies, international studies, medical humanities, medieval studies, pre-law, Russian and Eastern European studies, and women’s and gender studies.

Students who major in history must complete 36 credit hours of history courses. All students must complete History 1110 and 1120 as well as History 2800: The Historian’s Craft. Students must also complete 27 credit hours of upper-division history courses. These courses must include:
+ Three credit hours of European history
+ Three credit hours of pre-1865 U.S. history
+ Three credit hours of post-1865 U.S. history
+ Three credit hours of non-Western history, including Asian, African, Middle Eastern or Latin American
+ 12 credit hours of upper-level electives
+ Three credit hours of a senior seminar

Students who minor in history must complete 12 credit hours of upper-division courses in addition to History 1110, History 1120 and History 2800: The Historian’s Craft. These must include at least one course in three of the four following areas:
+ U.S. history.
+ Pre-1600 European history.
+ Modern European history.
+ Non-western history, including Asian, African, Middle Eastern, or Latin American.

At least one of these courses must be a 4000-level seminar. As part of their 15 hours, students may also take an approved historical internship in lieu of one upper-division course.
Admission Requirements

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly and carefully reviewed. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary criterion in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student’s ability to meet the University’s academic requirements and to qualify the student for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be approaching graduation from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test. To major in history, applicants must maintain a GPA of a B- or greater in their history courses.

Transfer: Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant’s file, the office of admission holistically examines the student’s academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

Internships and Careers

The department of history offers a variety of internships with museums and other historical organizations, most of which are eligible for course credit.

Internship opportunities in the St. Louis area include:
+ Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum
+ Campbell House Museum
+ Discovery Expedition of St. Charles
+ Eugene Field House and Toy Museum
+ Holocaust Museum
+ Jefferson Barracks
+ Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Achieves
+ Landmarks Association of St. Louis
+ Lincoln Home and National Historic Site
+ Midwest Jesuit Achieves
+ Missouri History Museum
+ National Archives Records Center
+ Saint Louis University Art Museum
+ Scott Joplin House
+ Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site.

Saint Louis University history department graduates find a broad range of employments, including education, law, journalism, international business, museum and library work, and public service. Many have successfully pursued graduate studies and now teach in academic institutions. Recent survey data of history alumni indicates that 93 percent consider themselves “satisfactorily occupied.”

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:
+ Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
+ Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.

Contact
Department of History
314-977-2910
history@slu.edu

Graduate Programs
+ Master of Arts (M.A.) in history
+ Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in history
For a full listing of graduate programs, visit graduate.slu.edu.

Learn More For course listings and more information about our faculty, visit slu.edu/x19383.xml.

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