

HISTORY

The student of history seeks to re-create the past (or, more precisely, as much of it as possible) in a rational manner, not only to explain and understand the past for its own sake, but also to identify our age with earlier times. As a history major, you will be concerned with the origins, development, and relationships between past people and events and, from the multiplicity of credible and sometimes conflicting evidence, will render judgments on causation and consequences. You will seek to achieve a sense of the past. A strong preparation in history can lead to possibilities in virtually every field of endeavor.

Career Opportunities

If you receive a bachelor of arts degree in history, you will be prepared for a wide range of careers, including business management, documentary film production, historic preservation, law, journalism, library services, museum work, public history, civil service, and public administration. Additional academic study is necessary for some of these fields, but not for all. If you graduate with elective social studies teacher certification, you will be qualified to teach in middle and high schools. You also may pursue careers in the same fields as graduates with other liberal arts degrees.

Students who have graduated with a major in history have been accepted at graduate and professional schools locally, in the region, and across the country.

Graduates of the program have taken jobs with a wide range of companies, institutions, and agencies, including the following:

- Hagley Museum and Archives
- School districts nationwide
- U.S. State Department
- Vanguard Investments

Undergraduate Degree

Bachelor of Arts in History. This degree program teaches you analytical reasoning and writing skills, while providing a sound foundation of historical facts and methodology.

While pursuing your history degree, you may choose to gain elective social studies teacher certification to qualify for teaching in secondary schools.

Minors

The department offers a minor in history and a minor in American studies. You can apply this minor to the B.A. or B.S. liberal studies degree programs.

Interdisciplinary Programs

The department participates in interdisciplinary programs that offer you the opportunity to develop a synthesis of knowledge from several fields of study, including history, anthropology, art, geography, literature, music history and literature, philosophy, political science, and sociology. Programs at West Chester are available in American studies, ethnic studies, Latin American studies, peace and conflict studies, Russian studies, and women's and gender studies.

Special Study Opportunities

History internships are available at such off-campus institutions as museums, archives, historical societies, and history video producers. You also are encouraged to take advantage of international study opportunities. The Robert E. Drayer Endowment supports partial scholarships for selected outstanding students. Computer facilities for historical research are available.

Related Student Activities

- History Club
- Military History Club
- Phi Alpha Theta (history international honor society)

Facilities

The Francis Harvey Green Library Special Collections Room holds the Chester County Collection of scientific and historical books; the Normal Collection, publications by West Chester University faculty and alumni; the Ehinger Collection, a collection of historical books on physical education; the Biographies of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence by John Sanderson; and the Shakespeare Folios. The Philips collection of autographed books, approximately 2,000 volumes collected between 1881 and 1920, is housed in the Philips Memorial Building. The Chester County Historical Society in the borough of West Chester and Chester County Archives in nearby West Goshen Township are also excellent resources for scholars.

Learn More

UNDERGRADUATE FACT SHEET

Advanced Degrees

Master of Arts in History

Master of Education in History

Faculty

You can obtain a complete listing of faculty and their academic qualifications for this program from the contact person listed below.

For More Information

Dr. Wayne Hanley, Chairperson

Department of History

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West Chester University

West Chester, PA 19383

610-436-2201

Web page: www.wcupa.edu/_academics/sch_cas.his/

Undergraduate Catalog: http://www.wcupa.edu/_information/official.documents/undergrad.catalog/

About West Chester University

A comprehensive, public institution, West Chester University offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs in more than 100 subject areas, as well as certification and certificate programs. As one of the largest members of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, along with 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor between New York City and Washington, D.C., West Chester is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington.

Information on Admission

Office of Admissions

Emil H. Messikomer Hall, 100 West Rosedale Ave.

West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383

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