INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

History is at the foundation of everything we do. We cannot understand the world or hope to improve it without serious attention to the historical processes that created it. Our faculty’s teaching and research cover almost the entirety of recorded history and span most of the globe. We are internationally respected for our expertise in many subfields of the discipline, including cultural, political, economic, religious, intellectual, urban, and imperial and world history, as well as histories of science and sexuality, among others. Faculty have won the most prestigious awards our profession has to offer, from MacArthur “Genius Grants” to Berkeley’s own Distinguished Teaching Award. Whether you choose to major or minor, we hope that you will join our community of historians and add your talents and strengths to ours.

THE HISTORY CURRICULUM

History at Berkeley is a highly flexible major that prizes and prioritizes original research. Students develop their own field of concentration while taking four lower division classes (emphasizing breadth) and eight upper division classes (emphasizing depth). In office hours, lectures, and particularly the two required small seminars (History 103 and 101), students work closely with our faculty to conceptualize, research, and write a capstone thesis.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

- Join a History student organization such as Phi Alpha Theta or Clio’s Scroll.
- Connect with current students and faculty at the annual Faculty Student Dinner.
- Apply for the History Undergraduate Research Grant.
- Present your capstone project at The 101 Circus undergraduate research showcase.

Examining historical texts in collaboration with fellow students and a professor is an inspiring experience. It made me see directly how doing good historical research can build and strengthen communities.

– Walker Laughlin ’20
### FIRST YEAR
- Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
- Review major and college requirements, and consult the History Major Handbook.
- Enroll in history survey courses to meet the lower division requirements.
- Get 1:1 mentoring through Berkeley Connect in History and L&S Mentors Program.
- Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
- Enroll in UGIS 98: College Success in L&S.
- Sign up for the History email list and start attending department events.
- Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair in October.
- Learn about research opportunities for History majors.
- Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
- Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
- Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.

### SECOND YEAR
- Declare the major after completing three courses in the department, including at least two lower division courses.
- Research sample fields of concentration and start thinking about your own historical fields of interest.
- Review major guidelines for study abroad and look into history-related programs.
- Join a history student organization such as Phi Alpha Theta or Clio's Scroll.
- Connect with current students and faculty at the annual Faculty Student Dinner.
- Get to know professors, the History librarian, and graduate student instructors during their office hours.
- Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar such as HISTORY 84, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
- Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through UROP.
- Enrich your studies with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.
- Experience life at another UC or college on a one-year internship.
- Go on a service-learning trip with the Alternative Breaks Program.
- Brush up on your foreign language(s) or learn new ones, especially if conducting archival research for your senior thesis.

### THIRD YEAR
- Review your degree progress with your major and college advisor.
- Enroll in HISTORY 103 (proseminar) and consider applying for a one-year thesis project.
- Submit your Field of Concentration Form.
- Attend workshops at the Office of Undergraduate Research.
- Review major guidelines for concentration and start thinking about your graduate program.
- Consider a UCDC or Cal in Sacramento gap year.
- Look into service opportunities after graduation, such as Peace Corps, Teach for America, AmeriCorps, or U.S. Department of State.
- Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair in October.
- Learn about research opportunities for History majors.
- Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar such as HISTORY 84, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
- Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through UROP.
- Enrich your studies with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.
- Experience life at another UC or college on a one-year internship.
- Go on a service-learning trip with the Alternative Breaks Program.
- Brush up on your foreign language(s) or learn new ones, especially if conducting archival research for your senior thesis.

### FOURTH YEAR
- Review your degree progress with your major and college advisor.
- Enroll in HISTORY 103 (proseminar) and consider applying for a one-year thesis project.
- Submit your Field of Concentration Form.
- Attend workshops at the Office of Undergraduate Research.
- Review major guidelines for concentration and start thinking about your graduate program.
- Consider a UCDC or Cal in Sacramento gap year.
- Look into service opportunities after graduation, such as Peace Corps, Teach for America, AmeriCorps, or U.S. Department of State.
- Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair in October.
- Learn about research opportunities for History majors.
- Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar such as HISTORY 84, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
- Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through UROP.
- Enrich your studies with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.
- Experience life at another UC or college on a one-year internship.
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### WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?
History alumni have gone on to a variety of successful careers in research, communications, education, law, business, public service, and many other professions.

### Jobs and Employers
- Admissions Specialist, App Academy
- Analyst Consultant, Mercer
- Archaeology, Defense Language Institute
- Editor, China Digital Times
- Communications Manager, Google
- Director, San Joaquin County Historical Museum
- English Teaching Assistant, Fulbright
- Executive Team Leader, Macy’s
- Law Clerk, US District Court San Diego
- Marine Officer, US Marine Corps
- Operations Research Analyst, Kinetix
- Patente Agent, Genentech
- Recruiter, Zendrive
- Research Associate, Harvard University
- Software Engineer, Twitter

### Graduate Programs
- Creative Writing, Masters
- Education, Masters
- Engineering Physics, PhD
- History, Masters, PhD
- International Relations, Masters
- Journalism, Masters
- Law, JD
- Political Science, Masters
- Public Administration, Masters
- Public Policy, Masters
- Secondary Education, Masters

Examples gathered from LinkedIn and the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.