Why study History at Benedictine?

Benedictine University offers you:

- A broad liberal arts education with a major in History.
- Preparation to work and live in an increasingly complex world.
- An understanding of the past, which is useful in all careers.
- Exposure to a wide perspective by studying many historical areas, periods and opinions.
- The opportunity to develop critical skills of analysis, evaluation and synthesis.
- The ability to organize a great deal of data in useful form.
- The opportunity to practice the historian’s craft through primary research.
- The development of writing and researching skills.
- A superb location near the rapidly expanding high-tech corridor.
- A suburban setting with easy access to Chicago and its “living history.”
- Low student-to-teacher ratio.

How does the program work?

If you major in History, you will study the histories of a wide variety of eras and areas. You will complete a sequence of courses on American history and another sequence on Western Civilization. You will also study non-Western histories. The History major includes a course on Historiography as well as one dedicated to the production of a major research paper. Historiography introduces students to the methods and theories of actually “doing” history. The major research paper enables students to study a specific area in depth. The remainder of the student’s coursework is drawn from the department’s other offerings. You will be advised by a History teacher who will help you develop a program designed to fit your interests.

What does a degree in History offer?

History, by itself or in combination with a minor in another area such as business, computer science, foreign language, political science or communications, will provide you with both the skills and the adaptability to pursue a wide variety of careers in the private sector or government. The History major is ideally suited for students planning to go on to law school. Many history students go on to become high school or college teachers. You may qualify for a variety of scholarships that are designated for minors and majors. We make special scholarships available to students who participate in our Scholars Program, minority students, students who are designated Illinois State Scholars and children of alumni. Departmental and arts and humanities scholarships are also available to applicants who qualify.

“Though I grew up in Chicago — the scene of tremendous cultural interaction — it was only in the more intimate environment of Benedictine University that I began to become truly aware of the influences of our own backgrounds and cultures on our personal beliefs and experiences. After years in Chicago and the dynamic atmosphere of Benedictine, as part of a constant growth and exchange of ideas between students, faculty and the religious community of St. Procopius Abbey, I began to see history itself as nothing more or less than the interplay of billions of personal experiences — as the grand interaction of our richly varied and carefully crafted beliefs, all swept along together by a powerfully unifying spirituality.”

Anne Ursula Bielski, C91, author of “Chicago Haunts”
Recommended Program
Bachelor of Arts in History

FRESHMAN
American History to 1865  3
Writing Colloquium  3
Mathematics (MATH 105, 108 or 110)  3
Social Scientific I: Individuals/Organizations/Societies (QIO) course  3
Modern Language  3  15
American History Since 1865  3
Research Writing  3
Speech Communication  3
Life Scientific (QLS) course  3
Modern Language*  3  15

JUNIOR
Modern European History elective  3
Converging Hemispheres  3
Literary/Rhetorical (QLR) course  3
Artistic/Creative (QCA) course  3
General Electives  3  15
Non-Western History elective  3
Contemporary World  3
Religious/Theological (QRT) course  3
Physical Scientific (QPS) course  3
General Elective  3  15

SOPHOMORE
Historiography  3
The Mediterranean World  3
Catholic and Benedictine Intellectual Traditions (IDS 201-204)  3
Philosophical (QPL) course  3
Modern Language  3  15
American History elective  3
The Baptism of Europe  3
Political/Global/Economic Systems (QPE) course  3
Computational/Mathematical/Analytical (QCM) course  3
Modern Language  3  15

SENIOR
300-level History elective  3
Human Dignity and the Common Good (IDS 301-304)  3
General Electives  9  15
Major Research Paper - History  3
300-level History elective  3
General Electives  9  15

If you are interested in teaching history at the secondary level, please see the Social Science major sheet. The Department of History, Philosophy and Religious Studies, suggests also pursuing a minor in Global Studies, the Languages, Political Science or Economics.

What careers have our history graduates pursued?

- Archivist/Curator
- Editor/Author/Journalist
- Genealogist
- Teacher, Social Studies
- Professor
- Document Restorer
- Attorney
- Congressional District Aide
- Management Consulting Partner
- Chair of High School Social Studies Department
- Real Estate Executives
- Law Librarian
- Dentist
- Financial Analyst/Banker/Stock Broker
- Public Relations Director
- Project Director Social Services
- Foreign Services Officer
- Director State Historical Society

The department maintains and updates job information and will work with you to develop a program best suited to your needs.