

History

at Benedictine University

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 take the following specified courses: the American History sequence, Converging Hemispheres, Historiography and submission of a senior research paper, as well as seven courses selected from a variety of eras and areas. The sequence courses provide a broad background to the field of history. Historiography introduces students to the methods and theories of actually "doing" history. The senior research paper enables students to research a specific area. The remainder of the student's course work comes 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. To obtain more information, call Susan Mikula, Ph.D., history program coordinator, at (630) 829-6255.

Why a history major?

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. 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

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Writing Colloquium | 3 |
| Mathematics (MATH S105, S108 or S110) | 3 |
| Greek Philosophy | 3 |
| American History To 1865 | 3 |
| Modern Language | 3 |
| | 15 |

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| Research Writing | 3 |
| American History Since 1865 | 3 |
| Literature core elective | 3 |
| Religious Studies core elective | 3 |
| Modern Language* | 3 |
| | 15 |

JUNIOR

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| European History | 3 |
| Anthropology/Political Science core elective | 3 |
| Natural Science core elective | 3 |
| History elective | 3 |
| Economics 102 (recommended) | 3 |
| | 15 |

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| American History elective | 3 |
| Non Western History elective | 3 |
| Electives | 6 |
| Cultural Heritage (HUMN 230) | 3 |
| | 15 |

SOPHOMORE

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|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Historiography | 3 |
| Psychology/Sociology core elective | 3 |
| Natural Science core elective | 3 |
| Speech Communication | 3 |
| Modern Language* or minor elective | 3 |
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|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Economics core elective (ECON 101) | 3 |
| Natural Science core elective | 3 |
| Music or Art core elective | 3 |
| Cultural Heritage (HUMN 220) | 3 |
| Modern Language* or minor elective | 3 |
| | 15 |

SENIOR

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| History elective | 3 |
| Electives | 6 |
| History elective (300-level) | 3 |
| Cultural Heritage (HIST 240) | 3 |
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| Major Research Paper | 3 |
| History elective (300-level) | 3 |
| Cultural Heritage (HUMN 250) | 3 |
| Electives | 6 |
| | 15 |

*Depending on placement

If you are interested in teaching history at the secondary level, please see the social science major sheet. The History Department 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
- Chairman of High School Social Studies Department
- 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.