



HISTORY

Why study history?

History is the study of change and continuity in the past. Historians explore a range of subjects, including political and economic developments and cultural and social beliefs and practices. Historians not only seek to understand what happened in the past, but also why it happened and what significance those events held for the time period and the future. Majoring in history provides students with the tools to understand the global world of today within the context of the past that helped form it.

American novelist William Faulkner wrote, "The past is never dead. It's not even past." With a history degree, you will better understand the present and shape the future by knowing what has come before.

What can you do with a history degree?

Employers report that a broad educational background and strong critical thinking skills are vital assets in new employees. With this kind of skill set, a degree in history opens up a broad range of potential professions. A history major prepares you for employment in government, for-profit and nonprofit sectors. It can provide a solid foundation for a career in journalism, law, information management and education. History majors work at museums, universities, libraries, archives and publishing houses.

A degree in history provides a great foundation for further training. Recent alumni have been accepted into history master's and doctoral programs, library sciences graduate programs, urban policy and planning master's programs, and law school.

Why study history at SXU?

At SXU, you benefit from dedicated faculty who will help you develop a complex understanding of historical methods and subjects. Our faculty members hold degrees from leading American universities and offer a diverse range of courses in history and related fields. We regularly offer courses in African, Asian, Latin American, Middle Eastern and European history, complementing an extensive assortment of chronological and thematic courses in American history.

Our program culminates with a senior capstone experience that will enable you to practice the skills of a professional historian by writing a substantial research paper using primary sources. Students have researched in various Chicago archives and have written papers on topics including 19th century cholera epidemics, Polish nationalism and the treatment of third-class survivors of the *Titanic* disaster. Recent history majors have interned at the DuSable Museum of African American History and the National Archives, Great Lakes Region.

Alpha-Omicron-Eta, Saint Xavier University's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society, recognizes outstanding students each spring.