

Program Overview: Bachelor of Arts, History General and Secondary Education Concentrations



About This Major . . .

Students pursuing a History major follow a program that prepares them for understanding present society and culture through a study of the past. The History program familiarizes students with the great historical civilizations and issues that have shaped our present world. The History faculty represents expertise in a number of eras and sub-fields, and teaches a wide range of courses. Each faculty member brings different and unique talents to the program. Several history professors have won teaching and research awards. Primary areas of expertise include ancient, medieval, early modern and modern periods of European History; American History, from origins to present; and several areas of World History. One of the emphases of the program is to foster the ability to analyze information and make a strong argument. This is a fundamental skill that helps students to succeed in life beyond the classroom.

Students in the History program have opportunities to work with faculty on research projects, some of which may lead to publication. The History program at CMU has a strong track record of sending graduates to graduate school at some of the premier research institutions. Students who graduate from the History/Secondary Education program have been placed in middle and high schools across the state. There are opportunities for internships at the local museum as well as a variety of historical sites throughout Colorado. The program also boasts a very active History honor society, Phi Alpha Theta, which has hosted regional conferences and whose members have presented papers at academic conferences across the country.

All CMU baccalaureate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, communication fluency, quantitative fluency and specialized knowledge/applied learning.

Students graduating with a degree in History will be able to do the following, at an advanced level by the time they complete the program:

1. formulate the relationships of cause and effect and assess the importance of historical context (specialized knowledge/applied learning). For example, students would understand how different issues related to the church, taxes, and land tenure caused the French Revolution.
2. critically analyze an argument based on primary and/or secondary sources (critical thinking). For example, students might analyze the arguments of Lincoln and Douglas in regard to the expansion of slavery. Or they might compare the arguments of two scholars of the Renaissance in regard to whether women experienced a "Renaissance".
3. formulate a clear and persuasive argument based on evidence (communication fluency). For example, students might write a paper that argues that the primary cause of the fall of the Roman Empire was economic disparity.

Program Highlights:

History Day

Each spring middle and high school students from across western Colorado compete on the CMU campus with various projects in the categories of papers, exhibits, performances, documentaries, and websites. Each year, they create projects based on a different historical theme. Their entries are judged by upper-division history students, faculty, and local citizens.

Holocaust Awareness Series

The history program sponsors an annual, interdisciplinary series in the Rocky Mountain west, which explores multiple aspects of modern genocide. Our series focuses on the origins, events and experience of genocide in the modern era, including the WWII Holocaust, the Armenian massacre, ethnic cleansing in Rwanda, Iraq, and the Balkan region.

Career Opportunities

The skills history students develop: critical reading and thinking; the ability to critically use and interpret evidence; organizing and presenting original research, are all qualities in high demand on the job market.

Colorado Mesa University history graduates have been successful in graduate study, while others have entered careers such as law and politics. Many graduates pursue careers in teaching and public history as well as private employment. Internships are available in public history through museums, historical societies, and public agencies.



Program Requirements

A student must follow CMU graduation requirements by completing 120 semester credit hours, including 40 credits of coursework at the 300+ level. See the “Undergraduate Graduation Requirements” in the catalog for additional graduation information. Students should work closely with a faculty advisor when selecting and scheduling courses prior to registration. In general, CMU’s programs of study are based on two curriculum groups:

1. Essential Learning

CMU’s Essential Learning program provides the foundation of skills and information that cuts across all fields of study and the support for advanced concepts that students will later encounter in their majors. Before moving into work at the 300+ level, students complete the Maverick Milestone and its co-requirement, Essential Speech. This pair of courses is a capstone experience where students integrate what they have learned from their foundation courses by making connections among diverse areas of knowledge. The capstone is also an opportunity for students to work with disparate ideas, a critical skill expected of all CMU graduates that will aid them in solving the complex and unscripted problems they will encounter in their personal, professional, and civic lives.

2. What You Will Study in This Major. . .

History Core

- Western Civilizations (Ancient)
- Western Civilizations (Modern)
- US History
- Introduction to Historical Research
- Junior Seminar in Historiography
- Senior Seminar in Historical Research

History Electives (21 Hours)

Two Courses in European History

- History of England
- History of Modern Britain
- History of Modern France
- History of Modern Germany
- History of 19th Century Europe
- The 20th Century
- Renaissance and Reformation
- Medieval Europe
- The Soviet Union and Eastern Europe
- The Ancient Mediterranean World
- The Holocaust
- European History and Film

One Course in World History

- History of South and Southeast Asia
- Latin American Civilization
- The International History of the Cold War
- History of the British Empire
- History of the Middle East
- East Asia and the Modern World

Two Courses in United States History

- The Old South
- The Early American Republic
- The Age of Industry in America
- The 1950’s and 1960’s
- Global America: 1970-2000
- Early US Women’s History
- 20th Century US Women’s History
- Colonial America
- The American Revolution
- Civil War

Two Courses in Topical History

- American Indian History
- American Slavery
- The American West
- History of Modern Warfare
- Ancient and Medieval Cities
- American Sports History
- Introduction to Public History
- Environmental History
- The History of Sexuality
- Classical Archaeology
- Early and Medieval Christianity

For more information about this major, go to: <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/sbs/history.html> or contact the Academic Department Head for Social and Behavioral Sciences, 414 Lowell Heiny Hall, 970.248.1932.