

History



**MESSIAH
COLLEGE**

SCHOOL OF THE HUMANITIES



In the tradition of the liberal arts, the history program provides a wide range of course offerings and experiences.

A strong emphasis is placed on the cultivation of specific skills: critical thinking, high-quality writing, and methods of research—which are useful career tools. At Messiah College the academic study of history is also grounded in the ethics of historical Christianity.



The History Major

History majors can choose from a variety of offerings in American, European, non-Western, and public history, and are free to concentrate their course work in one of these areas or study broadly among them all. The sophomore methodology course and the senior historiography seminar round out a comprehensive liberal arts curriculum. In addition to intensive examination of a wide range of historical periods and subjects, the history major allows room for students to pursue other supporting studies. For example, some take a second major, and many complete minors in areas such as English, economics, journalism, communication, languages, business, and politics. Students are also required to participate in experiential learning through many kinds of study abroad and internship opportunities.

Curriculum

Credit hours shown in parentheses.

History Major (39–43 credits)

U.S. History Survey Before 1865 (3)

U.S. History Survey Since 1865 (3)

One of the following:

Western Civilization Before 1500 (3)

Western Civilization Since 1500 (3)

One of the following:

World Civilizations Before 1500 (3)

World Civilizations Since 1500 (3)

Historical Methods (3)

One 300-level Pre-Modern European History course (3)

One 300-level Modern European History course (3)

One 300-level non-Western history course (3)

One 300-level American history course (3)

Historiography and Philosophy of History (3)

Three additional 300-level history courses (9 hours total)

Experiential Learning Component* (0–4)

Students may use their three additional 300-level history courses to pursue one of the following history concentrations:

American History (9 credits)

Classical History (9 credits)

Modern European History (9 credits)

Public History (13–18 credits)

World History (9 credits)

Secondary School Social Studies Teaching Certification (88 credits)

History majors wishing to be certified for social studies teaching on the secondary level (grades 7–12) may do so by admission into the teacher education program. In addition to the history major, students take supporting courses in economics, politics, and sociology. Graduates are licensed to teach in middle and secondary schools.

*History majors must participate in one of the following options:

Option 1—Participation in an approved off-campus study program, with at least one history course in the semester's curriculum. The history course(s) will count toward either the core requirements or the elective requirements, and therefore will result in no net increase in credits required for the major. See the department for a complete list and more information about the study abroad programs.

Option 2—An approved Historical Internship (INT 394/5) of up to nine credits during the academic year or during the summer in one of the following areas: archives, museums, historical libraries and societies, historical preservation, historical research, public history, or Richmond University Internships in London.

Humanities with a History Concentration

This is an interdisciplinary major allowing great flexibility for students to structure their own program in consultation with a faculty advisor. In addition to history, students select courses in art, music, literature, and philosophy, plus a wide range of other electives.

Although majors and course requirements may change from time to time, as stated in the College catalog, the preceding information is correct according to the 2005–2006 Catalog.

“In my previous work as a researcher at the Smithsonian Institution, I drew almost daily upon the knowledge and skills in researching, writing, reading, and critical thinking that I acquired as a student in Messiah College’s history and political science department. In my present job as a middle school English teacher, I continue to draw upon these skills. For me, my major in history perfectly complemented my studies in English, giving me a solid sense of the historical context of the literature I teach, as well as modeling the interdisciplinary connections between history and English. In addition, Messiah gave me the opportunity to work on original academic research with professors who provided me with both personal support and intellectual challenge.

—Meredith (Fritz) Fisher '96



**MESSIAH
COLLEGE**

Department of History

The Department of History offers two majors and one minor from which to choose:

Majors:

- History
- Humanities Major–History Concentration

Minors:

- History

Our Program

At Messiah College, you'll find much more to studying history than memorizing dates and facts.

Our graduates are well equipped to pursue a variety of employment opportunities and graduate studies. Recent graduates have entered into careers from collegiate and secondary level teaching, government service, law, business administration and management, to museums, archives, historic preservation, public history, and journalism. Possessing a thorough understanding of the world in which we live, past and present, our history graduates are making a difference in positions around the globe.

Our Faculty

All of our department faculty hold Ph.D. degrees and have a breadth as well as a depth of expertise in their fields.

Well versed in connecting the past with the present, our faculty wants to see you build on your studies in order to have an impact on the future. Our professors are all active research scholars in their fields who invite you to join them in a common pursuit of lifelong learning. They are also caring, committed Christians who want to see their students grow and mature academically, spiritually, and personally.

Our Majors

By learning about history in the Christian liberal arts tradition, you'll cultivate important skills such as critical thinking, excellent writing, and methods of research—skills which are critical for the years beyond your educational experience.

Do you have a knack for relating what is happening in the present with events or time periods in history? Then a history major may be for you. Critically reviewing the events, peoples, and cultures of the past will help you in understanding our world's current situations and their causes.

At Messiah, you can choose from a variety of course offerings in American, European, non-Western, and public history. Our flexible history major allows you to combine your studies with classes in other academic areas to prepare you for graduate school and a wide range of career paths. You'll also have the opportunity to pursue independent studies and, if you qualify, to undertake a major honors project under faculty supervision.

If you are interested in teaching at the secondary level (grades 7–12), you can earn certification in social studies by taking supporting courses in economics, politics, anthropology, sociology, geography, psychology, and education.

You might also consider our humanities degree: this liberal arts major, with a concentration in history, allows you to customize your studies to best suit your interests. With the help of your faculty advisor, you'll select additional courses in art, music, literature, and philosophy as well as a wide range of other electives.

Experiential Learning

At Messiah College, you'll find plenty of ways to link what you're learning in the classroom with hands-on experience.

Many of our students test the waters and refine their career plans through internships (often for credit) with state and federal government offices, archives, public history organizations, museums, institutions of historic preservation, and law firms. If your plans include teaching certification, you'll complete a professional semester of student teaching in a local school district during your senior year. And you'll want to consider spending a study semester abroad in England, Germany, France, Greece, Spain, Egypt, India, China, or Ecuador, or consider studying in our nation's capital. Messiah College offers you many venues for cross-cultural study.

Enrichment Opportunities

In addition to its course offerings, the department offers many enrichment opportunities for our majors, including working with professors on research projects, internships with museums, historical archives, and governmental agencies, study semesters around the world, and teaching in local schools.

Our students enjoy the benefit of studying in several learning environments in which we creatively connect the past to the present.

Student research is enhanced by a substantial history collection in the College library, which includes an up-to-date set of major monographs in each historical field, computer-based bibliographic and statistical resources, and a far-reaching interlibrary loan system. All of our history faculty hold Ph.D. degrees and are active research scholars, so students are encouraged to pursue their own historical interests along with the faculty.

History Graduates

How studying the past prepares you for the future.

Graduates in history are prepared to enter a variety of professions and occupations, from collegiate and secondary school teaching, government service, museums, archives, historic preservation, public history, and journalism, to law, business administration, and management. The discipline of history develops analytical, communication, and organizational skills that prepare students for a broad range of careers. Since history students are being educated rather than trained, these fundamental career skills will never become outmoded and will assist students in future learning and career advancement, no matter how often the necessary skills base changes in the workplace.

For more information on the Department of History, please visit our website at www.messiah.edu/history.

Messiah College does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, age, disability, or national or ethnic origin.

Office of Admissions, P.O. Box 3005, One College Avenue, Grantham, PA 17027 • 1-800-233-4220 • www.messiah.edu

