HISTORY

What can I do with this degree?

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
GOVERNMENT	Federal agencies including: The Smithsonian Institute National Archives and Records Library of Congress National Park Service Intelligence services Foreign service State and local agencies including: Archives and libraries Museums, parks, and historic sites Municipal archives Arts and humanities councils	Gain relevant experience in student government or other related organizations. Complete an internship with a government agency. Maintain a superior academic record. Plan on obtaining an advanced degree. Develop foreign language skills. Become familiar with specialized government hiring procedures. Consider a variety of entry-level positions in all branches of local, state, and federal government.
POLITICS	Elected or appointed public officials (i.e., legislators, governors, mayors, judges) National political party headquarters Public interest/advocacy groups Political campaigns	Gain experience and make contacts through internships with government agencies or public officials. Volunteer to work with public interest groups, political campaigns, political associations, or community service projects. Participate in student government and campus politics.
LAW	Law firms Corporate legal departments Government agencies Public advocacy groups	Obtain paralegal training or law degree. Gain experience through summer or part-time work in a law firm. Volunteer with a public advocacy group. Participate in mock trial and pre-law associations.
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS	History museums and historic sites Historical associations and societies Cultural heritage organizations Historical projects Research and service institutions	Volunteer with various nonprofit organizations of interest. Consider supplementing curriculum with relevant course work in anthropology, sociology, art history, or foreign languages.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
CURATORIAL AND ARCHIVAL MANAGEMENT	Museums Historical homes Art galleries Special collections Historical societies Libraries Universities and colleges National, state, and local government Corporations Non-profit organizations Research institutes	Acquire strong computer knowledge and experience. Obtain an internship or volunteer in a related organization. Develop excellent written and oral communication skills. Hone organizational skills and develop attention to detail. Earn a master's degree in information sciences for advanced opportunities in data management.
JOURNALISM Broadcast Print	News departments of local, public, and commercial radio and TV stations Syndicated radio services Newspapers National, state, and regional radio networks	Work on campus newspaper, TV, or radio. Find summer or part-time work with local commercial TV or radio station. Volunteer with public TV or radio. Consider obtaining a minor or double major in journalism or broadcasting/electronic media.
EDUCATION Teaching Elementary, Middle, or Secondary Higher Education Community Education	Public and private schools Colleges and universities Museums Zoological parks, aquariums, wildlife refuges, and bird sanctuaries Aboretums, gardens, and conservatories Camps National and state parks	Develop excellent presentation skills. Become skilled in the use of multimedia. Learn how to develop curriculums and workshops. Become an "expert" in a particular subject. Obtain teaching certificate for public school teaching. Obtain a graduate degree for college and/or university teaching. Gain experience as a tutor, camp counselor, church school teacher, etc. Build strong relationships with professors, supervisors, or other community leaders for strong personal recommendations. Complete an internship or volunteer in a setting of interest.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
BUSINESS Management Sales Office Administration	All major retail firms including drug, specialty, variety, and department store chains Wholesalers Manufacturers Insurance companies Real estate agencies Financial institutions Nonprofit organizations	Earn a minor in business. Obtain related experience through advertisement sales positions with campus yearbook or newspaper. Gain relevant retail sales experience. Acquire good computer and statistical skills. Develop excellent communication skills. Demonstrate a high energy level. Obtain leadership experience in student or community organizations. Consider an MBA for brand management, consulting, and research opportunities.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- An undergraduate degree in history is good preparation for graduate study in history as well as other areas such as psychology, law, or business.
- Research the prerequisites of the area of interest and tailor program of study to meet curricular and skill needs.
- Part-time, summer, internship, and volunteer experiences are critical.
- Develop skills by obtaining a leadership role in a school or community organization.
- Get involved in Student Government.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills are imperative for most careers related to history, politics, or government.
- Become familiar with the government application process for opportunities in federal, state, or local government.
- Prepare to develop a speciality area including both academic training and work experience for history related careers.
- Develop patience, persistence, and drive in obtaining history related positions.
- For careers in politics, be prepared to volunteer extensively before being hired or elected as an employee or official. Begin by working with the campaign or official of choice while in college.
- For careers in arts and humanities, obtain a broad liberal arts background including knowledge of the arts, personal and mass communication, and foreign languages.
- Join related social and/or professional organizations.
- Develop a network of both formal and informal contacts.
- Research websites and books that address various job opportunities, pay structure, and hiring processes.

Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. (1992, Revised 1999, Revised 2004)
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