

HISTORY

Major Map

Learn to think critically and deeply about the historical processes that have shaped the world we live in.

The **Bachelor of Arts degree in History** in the College of Letters & Science invites students to explore the historical processes that have shaped societies, institutions, and cultures worldwide. By examining the past, students develop critical thinking, analytical, and research skills that help them understand the present and contribute to a more informed and equitable future.

Our internationally renowned faculty bring expertise in diverse subfields, including cultural, political, economic, intellectual, urban, and world history, as well as the histories of science, religion, and sexuality. Whether pursuing a major or minor in History, students join a vibrant community of historians committed to critical inquiry and global understanding.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Get involved with a History student group such as **Phi Alpha Theta** or **Clio's Scroll**.
- Find research funding through the **History Undergraduate Research Grant**.
- Complete an **undergraduate thesis** and present at the **Senior Symposium**.



Photo credit: History Department

“ History allows me to uncover and better understand the ways in which our society and world came to be—that various customs or beliefs...have come to be put in place in response to a very human or societal purpose. **”**

—Morgan Koo, class of 2026

UC Berkeley

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

History

CURRICULUM

History at UC Berkeley is a highly flexible major that prizes and prioritizes original research. The major consists of 12 courses—four lower division classes which emphasize breadth through a variety of historical regions and themes; and eight upper division classes focusing on depth in students' areas of interest. In office hours, lectures, and particularly the seminars, students work closely with our faculty to conceptualize, research, and write an undergraduate thesis: an article-length, primary-source based, original research project.

Learn more at history.berkeley.edu/undergraduate

STUDY OPTIONS

In addition to the major, the Department of History offers:

- **Minor program** in History
- **Courses** that fulfill American Cultures and L&S breadth requirements
- **Berkeley Connect course** (HISTORY 98BC/198BC)
- **Freshmen and Sophomore Seminars** (HISTORY 24/39/84)

DECLARING THE MAJOR

First-year students who are accepted to UC Berkeley are admitted to the College of Letters & Science as an undeclared student. You may **declare the History major** once you complete three lower division courses from three different regions, along with an elective or topic course. Courses must be completed for a letter grade with a 2.0 GPA or better.

If you entered UC Berkeley as a transfer student and selected History as your intended major on your application, you will be automatically declared in the major. If you did not select History as your intended major, fill out the major declaration form after completing a minimum of three lower division history classes.



Photo credit: College of Letters & Science

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

Students with a degree in History are equipped with critical thinking, analytical writing, and research skills that are highly valued by employers and graduate programs. History graduates pursue careers in government, politics, law, nonprofits, museums, archives, education, business, and media, among other fields. Alumni also enter graduate and professional programs in education, history, law, public policy and administration, and other disciplines.

UC Berkeley offers a number of career resources for students studying History. The **Social Sciences Career Readiness Internship Program** helps prepare students for internships and the job market. The College of Letters & Science offers **advising** for undergraduates pursuing medical or health professions programs, law school, or masters and PhD programs. Additionally, **Berkeley Career Engagement** provides career and graduate school advising, job and internship listings, and events such as career and graduate school fairs.



SPOTLIGHT

Nicole, class of 2022

Nicole Williams (BA, History) was part of many different communities at UC Berkeley—a re-entry student, NavCal and Nav2Cal femtor, underground scholar, first-generation, low-income, historically underrepresented cultures, EOP, and DSP. As a student, she researched the stigma attached to formerly incarcerated students and the socioeconomic effect it has on their future employment.

Nicole's goal is to give back to the communities that helped get her to UC Berkeley and find connections that will nurture her continued success. As a future educator, she intends to impact the way history is taught to our children.

EMPLOYMENT

Alumni find employment in a variety of fields and industries after graduation. Examples include:

- Admissions Specialist
- Archivist
- Communications Manager
- Educator
- Law Clerk
- Librarian
- Marketing Director
- Military Officer
- Multilingual Interpreter
- Operations Research Analyst
- Paralegal
- Patent Agent
- Public Office/Government
- Research Associate
- Software Engineer
- Writer and Editor

GRADUATE STUDY

Alumni pursue graduate education to gain more depth of knowledge in their field as well as prepare for jobs that require advanced degrees. Examples include:

- Creative Writing
- Education
- History
- International Relations
- Journalism
- Law
- Library Science
- Political Science
- Public Administration
- Public Policy

FOUR-YEAR STUDENT TIMELINE

History

FIRST YEAR

SECOND YEAR

Plan your studies

Familiarize yourself with the **History major**; check out **sample program plans** and begin **lower division requirements**.

Visit **L&S Advising** for help with **major exploration** and **degree requirements**.

Start exploring with **L&S 1** and the **L&S New Freshman Student Guide**.

Join **Berkeley Connect** for 1:1 mentoring and to meet peers with shared interests.

Discover new interests in a **Freshman Seminar**, **Berkeley Changemaker**, or **DeCal course**.

Meet with your **major** and **college advisor** to discuss your academic plans.

Continue exploring with a **Sophomore Seminar** or **Big Ideas course**.

Look into **study abroad** and learning a **foreign language**; see **guidelines** from the department and options for **History abroad**.

Enrich your studies with a **certificate** or minor.

Verify you have completed a minimum of three lower division History courses and **declare the major**.

Engage outside the classroom

Get involved with a **student organization** such as **Phi Alpha Theta** or **Clio's Scroll**.

Visit **Berkeley Discovery** to get started with research, entrepreneurship, public service, and creative projects.

Learn how to **prepare for office hours** and build relationships with faculty.

Pay a visit to the **Bancroft Library**, the University's special collections library.

Attend department events such as the **History Colloquia**.

Develop your skills in the **Berkeley Student Leadership Academy**.

Explore research opportunities on the **OURS** and **History** websites; apply to **URAP** to work on a faculty research project.

Check out the **Public Service Internship**, **College Corps**, and **Haas Public Service Leaders Program**.

Pursue your career goals

Visit **UHS Career Counseling** and **Berkeley Career Engagement**.

Start exploring **career paths** for the major.

Begin **making a plan** to get career ready.

Create or update your **resume** and **LinkedIn** profile.

Use **Handshake** to start connecting with career events and opportunities.

Meet with a BCE **career educator** to discuss career options and goals.

Build your **network** and explore career fields via **job shadowing** and **informational interviews**.

Pursue an **internship** to build skills and explore fields; look into the **Social Sciences Career Readiness Internship Program**.

Considering graduate school? Explore resources from the **Graduate Division**, **L&S Advising**, and **BCE**; look into the **Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship**.

THIRD YEAR

Begin taking **upper division requirements** in the major, including upper division electives, HISTORY 104 (Research Methods), and **HISTORY 103 (Proseminar)**.

Review your **degree progress** with your major and college advisor.

Spend a term off-campus through **UCDC** or the **Intercampus Visitor Program**.

Consider applying to the **year-long thesis program**; look into the **Haas Scholars** and **SURF** programs.

Browse grants from the **Center for Race and Gender** and **Institute for the Study of Societal Issues**.

Welcome new students to Berkeley as a **Golden Bear Orientation Leader**.

Interested in teaching? Give it a try by teaching your own **DeCal course**.

Speak with faculty, advisors, and career educators about post-graduate options.

Join a professional association such as the **American Historical Association**.

Interested in public service careers? Consider applying to the **John Gardner Fellowship**, **Huntington Award**, or **Truman Scholarship**.

FOURTH YEAR

Enroll in a **senior thesis course**: HISTORY 102 (semester capstone) or HISTORY 101A + 101B (year-long capstone—requires an application the summer before senior year).

Join a thesis writing workshop at the **Student Learning Center**.

Finish all upper division requirements and electives.

Complete any remaining **degree requirements** and **prepare for graduation**.

Apply for the **History Undergraduate Research Grant**.

Present your capstone project at the **Senior Symposium**.

Submit a course research project for the **Library Prize**, **American Cultures Student Prize**, or other awards.

Get published! Submit your work to the **Berkeley Undergraduate History Journal** or **Berkeley Undergraduate Journal**.

Pursue a special project after graduation with the **Stronach Prize**.

Check in with a BCE **career educator**.

Start connecting with **alumni groups** such as the **UC Berkeley History Alumni Network**.

Apply to graduate school or post-graduate programs.

Meet employers at **info sessions**, **on-campus recruiting**, and **career fairs**.

Utilize **job search tools** from BCE and apply for job opportunities.

Learn about **alumni career services**.

SUMMER

Make progress on degree requirements with a **Summer Sessions** course like HISTORY 7A or 7B.

Go abroad through **Berkeley Study Abroad** or **UCEAP**.

Get hands-on research experience in the **Othring & Belonging Institute Summer Fellowship**.

Look into a summer internship with **Cal in the Capital**, **Cal in Sacramento**, or **Berkeley Global Internships**.

Pursue a **summer minor or certificate**—check out programs in **Journalism and Race and the Law**.

Apply to the **GiGS program** to learn about graduate school.

Use this major map to help plan your undergraduate experience, including academic and co-curricular opportunities. Activities in this map are suggestions—always consult with your advisors whenever possible.

TRANSFER STUDENT TIMELINE

History

FIRST SEMESTER

SECOND SEMESTER

Plan your studies

Get your bearings with **L&S 198 Transitioning to Cal** and the **L&S New Transfer Student Guide**.

Meet with your **major** and **college advisor** to discuss your academic plans.

Check out **sample program plans**; enroll in HISTORY 104 (Research Methods) or **HISTORY 103 (Proseminar)** in addition to one **upper division History elective**.

Join **Berkeley Connect** for 1:1 mentoring and to meet peers with shared interests.

Declare the major if you were not admitted directly to History.

Complete **lower division requirements** (if needed); enroll in HISTORY 104 (Research Methods) or **HISTORY 103 (Proseminar)**.

Look into **study abroad** and learning a **foreign language**; see **guidelines** from the department and options for **History abroad**.

Enrich your studies with a **certificate** or minor.

Consider applying to the **year-long thesis program**; look into the **Haas Scholars** and **SURF** programs.

Engage outside the classroom

Get involved with a **student organization** such as **Phi Alpha Theta** or **Clio's Scroll**.

Connect with the **Transfer Student Center** or **Re-entry Student Program**.

Visit **Berkeley Discovery** to get started with research, entrepreneurship, public service, and creative projects.

Learn how to **prepare for office hours** and build relationships with faculty.

Pay a visit to the **Bancroft Library**, the University's special collections library.

Attend department events such as the **History Colloquia**.

Check out the **Public Service Internship, College Corps**, and **Haas Public Service Leaders Program**.

Explore research opportunities on the **OURS** and **History** websites; apply to **URAP** to work on a faculty research project.

Browse grants from the **Center for Race and Gender** and **Institute for the Study of Societal Issues**.

Pursue your career goals

Visit **UHS Career Counseling** and **Berkeley Career Engagement**.

Start exploring **career paths** for the major.

Create or update your **resume** and **LinkedIn** profile.

Use **Handshake** to start connecting with career events and opportunities.

Meet with a BCE **career educator** to discuss career options and goals.

Apply to the **Social Sciences Career Readiness Internship Program**.

Build your **network** and explore career fields via **job shadowing** and **informational interviews**.

Pursue an **internship** to build skills and explore fields.

Considering graduate school? Explore resources from the **Graduate Division, L&S Advising**, and **BCE**.

Speak with faculty, advisors, and career educators about post-graduate options.

THIRD SEMESTER

Continue with upper division major electives; enroll in HISTORY 101A (**senior thesis course**) if accepted to the year-long thesis program.

Review your **degree progress** with your major and college advisor.

Spend a term off-campus through **UCDC** or the **Intercampus Visitor Program**.

Help other students as a **Transfer Peer Advocate**.

Develop your skills in the **Berkeley Student Leadership Academy**.

Interested in teaching? Give it a try by teaching your own **DeCal course**.

Welcome new students to Berkeley as a **Golden Bear Orientation Leader**.

Apply for the **History Undergraduate Research Grant**.

Check in with a BCE **career educator**.

Join a professional association such as the **American Historical Association**.

Interested in public service careers? Consider applying to the **John Gardner Fellowship, Huntington Award, or Truman Scholarship**.

Apply to graduate school or post-graduate programs.

FOURTH SEMESTER

Enroll in HISTORY 101B to continue the year-long capstone; or **HISTORY 102** for your final semester if doing the semester capstone.

Join a thesis writing workshop at the **Student Learning Center**.

Finish all upper division requirements and electives.

Complete any remaining **degree requirements** and **prepare for graduation**.

Present your capstone project at the **Senior Symposium**.

Submit a course research project for the **Library Prize, American Cultures Student Prize**, or other awards.

Get published! Submit your work to the **Berkeley Undergraduate History Journal** or **Berkeley Undergraduate Journal**.

Pursue a special project after graduation with the **Stronach Prize**.

Meet employers at **info sessions, on-campus recruiting, and career fairs**.

Utilize **job search tools** from BCE and apply for job opportunities.

Start connecting with **alumni groups** such as the **UC Berkeley History Alumni Network**.

Learn about **alumni career services**.

SUMMER

Get ready for Berkeley with **RHETOR 100 Writing at the University**.

Thinking about a PhD? Apply to the **Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship** before your first semester.

Make progress on degree requirements with a **Summer Sessions** course like HISTORY 7A or 7B.

Go abroad through **Berkeley Study Abroad** or **UCEAP**.

Get hands-on research experience in the **Othering & Belonging Institute Summer Fellowship**.

Look into a summer internship with **Cal in the Capital, Cal in Sacramento**, or **Berkeley Global Internships**.

Pursue a **summer minor or certificate**—check out programs in **Journalism** and **Race and the Law**.

Apply to the **GiGS program** to learn about graduate school.

Use this major map to help plan your undergraduate experience, including academic and co-curricular opportunities. Activities in this map are suggestions—always consult with your advisors whenever possible.

LEARN MORE

Undergraduate Advising

Have questions about History or choosing a major?

The Department of History offers **undergraduate advising** for students interested in a major or minor in History. The Undergraduate Advisor provides guidance on declaring the major, tracking academic progress, navigating administrative concerns, and exploring graduate programs or enrichment opportunities. Faculty advisors are also available for mentorship, assisting with thesis topics and academic pursuits. Advising sessions are offered both in person and virtually, with specific office hours available each semester. For advising contacts and hours, visit history.berkeley.edu or email history-undergradadvisor@berkeley.edu.

The College of Letters & Science helps students with non-major-specific academic topics, including major exploration, general program planning, and finding campus resources. L&S College Advisors are available for in-person and virtual meetings. Visit lsadvising.berkeley.edu or email asklns@berkeley.edu.



Scan to explore more
Major Maps!

majormaps.berkeley.edu

Related Programs

Looking for programs similar to History? UC Berkeley also offers the following major, minor, and certificate programs:

- **American Studies**
- **Anthropology**
- **History of Art**
- **History of the Built Environment**
- **Human Rights**
- **Legal Studies**
- **Political Economy**
- **Political Science**
- **Politics, Philosophy, and the Law**
- **Sociology**



Photo credit: UC Berkeley

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