The Department of History at the College of Staten Island is a community of professional historians committed to excellence in teaching and research. Our department offers the Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees, and our faculty are committed to the education of the College’s students. History courses provide geographic, thematic, and chronological coverage of the past from a global perspective and reinforce general education objectives of critical thinking, reading, writing, and communication skills.

Why Study the Humanities and Social Sciences?
The humanities and social sciences offer an excellent foundation for acquiring skills and ways of thinking that are essential to bettering the world, being a good citizen, helping you to read critically, write persuasively, speak confidently, think analytically, live with empathy and engage with others across cultural and religious differences.

The world’s greatest problems will not be solved without a deep understanding of ethics, history, and the world’s cultures.

Although some prospective liberal arts majors worry about their financial futures, liberal arts majors actually do just fine, with incomes far in excess of the median in the United States. With an undergraduate liberal arts degree, the career options are abundant.

Moreover, the liberal arts serve as a pathway to rewarding and remunerative careers that require post-graduate education. Consider the following facts:

- According to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), medical schools accepted 43 percent of the biological sciences majors, but 51 percent of humanities majors, and 45 percent of social sciences majors who applied in 2010. English majors actually outperform biology majors on the MCAT.

The top ten majors with the highest acceptance rates for law school include philosophy, anthropology, history and English. Humanities and social science majors perform highly on the LSAT.*


Career Opportunities
The rigorous research and writing requirements asked of history majors offer excellent preparation for careers in law, library science, archives, policy research, journalism, teaching, public relations, technical writing, fund-raising, administration, domestic and foreign government service. Recent trends in medical and business school admissions suggest that these professional schools are also looking for students who possess training in humanities and social sciences. Leaders in every industry, from business to the arts, can point to their training as history majors as the starting point for their success. Indeed, historical study plays an important part in fostering well-rounded intellectual development.

One of the key ways of thinking about what a history major prepares you to pursue after graduation is to focus on the valuable career skills one acquires as a history student. These include research, effective writing, argumentation, documentation, and interdisciplinary thinking and training. History graduates are able to successfully and precisely communicate their ideas, find and incorporate new information into their analysis of an issue, think critically about problems, and then provide varied solutions that draw from different traditions of thought.

The History Major

Major Requirements: 36-40 credits

HST 200: Historical Method, 4 credits
HST 300: Historiography, 4 credits
HST 401: Seminar in Advanced Historical Study, 4 cr.

- Twenty-four credits of history courses at the 200 level or higher, of which at least three courses must be at the 300 level including:
- At least one history course designated as pre-1700 history

Leaders in every industry, from business to the arts, can point to their training as history majors as the starting point for their success.

Top left: Dr. Sandra Gambetti lectures during a History session.

Below: Dr. Calvin Holder has mentored students for acceptance to History PhD programs, most notably Harvard University.
• At least one history course designated as modern European history
• At least one history course designated as United States history
• At least one history course from a geographical area other than Europe or the United States, designated as World history
• Foreign Language Requirement: Demonstration of proficiency in a language through the intermediate level, 213 or above, 0–4 credits
Electives: 4–38
Total Credits Required: 120

Adolescence Education Sequence: 24 Credits
Students wishing to be recommended by the College for certification must successfully complete the Adolescence Education sequence courses, as well as their academic major. Students planning to teach social studies major in History and they complete at least 50 credits in the social sciences, including at least four credits in geography, at least four credits in U.S. history, and at least four credits in non-U.S. history. The sequence may be begun in the sophomore year. To complete the sequence in two years, it must be started by the beginning of the junior year. For admission and continuation in the adolescence education sequence and all adolescence education courses, students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00.

• EDS 201: Social Foundations of Secondary Education, 4 credits
• EDS 202: Psychological Foundations of Secondary Education, 4 credits
• EDS 301: The Pedagogy of Secondary School in Social Studies, 4 credits
• EDS 315: The Secondary School Curriculum in the Social Studies, 4 credits
• EDS 400: Student Teaching in Secondary Education, 6 credits
• EDS 401: Reflection and Analysis in Student Teaching in Secondary Education, 2 credits

Honors
To graduate with honors in the History major, a student must have a minimum of a 3.50 grade point average in courses in the major and a 3.00 cumulative grade point average. In addition, a student must complete either an HSSH 594 Independent Study Honors in History or a Divisional Honors Seminar. Finally, a student must complete an honors thesis under the supervision of a History faculty member who will oversee and approve each step of the thesis process. The research paper submitted as the thesis need not be a new work; it may be a substantial revision or extension of a paper previously submitted in a course at CSI. Students must submit a one-to two-page thesis proposal to their advisor and the coordinator of honors in History (Professor Catherine Lavender) stating the scope of research or revisions, as well as questions and new source materials to be addressed before registering for HSSH 594 or a Divisional Honors Seminar. The 20–30 page thesis should demonstrate a superior command of the historical topic and evidence of rigorous critical thinking. The thesis must be approved by the faculty advisor and a second reader appointed by the coordinator of honors in History.

2015 MEDIAN ANNUAL SALARIES*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Salary</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School Teacher</td>
<td>$47,846</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paralegal</td>
<td>$40,540</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entry-Level Researcher</td>
<td>$48,430</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entry-Level Archivist</td>
<td>$40,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry-Level Research Analyst</td>
<td>$49,570</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Payscale.com

Graduate Studies in History
The Department of History offers a Master of Arts in History. In small seminar settings, students collaborate as a community of scholars in reading outstanding examples of historical research under the direction of specialists from the Department’s five areas of concentration: History of Africa and the Middle East; History of Asia; History of Europe; History of Latin America and the Caribbean; History of the United States. They receive technical training in the specific methods and tools historians use to study the past, and they demonstrate their mastery of the historian's craft in a thesis written under the close supervision of the department. A portfolio option involving the revision of several papers written for graduate classes is also available.

Our faculty take seriously our responsibility to mentor students and form a community of scholars committed to free inquiry and critical thinking. Faculty aim to help students gain a sophisticated knowledge of history and the professional skills of historians.

Department of History • Building 2N, Room 215 • Chairperson Eric Ivison 718-982-2870 Eric.Ivison@csi.cuny.edu