About the Program

History is made every day, by all of us. We shape our society, our culture, our economy. And, in turn, this historical moment makes us who we are. The faculty in the history department at SRU teaches courses that examine all regions of the world and countless chapters of the human story. We want our students to understand that everybody’s history is interdependent. We offer students the opportunity to pursue their own interests, while also introducing them to new subjects and new ideas. We offer a Bachelor of Arts in History, with a variety of concentrations within the major, and a history minor. We also provide the subject courses for the Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, Social Studies.

The study of history helps you develop critical thinking and analytical skills. You learn to seek and recognize connections between events that seem unrelated and to appreciate the consequences, either intended or unintended, of historical actions and decisions. Armed with historical knowledge, you will be an informed citizen and an engaged member of your local and global community. With the intellectual habits of active reading, focused research, and lucid writing, you will possess a flexible skillset that ensures a lifetime of opportunities as a creative and competent professional no matter which career path you may choose.

Student Opportunities

The SRU history department offers a wide variety of opportunities to students who want to engage with history outside of the traditional classroom. Each year, faculty lead travel abroad trips, either as formal courses or as extra-curricular travel. Students can study abroad for as little as two weeks or for an entire semester.

Students with a high enough GPA can be initiated into the student honorary society, Phi Alpha Theta (PAT). The honorary PAT organizes a number of events during the academic year. For example, PAT members travel to historical sites and take trips to Washington, D.C., New York and Philadelphia. They also sponsor guest speakers and help plan the annual History Student and Alumni Picnic.

Our intern specialist helps students acquire hands-on experience through a variety of intern partnerships in the region. Students can also benefit from service-learning opportunities and career guidance from our faculty and from partners in government, non-profit organizations and the law.

Students can gain valuable work experience through the Stone House Center for Public Humanities, which includes an early nineteenth Century historic site and museum.
Career Opportunities

With the skills you obtain as a history major at SRU, you can have a successful career in a variety of professions. Unlike other degrees that train you to be one thing, a history degree tells employers you possess skills that are transferable from one professional environment to another: precise and effective reading, critical thinking, creative analysis and clear and persuasive writing. Today, a person can have an average of seven careers in a lifetime; so a history degree is highly valuable because it is flexible. History graduates can enter the workforce immediately or go on to graduate degrees. With a history degree, you can pursue many career paths:

- Archivist
- Historian
- Congressional Aide
- Technical Writer
- FBI / CIA Agent
- Historical Society Staff Member
- Foreign Service Officer
- Journalist
- Government Official
- Lecturer
- Librarian
- Historic Preservation Specialist
- Museum Curator
- Editor
- Market Research Analyst
- Criminologist
- Peace Corps / Vista Worker
- Archaeologist
- Travel Agent
- Community Relations Director
- Urban Planner
- Biographer
- International Relations Specialist
- Psychologist
- Clergy
- Museum Technician / Specialist
- Teacher, Social Studies
- Genealogist
- Foreign News Correspondent
- Historic Site Tour Guide
- Sociologist
- Public Relations Specialist
- Media Consultant
- Demographer
- Insurance Agent / Broker
- Writer / Author
- Economist
- Urban Administrator
- Political Scientist
- Counselor
- Park Ranger
- Lawyer
- Lobbyist
- Legal Assistant / Paralegal