HISTORY, B.A.

Our history major will help you understand past actions, think critically about their consequences and apply that knowledge to whom we are as a people and how we live now. These skills prove to be practical and adaptable to your long-term professional goals.

WHAT YOU'LL STUDY

Classes for majors include a wide range of offerings in U.S., European and non-Western history, as well as geography. As a history major, you'll develop skills in historical analysis, critical thinking and argumentative communication. Writing is central to this degree, and senior year you'll take a capstone course in which you produce a major research paper.

You'll also have the opportunity to explore specialized areas of the discipline such as digital history, public history and museum studies. Basic digital methods will increasingly be used by all historians and museum professionals, and these methods are relevant to many other fields. As a result, Clemson history students have the opportunity to work with big data and learn advanced digital history techniques, often utilizing geographical information systems. Our public history emphasis area, which includes museum studies, provides a diverse base of coursework designed to introduce undergraduate students to preservation theory and museology and incorporate their knowledge into hands-on experiences at historic sites.

You'll work closely with your adviser throughout your years at Clemson to map out the courses that will best prepare you for your plans after graduation. Academic advising is shared by members of the history faculty and is considered a core activity for the department.

"Everything about history at Clemson is special and exciting to me! The range of classes that are offered, the professors and the out-of-class opportunities. Everything that the University offers makes the program enthralling and unlike others offered across the country. I have been taught to think critically, analyze information, conduct in-depth research and think in the so-called ‘gray area.’"

Hannah Thompson '18
History

"My professors created a learning environment that nurtured my sense of wonder, encouraged me to study abroad, wrote law school recommendation letters that set me apart from other applicants and throughout the years have continued to make me feel as though I will always have a ‘family’ at Clemson."

Vivian Tozaki '03
Solo practitioner attorney
New York City
BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

PRE-LAW
For students interested in pursuing a law degree, specialized advising is offered. The history major also offers pre-law internships.

CREATIVE INQUIRY
History students participate in an array of research projects, such as utilizing digital history research methods to discover the long-term effects of soldiers participating in war and reconstructing historic cities based on genealogy and oral histories.

STUDY ABROAD
History majors are strongly encouraged to participate in global engagement opportunities. History faculty members lead several trips abroad, including a World War II-focused program that covers the D-Day invasion and the Battle of the Bulge.

FAR-REACHING VIEWPOINTS
Broaden your historic perspective by engaging with visiting scholars. Opportunities include lectures, symposia, conferences and seminars on topics ranging from Alexander the Great to the civil rights movement.

MEASURING SUCCESS
Past graduates of the program have become lawyers, entrepreneurs, teachers, technical writers, photojournalists, purchasing agents, political consultants, military officers, media specialists, airline pilots, sports writers and, of course, history professors. Recent alumni are pursuing advanced degrees at institutions such as the University of Texas at Austin; George Mason University; and King’s College, London.