Three Big Things:

- Diverse curriculum covering the ancient world to the present
- Opportunities for research and internships in history
- Phi Alpha Theta – international history honors society for undergraduates

George Santayana wrote, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." History provides the most useful key of knowledge for unlocking all other realms of human development. It embraces many fields of academic inquiry and uses them to provide a detailed picture of various cultures and their governments, legal systems, social behavior, art, economic systems, literature, religions, medicines, technologies, sports, fashions, and a myriad of other endeavors. A university-level education would be inconceivable without it, because learning about the past is imperative to understanding the present and preparing for the future. Historians today explore topics from the causes and consequences of war to popular attitudes and beliefs, gender relations, race and racism, and the human impact on the environment. As peoples of different social, economic, ethnic, and racial groups interact with each other more frequently in the 21st Century, understanding each others' past helps pave the way for more harmonious and beneficial cross-cultural relations.

Career Opportunities

The study of history provides a solid foundation for careers in teaching history and social studies, for postgraduate study in many fields, and for public-history careers in areas such as archives, museums, government agencies for cultural resources management or historic preservation, publishing, and documentary film and broadcasting. Employers and professional schools look for skills historians emphasize: excellent communication, solid research ability, and the ability to think critically. A bachelor's degree in history also provides excellent preparation for careers in law, business, government, international relations, journalism, and library and information services, to name but a few.

Curriculum

The history major develops broad historical knowledge, while simultaneously allowing students opportunities to explore areas of individual interest in greater depth. A broad understanding of history is developed through introductory surveys, courses in historical methods, and a required course in pre-modern or non-Western history. Students must complete courses in American, European, and Global/Comparative history, but have considerable flexibility in choosing which courses to take within those rubrics. The Bachelor of Arts in History offers two options: (1) 65-credit History major (2) 50 credits of history and the completion of a minor or certificate in another field (such as government, geography, or language).

Special Features

In addition to the university library, history students have ready access to research materials at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, the Washington State Digital Archive, and the Eastern Region branch of the Washington State Archives. Internships are available at several agencies in the area, including the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, the University Archives, and the City/County Historic Preservation Office. The
Eastern Region branch of the Washington State Archives, located on the Cheney campus, encourages history students to apply for paid positions at the Archive. History majors also have the opportunity to join the local chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, an international history honors society. Along with a faculty advisor, student officers organize the yearly activities of Phi Alpha Theta. Normally these include a lecture series and travel to the regional Phi Alpha Theta meeting, where students present their own papers and gain professional experience.

Each year, the History department recognizes the best historical work done by our undergraduate and graduate students. In addition to awards for the best research papers and theses, the department annually grants two monetary scholarships - the History Faculty Scholarship and the Lynn Tripplett Scholarship - to outstanding History majors.

**Preparation for College**

Completion of a high school (or equivalent) degree is required for admission to EWU, but students considering a major in History are encouraged to take writing classes, computer competency and study of foreign languages. While the study of any foreign language is valuable, it is especially useful to study the language of the world area whose history most interests you.

**Sample Program**

The program below is for a history major interested in an academic history or public-history related career. The numbers in parentheses indicate credit hours:

**First Year:**
- Introductory History survey courses (10)
- History Today (5)
- General Education required courses (20)
- Lower-division history electives such as U.S. History 1877-present, Women in American History, Chicano History (10)

**Second Year:**
- Lower-division history electives such as History of the Present, Asian-American History, the Middle Ages (10)
- General Education required courses (30)
- Documents-based Research methods (5)

**Third Year:**
- Foreign language (15)
- Upper-division history electives such as History of the American Wilderness, Hellenistic Greece, History of Mexico (20)
- General Education required courses (10)

**Fourth Year:**
- Capstone Seminar (5)
- Internship (10)
- Student's choice of history or non-history electives or foreign language (30)

**For Further Information**

Department of History
200 Patterson Hall
Eastern Washington University
Cheney, WA 99004-2430
509-359-2337

**Internet Access**

The department website provides more information. Please go to: http://www.ewu.edu/hist

**The University**

Eastern Washington University is a student-centered, regionally based, comprehensive university. Its campus is located in Cheney, within the Spokane metropolitan area, with additional learning centers in the region and elsewhere in Washington State. With more than 100 fields of study, nine master's degrees, four graduate certificates, 76 graduate programs and a physical therapy doctoral program, its mission is to prepare broadly educated, technologically proficient, and highly productive citizens to attain meaningful careers, to enjoy enriched lives, and to make contributions to a culturally diverse society.

Our mission to be a student-centered, regionally engaged university will be fulfilled best through a distinguished EWU academic experience that is integrated and interdependent. This vision informs and inspires our future.

**Note:**

Information in this guide is subject to change without notice. To learn more about the official program of study for History please check the catalog online at http://www.ewu.edu/x15588.xml