

*What can I do with a major in...*

# History/American Studies

## Career Advisors:

### American Studies:

Krystyn Moon  
Office: Mercer Hall 206  
Phone: 540-654-1479  
Email: kmoon@umw.edu

Jeff McClurken  
Office: Mercer Hall 305  
Phone: 540-654-1475  
Email: jmcclurk@umw.edu

### History:

Porter Blakemore  
Office: Mercer Hall 208  
Phone: 540-654-1588  
Email: pblakemo@umw.edu

Steven Harris  
Office: Mercer Hall 304  
Phone: 540-654-1390  
Email: sharris@umw.edu

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The analytical, research, rhetorical and writing skills History and American Studies majors acquire are applicable to a wide range of careers. Because both majors emphasize the ability to analyze and communicate ideas clearly and effectively as well as the retention and recall of factual information, some students find them ideal preparation for a career in the law. The same skills are appropriate preparation for careers in business and public service. The department's emphasis on research and writing has opened careers in journalism and media research for some graduates. Command of historical knowledge and historical process has equipped other graduates for careers in archives, historic sites, museums, and historic preservation. While most majors enter careers outside teaching, the history major has long been a path to teaching at the primary and secondary level. A number of history graduates have gone on to distinguished graduate schools to complete PhD degrees and assume careers teaching at the university level.

Students who are particularly interested in either graduate school (The Graduate Record Examination [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)) or law school (The Law School Admission Council [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org)) should meet with their advisers early in their junior year and should also consult the schedules for the admissions examinations that are an important aspect of the application process for advanced study.

## POTENTIAL JOB TITLES

Archivist  
Archives technician  
Biographer  
Congressional aide  
Demographer  
Diplomat  
Editor  
Exhibits specialist  
Foreign service officer  
Genealogist  
Historian  
Historic site administrator  
Historical interior designer

Human resources  
Information officer  
Information systems analyst  
Insurance agent/broker  
Intelligence specialist  
Investment banker  
Journalist  
Lawyer  
Legislative aide  
Librarian  
Lobbyist  
Management analyst  
Museum curator

Paralegal  
Peace Corps/Vista volunteer  
Political scientist  
Politician  
Program analyst  
Public Policy specialist  
Public relations specialist  
Researcher  
Teacher (primary, secondary, university)  
Tour guide & Docent  
Writer

## REPRESENTATIVE HIRING INSTITUTIONS

Advertising Agencies  
Archives  
Banks and Investment Firms  
Educational Institutions  
Foundations/non-profit organizations

### Government Agencies:

Government Services Administration  
National Archives  
Smithsonian Institution

Department of Defense  
Department of State  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Historical Societies

Human Rights NGOs  
Insurance Companies  
Law Firms  
Libraries

Magazines and Newspapers  
Market Research firms  
Museums  
National and State Parks  
Political Consulting firms  
Public Relations firms

Publishing Companies  
Radio Broadcasting  
Social Service Agencies  
State and Local Governments  
Television Stations  
US and State Legislatures

*\*As well as a wide range of businesses, corporations, and industries*

## WHERE DO UMW HISTORY/AMERICAN STUDIES MAJORS GO?

### EMPLOYERS/INTERNSHIP SITES

- Nike Inc.
- The Tauri Group
- Instituto Heslington (Mexico)
- Wild Bird Center
- Cardinal Bank
- Staged Right Productions

### GRADUATE SCHOOLS

#### HISTORY

- George Mason University: Master of Arts in International Commerce & Policy, Master of Public Administration in Administration of Justice and Master of Arts in Teaching, Museum Education
- Johns Hopkins University- Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Master's degree in International Relations
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Master of Arts in Russian and East European Studies
- University of Pittsburg, Master of Public Administration
- University of Tulsa, Master's degree in History
- Virginia Commonwealth University, Master of Art History/Museum Studies
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Master of Arts in History

#### AMERICAN STUDIES

- Albany Law School of Union University, Juris Doctor
- Tufts University- The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, MALD in Strategic Management and International Consultancy
- University of Delaware, M.A. Urban Affairs and Public Policy
- University of Pennsylvania, Master of Science in Historic Preservation
- Virginia Commonwealth University, Master of Art in History

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

- |                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) American Historical Association<br>400 A Street SE<br>Washington, DC 20003<br>202-544-2422<br><a href="http://www.historians.org">www.historians.org</a>                   | 3) The Public History Resource Center<br>1119 Taliaferro Hall, University of Maryland<br>College Park, MD 20742<br><a href="http://www.publichistory.org">www.publichistory.org</a> |
| 2) American Studies Association<br>1120 19 <sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 301<br>Washington, DC 20036<br>202-467-4783<br><a href="http://www.theasa.net/">www.theasa.net/</a> | 4) Museum Job Resources<br><a href="http://www.algonquincollege.com/museum/jobres/jobs.html">www.algonquincollege.com/museum/jobres/jobs.html</a>                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                               | 5) Organization of American Historians<br>812-855-7311<br><a href="http://www.oah.org">www.oah.org</a>                                                                              |

*\*The Office of Career Services also maintains a resource library with a variety of books and other printed material where students can access additional information about their major or field of interest. Visit us in Lee Hall, Room 308 to learn more.*