Bachelor of Arts in history

Program information

College	Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters		
Department or school	Department of History		
Degree abbreviation	B.A.	**CIP code**	54.0101
Program website	www.fau.edu/artsandletters/history/undergrad		

Our commitment to you

This Academic Learning Compact describes the program's mission, what students who complete the program will know and be able to do and how faculty assess that learning. Florida Atlantic University publishes a compact for every degree program and standalone certificate so students, families, employers and the community can see what each program commits to providing its graduates.

Program mission

History majors use the study of the past to make sense of a complicated world. They learn to think critically, evaluate evidence and write with clarity and strength.

Florida Atlantic University's mission

Florida Atlantic University is recognized as an opportunity university and R1 research institution dedicated to transforming lives through education, discovery, and innovation. We empower students to achieve economic mobility, advance knowledge that creates meaningful impact, and forge partnerships that drive prosperity and connection in the communities we serve.

How the program supports the university mission

The major supports the university's mission by transforming lives through education and opening paths to economic mobility. Students build research, writing and analysis skills that employers value, helping graduates be career-ready in many fields.

About the program

History majors study the United States, Europe, Latin America and the wider world, then learn how historians do research through a historical methods course and a senior seminar. Students learn to find and read sources, build interpretations and share what they discover. The major is a great fit for curious students who love stories, evidence and big questions.

Student learning outcomes

By graduation, students will be able to demonstrate outcomes in three core areas: content/discipline knowledge and skills (Outcome 1), communication skills (Outcome 2) and critical thinking skills (Outcome 3). Faculty assess all three core outcomes every year.

A. Content/Discipline Knowledge and Skills

What graduates will know and be able to do in their field

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Declarative knowledge:** key vocabulary, history, theories and concepts of the field
- ☒ **Research skills:** finding, gathering, analyzing and reporting information the way the field does
- ☐ **Technical skills:** hands-on tools and methods of the field, such as software, instruments, lesson plans or business reports

Graduates will be able to use the vocabulary and concepts of history and explain major themes in how historians interpret the past.
Graduates will be able to conduct historical research with primary and secondary sources, from choosing a topic to building a bibliography.

How students show it

Research papers and other written and oral assignments in history courses.

Where it is assessed

HIS 3150 Historical Methods

B. Communication Skills

How graduates will share ideas and work with others

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Written communication:** clear, well-organized writing suited to the audience and purpose
- ☒ **Oral communication:** well-organized presentations that connect with an audience
- ☐ **Other forms of communication:** visual, media, performance or exhibit work
- ☐ **Team/collaborative communication:** contributing to group projects and shared goals

Graduates will be able to write clear, well-organized papers that meet the standards of the discipline and cite sources correctly.
Graduates will be able to present research results to others and give and respond to feedback on research.

How students show it

Research papers and oral presentations in history courses.

Where it is assessed

HIS 3150

C. Critical Thinking Skills

How graduates will analyze, create and solve problems

Areas this program addresses (check at least one)

- ☒ **Analytical skills:** weighing evidence, comparing ideas and judging arguments
- ☐ **Creative skills:** combining knowledge to create something new, such as a design, performance or proposal
- ☐ **Practical skills:** applying knowledge to real situations, such as a business proposal, lesson plan or grant

Graduates will be able to analyze primary and secondary sources to develop their own interpretations of the past.

How students show it

Research papers in history courses.

Where it is assessed

HIS 3150 Historical Methods
HIS 4935 Senior Seminar

Assessment approaches

Every year, faculty review samples of student work to see how well students are meeting all three outcomes, and they use what they learn to improve the program.

Faculty review students' written and oral work, especially research papers and presentations. They look at knowledge of the discipline, research skill, the quality of interpretation and the clarity and correctness of writing.

Assessment methods may change over time.