Career Advising for History Majors

What can you do with your history degree—besides teach

Outcomes

• Use Resources—self-assessments, select careers, and find jobs
• Identify Careers—use Holland’s Theory
• Find Mentors—talk to professors, professionals in the field, seniors in history
• Ask Questions
• Make a Decision
• Select Classes—gain skills and knowledge
• Do Things—internships, study abroad, student organizations
Steps to finding a career with a history degree

- Know about yourself
- Explore occupations
- Make a decision
- Take valuable courses
- Do things to enhance your resume
- Prepare yourself

Making a career decision
Center for Advising and Career Development

Become familiar with CACD!!!

Location:
Lighty 180 and online at www.cacd.wsu.edu

CACD resources
- SIGI3
- SII-Strong Interest Inventory
- Myers-Briggs Type Indicator
- Career workshops
- Career development library
- Career counseling specialists
- Resume building

Online Career Resources

- O*NET Online http://online.onetcenter.org/
- University Positions http://www.higheredjobs.com
- American Association for State and Local History http://www.aaslh.org
- American Historical Association http://www.historians.org/
- Organization of American Historians http://www.oah.org/
- Society of American Archivists http://www.archivists.org/
- American Association of Museums http://www.aam-us.org/
Book Resources

- *Great Jobs for History Majors*
  by Stephen Lambert

- *Careers for History Buffs and Others Who Learn from the Past*
  by Blythe Camenson

- *What to Do with Your History or Political Science Degree*
  by Sarah Dunham

Holland’s Theory of Career Choice

Six Personality Types and Environments

- **Realistic**—Jobs that require athletic or mechanical ability, working with objects, machines, tools, plants or animals, or being outdoors.
- **Investigative**—Jobs that involve observing, learning, investigating, analyzing, evaluating, or problem solving.
- **Artistic**—Jobs involving artistic, innovative, or intuitive abilities and working in unstructured creative situations.
- **Social**—Working with people to inform, help, train, enlighten, develop, or cure them, or using words skillfully.
- **Enterprising**—Jobs that influence people such as performing, persuading, or leading that will help them meet organizational goals or contribute to economic gain.
- **Conventional**—Jobs that require working with data, clerical tasks, or numerical ability and involve carrying things out in detail or following instructions.
Holland’s Theory Example

- Which type are you? Assess yourself at http://www.nycareerzone.org/
- Suppose you are an SEI
  - List of occupations that match the profile
    - Arbitrators, Mediators, and Conciliators
    - Child, Family, and School Social Workers
    - Educational, Vocational, and School Counselors
    - Health Educators
    - Tour Guides and Escorts
    - Vocational Education Teachers, Secondary School
- Find requirements for these jobs
  - Look at skills, knowledge, and education needed
- Do you have or can you obtain these?
  - GPA requirements, interest in those requirements, does the university offer the courses needed for the field?
- Look at the careers that are similar in nature

Mentors—Ask Them Questions

- Professors
  - Why did they study history
  - What attracted them to the field
  - Graduate school questions
  - Letters of recommendation
- Students
  - Talk with history seniors
  - Find out what they like about the program and major
  - See what obstacles they have faced
- Professionals
  - Talk with people working in fields that interest you
  - What do they like/dislike about the field
  - What would they do different (classes/majors/etc.)
Make a Decision

• Weigh pros and cons
• What training is needed (maybe graduate school)?
• Do you have interest in the field?
• Do you feel the career is a good fit for you?
• Does a degree in history get you into the career or do you need to change majors?
• Will there be positions available for you in the field when you graduate?

Classes

Take classes that will increase success
- Public history/museum studies/archaeology
- Foreign relations
- Business / communication / computer management systems / human resources / political science
- History classes in a specific field, e.g., European, Latin American, U.S., Military
- Foreign languages
Be Active—Do Things

• Study Abroad
• National Student Exchange
• Internships—summer, during semester
• Student Activities—history club, mock trial, associated student body government, veterans affairs
• Work Study
• Volunteer

Further Prepare Yourself

Attend career fairs
Participate in resume writing workshops
Reevaluate career goals
Be on the history listserv
Attend class
Prepare for advising appointments
Meet with professors each semester (letters of recommendation, etc.)
Meet with Your Advisor

- Name: Dwayne S. Dehlbom
- Location: Wilson-Short 301C
- Contact: 509-335-4475 or ddehlbom@wsu.edu
- Hours: Walk-in M-F 8:30-11:00 a.m. and 1:30-4:00 p.m. or by appointment

RESOURCES

- Kansas State University, Academic and Career Information Center. Retrieved December 9, 2009 from http://www.k-state.edu/acic/majorin/
- Washington State University, Center for Advising and Career Development. Retrieved December 9, 2009 from http://www.cacd.wsu.edu