

What can I do with a major in...

Historic Preservation

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Historic preservation is the interdisciplinary study of history as it is expressed in sites, structures and objects. The physical remains of life past are the tangible data which historic preservation evaluates, analyzes, and interprets by drawing on the perspectives of a wide range of academic disciplines. Analytical skills, ranging from quantitative methods to the interpretive devices emanating from structural anthropology and historical criticism are some of the tools that lead to an understanding of the interrelations between historical events and the ideas which inspired them. While historic preservation is concerned with the conservation of material from the past, it is an area of study that provides the opportunity for students to develop critical facilities that will allow them to arrive at a deeper and a richer understanding, not only of themselves, but of the ramifications of technological innovation and their relationship to social change.

Majors in historic preservation seek an overview of the preservation field with solid academic preparation in preservation courses as well as related disciplines. Students in this field become acquainted with various preservation activities, including the identification, recovery, interpretation, conservation, and restoration of materials relating to the built environment. As historic preservation often occurs in the public sector, majors also receive training in the fields of planning and cultural resource management, learning how local governments and state and federal agencies address issues related to historic resources.

The historic preservation major is usually sufficient preparation for entry-level positions in museum, planning, archival, architectural, and archaeological work as well as further graduate study. Historic preservation is also an appropriate major for many as a pre-professional field.

The job titles and hiring institutions which follow are meant to give you an idea of the careers available to historic preservation majors, however many other possibilities also exist. You are encouraged to explore all career paths that interest you.

POTENTIAL JOB TITLES

Administrative assistant (federal, state, county, municipal)	Intelligence specialist
Archeologist	Lawyer
Architect	Library director
Architectural historian	Museum guide/technician
Archivist	Park superintendent (government)
Business/management trainee	Preservation officer
Chamber of Commerce executive	Public relations
Conservator	Research assistant (technical advisor, film director)
Customs director	Social/welfare worker
Director, state historical	Teacher
Editor/journalist	Travel agent
Folklorist	Travel guide
Foreign service officer	Urban planner
Historian	Writer (free-lance, technical)
Insurance agent/broker	

REPRESENTATIVE HIRING INSTITUTIONS

Archives
Business corporations and industries
Chamber of Commerce
Colleges, schools, and educational institutions
Cultural resource management firms
Film companies
Foundations and non-profit organizations

Government agencies:

National Archives
Department of Defense
Department of the Interior
Department of State
General Services Administration

Local planning offices
State Historic Preservation Offices
Historical societies
Insurance companies
Libraries
Magazines, newspapers, and periodicals
Museums
National and state parks
Publishing companies
Public relations firms
Radio/T.V. industry
Real estate companies
Social service agencies
Travel agencies

WHERE DO UMW HISTORIC PRESERVATION MAJORS GO?

EMPLOYERS/INTERNSHIP SITES

- Island Institute (Maine)
- Dominion Restoration, LLC
- Acorn Glen Assisted Living
- National Building Museum
- Dovetail Cultural Resource Group (Fredericksburg)

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

- Baylor University, Master of Arts in American Studies
- East Carolina University, Master of Arts in Anthropology-Historical Archaeology
- George Washington University, Master of Arts in Art History
- Savannah College of Art and Design, Master of Fine Arts in Historic Preservation
- Texas A&M University, Master of Architecture in Historic Preservation
- University of Kentucky, Master of Historic Preservation
- University of Leicester, Master of Arts in Museum Studies
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro, MIAR- Interior Architecture
- University of Pennsylvania, Master of Science in Historic Preservation
- University of Virginia, Master of Arts in Architectural History
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Master of Arts in History, Public History, Museum Studies
- Virginia Commonwealth University, Master of Arts in History
- Virginia Commonwealth University, Master of Arts in Art History/Museum Studies
- Virginia Tech, Master's in Urban & Regional Planning

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

1. American Association for State & Local History: www.aaslh.org
2. American Association of Museums: www.aam-us.org
3. American Planning Association: www.planning.org
4. Society for Historical Archaeology: www.sha.org
5. Association. for Preserving Technology International: www.apiti.org
6. National Trust for Historic Preservation: www.nationaltrust.org
7. Organization of American Historians: www.oah.org
8. Society of Architectural Historians: www.sah.org

**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.*