Learn to think critically

Prepare for a variety of exciting careers

Explore practical and governmental careers through an active internship program

Deepen your understanding of history through international, faculty-led Chatham Field Experiences

why you belong here

Do you have a deep curiosity about the past? Are you interested in preserving stories, memories, and artifacts? Do you wonder how different cultures evolved over time? Do you want to discuss the processes that have shaped our world? If so, you belong here in Chatham University’s history program.

In the age of globalization, we need to better understand the world around us, the dynamics of human societies, and how culture and politics have evolved over time. A degree in history provides you with an understanding of and insight into the forces and processes that drive today’s ever-changing world.

what you can expect

Because of our small class sizes, you’ll do assignments and projects that would be unthinkable at larger universities. We encourage you to pursue your passions, and our program has the flexibility to make it an integral part of your education.

When you major in history at Chatham, you’ll appreciate one-on-one mentoring with a professor, discussing questions that matter, having the opportunity to do original research, and going beyond presidential politics to understand how ordinary people have experienced historical change.

You’ll also be encouraged to put your classroom knowledge to work through internships with local or national organizations. In the past, students have interned at places such as the Library Company of Pennsylvania, Heinz History Center, World Affairs Council, League of Women Voters, Thomas Merton Center, Global Pittsburgh, U.S. State Department, U.S. Congress, Carnegie Museum, and the National Park Service.
what you will learn

Our program offers courses in American, European, and non-Western history, including The History of the British Empire, Recent African History, Modern China: A Cultural History, Eat, Drink: East Asia, The Rise of the Third World, American Environmental History, The Civil War & Reconstruction, and The Sixties, America & Vietnam. These courses provide a grounding in the many ways historians have made sense of the world.

You’ll learn top-notch research and writing skills, and complete a capstone seminar. This seminar does two things: It integrates the knowledge that you’ve accumulated, and it allows you to channel that knowledge into a discipline-specific project under close faculty guidance. And through Chatham’s International Certificates, you can enhance your degree with courses in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, and Spanish as well as international field experiences.

where it will take you

With a history degree from Chatham, you’ll be well on your way to a wide variety of careers including law, policy analysis, public office, politics, lobbying, foreign service, archiving, museum curating, education, and library science.

You might choose to graduate with an advanced degree through one of our partnerships, including the Accelerated Graduate Program in Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University, the 3-3 program at Duquesne University Law School, and the Early Assurance Program with the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh.

learn more

Read faculty bios, browse course descriptions, and view pictures from departmental trips and excursions at chatham.edu/history.

“I came to Chatham with no clear idea of what I wanted to do after graduating. I finally declared my major in history, because I had found myself loving those classes. By taking classes in subjects I loved, I was able to find my strengths, and apply them to other aspects of my life and career. I gained the confidence to know that if I step into a new career opportunity, I can and will conquer the challenge of it.”

— Meigan Murdock ’03

trending now

• Our department’s faculty have led Chatham Field Experiences in countries including South Africa, Turkey, Germany, Belgium, Indonesia, and Taiwan. These experiences deepen your familiarity with the world.

• Students who want to teach history in high school can complete the certification requirements and graduate in four years with a BA in an academic discipline and secondary teacher certification in social studies. Alternatively, they can complete the Integrated Degree Program and graduate in five years with a BA in History and an MAT with teacher certification in social studies.