

History

The study of the past widens our perspective and heightens our awareness of the connection between our past, present and future. Yet historians do more than study, assess and interpret the past to determine what happened and why. An education in history can lead to a variety of enriching careers where knowledge of a particular time period or region is vital, and the ability to communicate with diverse groups of people is essential.

Contact us

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Visit the History and Geography

Department Web site at

www.sau.edu/history

For general information about

St. Ambrose or how to apply:

Admissions Office

563/333-6300 or 800/383-2627

email: admit@sau.edu

www.sau.edu

Degrees offered and required credit hours

St. Ambrose University offers a Bachelor of Arts in History (sometimes accompanied by a second major in another field) that requires 33 credit hours. Minors are available in U.S. History (15 credit hours), World History (15 credit hours) and General History (15 credit hours).

Students majoring in History and expecting to qualify for a certificate to teach history on the secondary level are required to take 35 credit hours in U.S. history, world history, Historical Methods, and the capstone Research Experience. Refer to the Education Department for education courses required for certification.

Program highlights and courses

The History program at St. Ambrose provides students with a comprehensive curriculum that includes courses covering world civilization through time, the history of religions—even the history of sport and recreation. History students have the opportunity to experience international study tours in Europe and Latin America which are organized on a regular basis by the History Department. The History Department also sponsors the Richard Geiger Annual History Lecture that is held every November.

See our course catalog at www.sau.edu/catalog for a full description of required and elective courses.

Resources and co-curricular activities

The St. Ambrose chapter of Phi Alpha Theta provides a way of honoring outstanding students in the field of history. The honor society's St. Ambrose chapter, Alpha Zeta Omega, sponsors guest speakers, sends representatives to regional and national conferences, provides students an opportunity to present research to their peers at student paper conferences, and introduces students to professional opportunities in history. Members of Phi Alpha Theta have interned at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and the Putnam Museum of History and Science, and several members have gone on to graduate studies in history, political science and anthropology.

Phi Alpha Theta also performs an annual service project in conjunction with the History Day in Iowa competition. Our teaching candidates have the opportunity early in their college career to work with children and teachers to prepare for National History Day and serve as judges during the district competition that is sponsored by the History Department.

What can you do with a History degree?

Whether or not you go on to teach, the investigative and analytical skills you'll acquire as a History major will serve you in all sorts of professions such as marketing, public relations, advertising, and journalism. Our History majors have made successful careers not only in teaching but also in government, museum studies, law, higher education, business, and industry.

Many junior and senior high schools throughout the region and across the nation have alumni from the St. Ambrose History Department serving as teachers and coaches, from

Alleman High School, Rock Island, Ill., to Jefferson Community School in Superior, Colo. Other History graduates have continued on to graduate school, such as Andrew Roling '03, Masters of History, Eastern Illinois University; Andrew Padavich '05, doctoral program at Kansas State University; and Gilbert Cervelli '06, master's program at Marquette University.

Some of the positions held by History majors who graduated from St. Ambrose:

- Associate, Stanley, Lande & Hunter, Attorneys and Counselors, Muscatine, Iowa. Graduated in 1991.
- Assistant vice president, National City Bank, Deerfield, Ill. Graduated in 1993.
- Attorney, State of Iowa Judicial Branch, Davenport, Iowa. Graduated in 1995.
- Direct digital control assistant manager, Althoff Industries, Crystal Lake, Ill. Graduated in 1998.

About the faculty

Ryan Dye PhD, Assistant Professor

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Specializes in Modern Ireland and Britain, Irish Diaspora, and Colonialism and Imperialism. Prof. Dye received his PhD from Northwestern University. He's taught at St. Ambrose since 2000.

Daniel LaCorte PhD, Assistant Professor and Department Chair

LaCorteDaniel@sau.edu

Specializes in Medieval Europe and Catholic Church history. Prof. LaCorte received his PhD from Fordham University. He has taught at St. Ambrose since 2001.

Keri Lynn Manning PhD, Assistant Professor

ManningKeriL@sau.edu

Prof. Manning teaches the modern United States History survey, courses in women's history and courses in East Asian history. She received her PhD from the University of Kentucky and has taught at St. Ambrose since 2004.

Sandy McKinley PhD, Assistant Professor

McKinleyCharlesA@sau.edu

Specializes in Modern European Intellectual History and Latin American History. He received his PhD from Brandeis University. Prof. McKinley has taught at St. Ambrose since 2005.