

Five portable skills history majors can apply to any career

Researching and analyzing: Researching and analyzing change over time by examining historical actors, historical events, social movements, national histories, then creating and presenting arguments supported by evidence, and finally drawing conclusions are the same skills used after graduation to evaluate business competitors, market trends, demographic shifts in potential customer bases, financial statements, etc

Writing: Writing a well organized, well-supported history paper is a parallel exercise to preparing a brief for a legal case or a brief for a policy change to your firm.

Thinking outside the box: History majors are well-prepared to think outside the box when searching for information. We don't limit ourselves to obvious sources when more than the obvious sources are necessary to find an answer, nor do we limit our explanations to a single cause or conventional wisdom.

Speaking well: In general, a degree in history prepares people to speak well, which is often an extremely valuable commodity in any career. Speaking to your class and engaging in dialogue, where you must support claims with facts, will prepare you for the podium. Many students don't get this from other curricula.

Seeing the big picture: History majors are prepared to see the big picture. We are aware of the minor details, but more importantly, we learn to tie them together to create a cohesive analytical framework and explanatory narrative.

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