Internships ~ History 4940

Earn credit while exploring what a History major can do!

Three (3) credit hours will be awarded toward your history major

Is a Department of History Internship Worthwhile?

The opportunities for history majors are endless. Museums, libraries, the National Park Service, private agencies as well as numerous government agencies and programs administered at the federal, state, and local levels are only some examples of where you can use your History major. Teaching at the K-12, undergraduate, and/or graduate levels are yet another avenue of opportunity for history graduates. Some of our internships will provide you the chance to lead and instruct others, giving you a feel for this field.

The private sector also needs history graduates who can bring an ability to see the big picture, brainstorm and problem solve, and analyze past performance and future trends.

Think about what you want an internship to do for you— if you want to make a difference and if you want to get history credit for your efforts, a Department of History internship may be just the thing!
The Missouri State Archives
http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/

The Missouri State Archives is the repository for state records of historical value. Its mission is to foster an appreciation of Missouri history and illuminate contemporary public issues by preserving and making available the state’s permanent records to its citizens and their government.

Highlights among manuscripts and original documents in the Archives include French and Spanish land grants, testimony concerning the New Madrid earthquake of 1811-1812, documents concerning Frank and Jesse James, maps of Missouri’s first surveyed roads, and materials pertaining to Harry S. Truman.

Currently, the Archives holds more than 336 million pages of paper; 400,000 photographs; 9,000 maps; 61,000 reels of microfilm, 560 cubic feet of published state documents and 1,000 audio/video items.

Featured collections include:
Civil War Resources
Lewis and Clark Expedition materials
Provost Marshal/US Colored Troops PDF images
The Missouri Mormon War documents

Interns with the Archives will have the opportunity to:

- Develop an expertise in accessing, researching, and analyzing primary documents such as birth, death, and marriage certificates; probate, cemetery, and war records.
- Set up exhibits and design brochures.
- Enter collections in databases.
- Serve a larger audience–create web sites specific to particular collections.
- Work with the Local Records Preservation Program in county courthouses.
- Learn to preserve microfilm.
- Answer questions in the reference room.
- During elections, be part of the electoral process by assisting the office of the Secretary of State.

The Museum of Missouri Military History
https://www.facebook.com/Museum-of-Missouri-Military-History

The Museum of Missouri Military History follows and records the history of Missouri’s defense from the early militia to today’s National Guard. The museum is located at the National Guard Headquarters just south of Jefferson City.

The museum shares with the public artifacts that have been donated by Missouri veterans and their families, and includes a complete Vietnam War Chaplain’s kit, Air National Guard memorabilia, military manuals, a World War I Marine Corps “Devil Dog” uniform, personal books, and effects. Also included are displays and artifacts highlighting the activities of the Guard in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Guantanamo Bay, and Kosovo.

This site provides students the opportunity to be involved in a variety of internship projects both during the academic year and the summer.

The current focus of our internship is to help share with the public how the Missouri National Guard has served both the residents of the state of Missouri and the larger U.S. population — from the late 1800’s to the present day.

someday the modern military items on site at the museum
Curatorial/Public Programming
Interns will have the opportunity to work with the Society’s curatorial and programming divisions to develop new exhibitions, produce educational and promotional materials, and organize institutional programs and events. During the semester interns will explore the world of material culture (clothes, objects, tools people used that help define their culture), hone research skills, and gain behind-the-scenes insight into the making of exhibitions, programs, and events at the State Historical Society. Responsibilities can include:

- Researching and writing educational material for exhibitions and programs.
- Conducting public and school tours of the Society galleries and resources.
- Creating a case exhibition using the resources of the State Historical Society’s art collections.
- Assisting with planning and organizing the annual members’ meeting of the State Historical Society and/or the SHS sponsored Missouri Conference on History.
- Developing and conducting educational outreach with schools.
- Developing promotional material for programs and exhibitions.
- Participating in media promotions via the SHS website as well as broadcast, print, and social media.

Ellis Library- Special Collections and Rare Books: Digital History Internship
Special Collections and Rare Books houses rare and unique materials that span over four thousand years, including rare books, manuscripts, comics, maps, and works of art. Special Collections interns will work primarily on the MU Libraries’ efforts to make these resources accessible digitally, and may have opportunities to do the following activities:

- Create digital resources through scanning, editing images, uploading to digital library or exhibition software, and creating metadata.
- Curate digital exhibitions or HathiTrust collections on specific topics determined by Special Collections staff or by the intern.
- Learn to use various digital humanities tools to present information visually or interactively.
- Do public outreach through social media and blogs, including ways to use social media as a professional or as an academic networking tool.
The Supreme Court of Missouri

The Supreme Court of Missouri Law Library welcomes student researchers interested in learning about the legal and social history of the highest court in the state.

Selected interns will gain knowledge of a vast variety of legal and historical aspects such as:

- the role of law and the courts in society
- territorial law, the U.S. Civil War, economic development, and politics
- famous and infamous Missouri legal cases
- judicial and legal biographies
- Missouri’s innovative and influential non-partisan court plan

Possible student projects vary greatly and will be jointly determined based on student interest and court need, such as creating a database of past judges of the Court. Selected students will gain:

- familiarity with the working operations of a law library
- significant knowledge of the history of the Supreme Court of Missouri and function of the Court
- experience in research and design for multiple exhibits located throughout the Court.

Students will also be able to hone public speaking skills by conducting educational tours of the Court for a wide variety of members of the general public.

While students will learn about the law through practical legal and history research skills, no prior legal knowledge is required. Strong writing and researching skills are an advantage.

Interns are housed in the law library, which was constructed in 1907, and is home to documents from the Dred Scott case.

The Boone County History & Culture Center

The Walters-Boone County Museum, Historic Maplewood House, Montminy Art Gallery and Village at Boone Junction are all located on the same site and managed by the Boone County Historical Society. All of the venues encompass the history and culture of Columbia and Boone County, from pre-history to the present. Interns can expect to gain experience working in a small but mighty museum setting, a 1870 home on the National Register of Historic Places and a “village” consisting of historic buildings from all over the county.

Interns will have the opportunity to:

- Research topics relating to Boone County history.
- Assist research staff with patron inquiries and assist the Executive Director with administrative matters.
- Gather information relating to the Nifong/Lenoir family and conduct tours of their historic Maplewood Home.
- Assist in cataloging and accessioning donated artifacts and preparing them for display to gain experience in the exhibit planning process.
- Work in museum publicity by working special events, updating social media and website, and brainstorming new promotional opportunities.
- Produce and conduct an oral history interview.
National History Day in Missouri
It's not just a day, it's an experience!

The State Historical Society of Missouri, in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council, administers National History Day in Missouri. Each year, nearly half a million students nationwide—grades 6 to 12—participate in this innovative educational program. In Missouri, over 3,000 students participate in local and regional competitions each year, with nearly 600 advancing to the state contest at the University of Missouri in April.

Top winners in each category earn the opportunity to serve as Missouri delegates to the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest in College Park, Maryland in June. Missouri’s students represent the Show-Me State well, frequently bringing home medals in both the junior and senior divisions, being part of Breakfast on the Hill, and showcasing their work at the National Museum of American History. National History Day in Missouri lets students in grades six through twelve explore the past in a creative, hands-on way. They become experts on a historical subject of their choosing while conducting extensive research to produce a documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, or website.

Working out of the State Historical Society of Missouri in Ellis Library, the NHDMO intern will:

- Coordinate outreach to students, teachers, judges, and other constituents.
- Collaborate on marketing initiatives and events.
- Create content for social media.

In 1919, the Missouri General Assembly designated the first floor of the east wing of the Capitol as the Missouri Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and placed it under the care of the Adjutant General’s office. Two years later, in 1921, the Missouri Resources Museum was created on the first floor of the Capitol’s west wing under the Resources Museum Commission, which was charged with the responsibility to collect and place on permanent exhibit examples of the products, flora and fauna of Missouri. The two museums were combined in 1923, and designated collectively as the Missouri State Museum under the management of the Resources Museum Commission.
The University of Missouri Archives
http://muarchives.missouri.edu/mission.html

Established in July of 1998, this City Commission is tasked with identifying and recognizing historic structures and historic districts, advising the Planning & Zoning Commission and the City Council, and working with the State Office of Historic Preservation.

Interns will have the opportunity to:
• Research topics related to the City's social, cultural and political history
• Create digital and physical exhibits exploring the City's history
• Assist in cataloging and preparing artifacts for storage or auction
• Participate in the Commission's administrative and government work
• Collaborate with neighborhood and business organizations on special events and projects
• Promote and market the work of the Commission
• Learn about the politics of historic preservation in a growing community.

The City of Columbia
Historical Preservation Commission
https://www.facebook.com/ColumbiaHPC/

Interns at the Archives can become involved in a number of ways that could include:
• Helping preserve the history of the university and of Columbia, the town in which it is situated.
• Creating websites such as Tigers through the Hoop (created by a History Department intern).
• Viewing original resources, analyzing data, and setting up a website, of your choosing.
• Learning how to access records and answer questions on campus activities.
History at the University of Missouri

The history major is excellent preparation for many careers in a variety of fields. Students skilled in research, analysis, and writing are attractive to business firms and business schools.

**What are some careers available to history majors?**

There are no limits to what you can do with a degree in history. Below are only a few of the options.

- Educator (elementary, secondary, postsecondary, historical sites, museums)
- Writer, editor, journalist, documentary editor/consultant
- Attorney, legislator, information manager
- Corporate historian, cultural resource management, think tank researcher
- Information management, movie consultant, archivist, librarian

A History internship can help you get where you want to go!

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**Additional Resources**

The American Historical Association [https://www.historians.org/](https://www.historians.org/)

AHA members are involved in all fields of history, with wide-ranging specializations, interests, and areas of employment.

Public History [http://www.publichistory.org/what_is/definition.html](http://www.publichistory.org/what_is/definition.html)

What does a public historian do? Want to know more? Check out these public history sites to find out.