

Northeastern Illinois University History

June 1, 2025

Program Summary

The History program at Northeastern Illinois University teaches students to question assumptions and understand human societies through broad historical knowledge. Students learn to analyze complex sources, develop well-supported arguments, and communicate effectively. These skills—critical thinking, clear writing, and persuasive speaking—prepare them for careers in fields like business, law, education, and government.



Strengths & Noteworthy Practices

All [Essential Employability Qualities](#) (EEQs) are represented in the curriculum. The history program offers a comprehensive, skill-rich curriculum that prepares students for professional success across multiple dimensions. Strong writing is developed through intensive coursework that builds persuasive communication, analytical reasoning, and project management through essays, capstones, and peer review. Oral communication and collaboration are fostered through discussion leadership, group projects, and co-facilitated sessions in courses like HIST 114, 309, and 480. Critical thinking is a centerpiece, with nearly all courses engaging students in primary source evaluation, historiographical analysis, and argumentation. Creativity and problem-solving are encouraged through innovative assignments in HIST 302B and 343. Students practice professionalism via strict deadlines, participation expectations, and intellectual integrity. Overall, the curriculum balances academic rigor with workplace relevance, supporting students in developing the skills, habits, and mindset essential for success in today's diverse and dynamic environments.

The program supports career readiness through a required internship course (HIST 396), which offers workplace experience, faculty mentorship, and employer feedback. Work-study positions provide similar opportunities. Faculty actively advise students on career planning, and the department website includes links to AHA career resources, law school info, and alumni profiles. Past alumni events helped students connect with recent graduates and receive career guidance. Collaboration with the College of Education supports teacher preparation, while tools like end-of-course surveys and final paper evaluations assess student outcomes. The department also stays in touch with alumni through its Facebook page.