

## Research & Practical Experience

Most students in these programs are involved in a variety of practical learning experiences. Several students have received valuable training through internships with local museums as well as city and state governments.

All students graduating with degrees in History with teaching certification participate in classroom experiences during their sophomore, junior, and senior years.

Professors and students also work together one-on-one on independent study projects.

A recent example is the classification of the personal library holdings of a prominent citizen of St. Joseph who was also a local historian.

Students also have the opportunity to strengthen their

education by attending professional conferences in their respective areas of study. Numerous students have had the opportunity to participate in local and regional conferences of professional scholars as well as at national student conferences. On campus, selected students present research papers at the Undergraduate Historiographical & Geographical Research Symposium. Outstanding students in History are eligible to join our new chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national honors society in that academic discipline. This student organization promotes historical research among undergraduate students.

During the past few summers, faculty members from the department have sponsored and led courses abroad in England and Italy. We hope to continue these programs in the future with the collaboration of the Western Institute.



## Alumni Views

***“As I travel in university settings all the time, I have found the individual attention and assistance that I received at Western to be a ‘golden’ experience. I cannot recall one single class***

***that I didn’t feel that the professor was aware of who I was and was concerned with the quality of education that I was receiving.”***

*Paul Rhoads, '88  
Football Defensive Coordinator  
University of Pittsburgh*

***“My education at Western aided in the development of essential analytical skills that I utilize daily as a law student. As I move through law school and into the legal community, the foundation that I built at Western will continue to serve me well.”***

*Ryan Sevcik, '04  
Law School Student*

## For more information

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and Geography  
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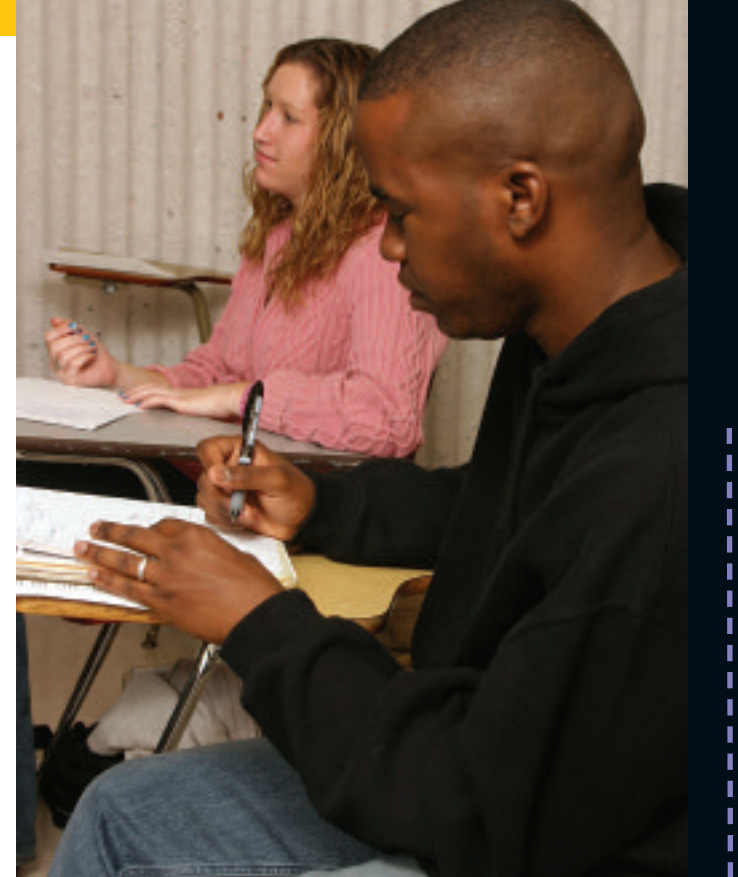
**Missouri Western State University**  
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Western is an equal opportunity institution.

# History, Philosophy & Geography

**Missouri Western State University**





## History, Philosophy & Geography Department

A career based in history, philosophy, or geography gives one a broad perspective and understanding of the world today. Western's programs offer a strong foundation of historical and philosophical knowledge.

Faculty members also maintain high academic standards in each of their courses. Our department teaches the past to shape the future and learn about the world around us. Students develop a strong understanding of human behavior and refine their research and writing skills throughout these courses. These programs produce community leaders, and faculty stress the significance of ethical leadership. Graduates emerge ready to be competitive in their respective fields.

The department consists of three unique and distinct areas of study:

- The study of **History** allows students to examine the social, economic, political, and military experience of earlier societies and civilizations. It provides students with a framework for understanding events, trends, and developments in contemporary life and culture.
- **Philosophy** offers a broad range of courses in ethics, philosophy, religious studies, and integrated

humanities. Students learn the traditions of philosophical thinking and broaden their education by studying classical texts.

- **Geography** is the study of how humans interact with the physical environment. Geographers seek to describe, relate, and explain the natural and cultural phenomena that distinguish places around the world. Studying geography increases the ability of students to analyze complex situations, events, and trends.

The department offers a variety of degrees, including a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science – both in History as well as History with teacher certification. Minors are offered in Philosophy, Geography, United States History, European History, Humanities, and International Studies.

Professors are committed to the development of a strong academic culture on campus through their sponsorship of special lectures, events, and seminars on topics in the areas of ethics and public policy, philosophy, religious studies, art, drama, music, literature and rhetoric.

### Careers

Graduates from the department receive a broad and adaptable education that teaches them to think critically. Through their research they have learned the important differences between primary and secondary sources of

information. They have sharpened their skills in problem solving as well as in written and oral communication. They have developed a greater understanding of the world. These transferable skills are precisely what employers are seeking.

Students majoring in **History** have found careers in government, business, teaching, journalism, and social services. Others have earned advanced degrees in graduate and law schools. **Philosophy** students are successful in a broad range of professions and industries, including law, advertising, marketing research, and journalism. Many have also gone on to further study in graduate schools, theological seminaries, and law schools. Graduates in **Geography** work as meteorologists, demographers, urban and regional planners, GIS and mapping specialists, travel consultants, as well as elementary, middle, and high school teachers. Many also go on to graduate schools for further study.

### Points of Pride

- **All full-time faculty members in the department are published scholars and have earned doctorates from excellent graduate programs in their respective academic disciplines.**
- **Students have study abroad opportunities in England and Italy.**
- **The department recently received a \$90,000 Teaching American History grant.**
- **Students in Geography also have the opportunity to participate in the Outdoor Semester course, where they spend over two weeks of the semester hiking, canoeing and camping throughout the western United States as part of their coursework.**
- **A student published an essay in a scholarly journal in philosophy.**