**Latin American Area Studies**

**Description of Major**
The history curriculum is designed to introduce students to the study of the human past. Students majoring in history learn to approach decision-making with an awareness of a broad range of choices; learn to think critically and communicate their ideas effectively; integrate their academic study with their intellectual and moral maturation; understand the construction of historical knowledge; and learn how to learn. The curriculum emphasizes the role of the student as an active learner and encourages individualized learning experiences, including those outside of established coursework, and the development of close working relationships between students and faculty.

**Skills**
A liberal arts education and study in a particular major will lead to the acquisition of a group of skills which enable one to solve problems, communicate effectively, and perform complicated tasks. These skills are essential in any career. The following is a list of important and commonly agreed upon career skills identified by UMM faculty as a part of the project to Improve Public Understanding of Liberal Learning (IMPULL). The skills are those which all or most students are likely to acquire through classroom instruction, co-curricular or extra-curricular activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leadership/Management Skills:</th>
<th>Communication/Writing Skills:</th>
<th>Research/Analytical Skills:</th>
<th>Additional Skills, or Skills Peculiar to the History Discipline:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- judging</td>
<td></td>
<td>- compiling and selecting information</td>
<td>- the ability to work self-directedly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- inventing</td>
<td></td>
<td>- applying information creatively to solve specific problems</td>
<td>- setting goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ability to work self-directedly</td>
<td></td>
<td>- evaluating information against appropriate standards</td>
<td>- predicting future trends</td>
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<tr>
<td>- making decisions</td>
<td></td>
<td>- analyzing and evaluating ideas and presentations</td>
<td>- defining a problem systematically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- analyzing</td>
<td>- writing effectively</td>
<td>- reading</td>
<td>- identifying people who can contribute to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- identifying problems and needs</td>
<td>- demonstrating premises and reasoning to their conclusion</td>
<td>- reviewing large amounts of material and extraction essence</td>
<td>- predicting future trends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- identifying priorities and parameters</td>
<td>- critiquing, editing, proofreading</td>
<td>- using a variety of sources of information</td>
<td>- defining a problem systematically</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- predicting and evaluating future trends and patterns</td>
<td>- summarizing</td>
<td>- designing an experiment, plan or model that systematically defines a problem</td>
<td>- identifying people who can contribute to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- identifying the critical issues and making decisions quickly and accurately</td>
<td>- reporting accurately</td>
<td>- formulating questions to clarify a particular problem or issue</td>
<td>- identifying information sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- making commitments to others and following through</td>
<td></td>
<td>- analyzing interrelationships of events</td>
<td>- describing events with a minimum of</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- initiating projects and ideas</td>
<td>- identifying information sources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- analyzing the behavior of self and others in a group</td>
<td>- taking risks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Leadership/Management Skills:**
- judging
- inventing
- ability to work self-directedly
- making decisions
- analyzing
- identifying problems and needs
- identifying priorities and parameters
- predicting and evaluating future trends and patterns
- identifying the critical issues and making decisions quickly and accurately
- making commitments to others and following through

**Communication/Writing Skills:**
- comprehending written material
- describing objects or events with a minimum of factual errors
- writing factual material clearly and concisely
- identifying and communicating value judgments effectively
- writing effectively
- demonstrating premises and reasoning to their conclusion
- critiquing, editing, proofreading
- summarizing
- reporting accurately

**Research/Analytical Skills:**
- sorting data and objects
- cataloging information
- understanding and using organizing principles
- developing new approaches to problems
- using library and research facilities
- gathering information
- perceiving and defining cause and effect relationships
- applying appropriate methods to test the validity of data
- identifying information sources appropriate to special needs or problems
- analyzing the interrelationships of events and ideas form several perspectives
- compiling and selecting information
- applying information creatively to solve specific problems
- evaluating information against appropriate standards
- analyzing and evaluating ideas and presentations
- reading
- reviewing large amounts of material and extraction essence
- using a variety of sources of information
- designing an experiment, plan or model that systematically defines a problem
- formulating questions to clarify a particular problem or issue

**Additional Skills, or Skills Peculiar to the History Discipline:**
- the ability to work self-directedly
- setting goals
- predicting future trends
- defining a problem systematically
- identifying people who can contribute to
- taking risks
- initiating projects and ideas
- analyzing interrelationships of events
- identifying information sources
- describing events with a minimum of
Jobs Obtained by UMM LAAS Graduates

Studies conducted by UMM Career Services have shown that graduates obtain jobs that are both related to their major and jobs that may not be formally related to the major. Studies have shown that liberal arts graduates find employment that makes use of their skills, special knowledge, values, and interests, even though the employment field may not be related to their academic major. Listed below are some jobs obtained by UMM Latin American Area Studies graduates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attorney</th>
<th>High School Spanish Teacher</th>
<th>Newspaper Reporter</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children's Book Editor</td>
<td>Import-Export Business Agent</td>
<td>Nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Service Representative</td>
<td>International Banking</td>
<td>Policeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elected County Administrator</td>
<td>International Faculty Advisor</td>
<td>Radio Broadcaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Bilingual School Teacher</td>
<td>International Investment Banker</td>
<td>Small Business Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Service Officer</td>
<td>Juvenile Delinquency Officer</td>
<td>Social Security Administration (Analyst)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry</td>
<td>Legal Education</td>
<td>Social Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift Shop Owner</td>
<td>Library of Congress</td>
<td>Television Reporter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Counselor</td>
<td>Marketing Person – Missionary</td>
<td>Translator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Social Science Teacher</td>
<td></td>
<td>University Admissions Counselor</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>University Professor (Spanish American Literature)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There are many occupations that do not require a specific undergraduate major; they are often learned as a result of on-the-job training rather than prior education. What is sought among prospective employees is the development of certain skills and abilities that can be developed not only through an academic major but through courses taken as part of one's general education, and through internships, directed studies, tutorials, seminars, study abroad, work-study and summer employment, and volunteer experiences.

Graduate/Professional Schools in LAAS
Links to LAAS Jobs
Latin American Area Studies Links

LAAS Career Links:

- U of Texas
- Latin American Information Network