ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

At Washington College, established in 1782, history isn’t just something to be researched—it’s something you can live every day. But it’s not just the surroundings—our faculty is passionate about history. They are mentors who enjoy collaborating with their students. Students can also do their own independent research. Whether American or global history excites you, you can find an interesting class to take, research seminar to complete, or internship to deepen your experience and knowledge.

THESIS

The Senior Capstone Experience (SCE) in History provides students with the opportunity to perform original research on a topic of their own choice. With the guidance of a faculty advisor, students pore over historical archives and collections from as far as the British National Archives and as near as the archives in our own Washington College Miller Library.

QUILL AND COMPASS SCHOLARSHIP

The Quill and Compass Scholarships are for students interested in exploring history, political science, and American studies here at one of the most historic colleges in the nation. Recipients will have opportunities to sail the Chesapeake Bay on an 18th-century schooner and learn the arts of leadership as practiced by the great figures of American history.

STARR CENTER

Washington College’s Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience explores the American experience in all its diversity and complexity, seeks creative approaches to illuminating the past, and inspires thoughtful conversation informed by history. Through educational programs, scholarship and public outreach, and a special focus on written history, the Starr Center seeks to bridge the divide between the academic world and the public at large.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND PRIZES:

Explore America Fellowships
Through the Starr Center, History majors have opportunities to apply for paid summer internships. A student may end up preparing exhibitions at a Smithsonian museum, or working in the National or Maryland Archives, or preparing research for the House of Representatives through the U.S. Historians Office.

Frederick Douglass Fellowship
The Starr Center’s Frederick Douglass Fellowships support students working collaboratively on community-based public history projects in African-American studies and related areas. Fellowships have also been awarded to students who undertake independent research and writing projects under the guidance of a faculty mentor.

Guy Goodfellow Scholar in History
This fellowship provides $500–$750 toward the costs of research and/or experiential learning opportunities such as defraying the costs of travel, purchase of research materials and photocopies, or microfilm for a History major working on her/his senior thesis. The award funds can also be used to supplement the income for an otherwise unpaid internship at a historical national park, library, or museum.

The Arthur A. Knapp ‘39 Memorial Prize
This prize is awarded to the graduating History major who has displayed unusual interest, enthusiasm, and ability in the field of history.

The Conrad M. Wingate Fellowship
This fellowship provides $500–$750 toward the costs of research and/or experiential learning opportunities such as defraying the costs of travel, purchase of research materials and photocopies, or microfilm for a History major working on her/his senior thesis. The award funds can also be used to supplement the income for an otherwise unpaid internship at a historical national park, library, or museum.
RESEARCH SEMINARS

These seminars are advanced research-based courses intended for upper-level history majors and minors with significant research skills. Students delve into topics and fully immerse themselves in the research process, experiencing it all—WC archives to the National Library of Medicine.

- **Women, Washington College, and Higher Education**
  Students in this course study the lives of American women at institutions of higher education, once all-male domains, and apply what they’ve learned to researching women at WC. This course is currently running in preparation for the centennial of women’s enfranchisement for the vote.

- **African-American Leaders on the Eastern Shore**
  This course guides students to uncover the lives and contributions of African-American leaders on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, many of whom led in the movement for abolition of slavery.

- **Washington College and Slavery**
  In this course, students use the founders and leaders of Washington College, including George Washington himself, as a lens to understand how citizens of the Early Republic grappled with (or didn’t) the problem of slavery.

- **Comparative Cultural Encounters**
  This seminar examines interactions among native, European, and African peoples during the initial centuries of North American colonization. Situating the American colonies within a broader Atlantic World and offering a comparative approach, the course investigates processes of cultural conflict, exchange, adaptation, and transformation.