“As a historian, there is a sense of detachment from the fields we study. Often they were so long ago that only fragments of their existence remain, and most of the time we can only glimpse their essence through photographs or literature. But to actually hold a piece of history in your hand truly connects you to that distant era, giving you a deeper appreciation for the past. That is what my experience at the Library of Congress has done for me — bridged the gap between the past and the present, and expanding the sense of awe and amazement I feel toward the works of the civilizations before me.”

— Amber Ables, Class of 2012
Greetings,
Thank you for your inquiry about Park University’s Program of History. Park history majors and faculty collaboratively promote a liberal arts education which inspires a culture of intellectualism by uniting teaching, scholarship and service.

History explores the many facets of the human condition from the past to the present, and engages those who study it to develop an appreciation for the variety of human experiences. Demonstrating how the past shapes the present, the study of history also encourages an understanding of distinctive cultures, societies and outlooks in their own terms. History majors at Park University learn to analyze and to think critically about a broad range of historical issues and experiences, and they learn how to develop reasoned arguments and explanations derived from historical evidence.

The study of history is formulated on critical thinking, extensive writing, oral discourse, analytical reading and professional engagement. If you desire a program of study that enhances these educational and lifelong foundations, Park’s Program of History is your avenue to success. Graduating seniors, over the past five years, have rated the Program of History as providing excellence in undergraduate education at 93 percent.

Please contact us if you have questions concerning the admissions/application process, scholarships or the Program of History at either debra.sheffer@park.edu (European/Classical Concentration) or tim.westcott@park.edu (Applied History with New Media or United States Concentration). You can also keep up with events regarding our history majors and activities by visiting www.park.edu/historyatpark.
TEACHING . . .

• Coursework takes place both in and outside the classroom, via classes, research, faculty/student collaboration and hands-on internships. Over the past few years, internships have been at locations such as the Library of Congress, Plimouth Plantation, U.S. Embassy in Macedonia, National World War I Museum, and National Archives and Records Administration.

• Comparing different parts of the world at different periods of time offers insight into the diversity of the human experience, as well as one’s own place in the world.

• Historical study to comprehend and contextualize the problems of contemporary society, while also enhancing one’s research, writing and presentation skills.

• Students graduate from the program having learned the basic skills of historical analysis and writing through a variety of lecture and seminar courses, as well as through the senior research project.

• History classes with a student/faculty ratio of 10-to-1, and University classes with a student/faculty ratio of 12-to-1.
Faculty who combine a deep commitment to teaching with active scholarly research that keeps them up-to-date in their areas of specialization.

A student internship and senior project which represents the accumulation of their academic career.

Student presentations and attendance at national, regional and local historical conferences such as American Historical Association, Northern Great Plains, Mid-America Conference, Missouri Valley History and Phi Alpha Theta Biennial.

Publication of the student undergraduate history journal *Scholastics*.

Past trips have included travel to Albuquerque, N.M., Atlanta, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, San Diego, Washington, D.C., Berlin, Germany, Prague, Czech Republic, and Krakow and Warsaw, Poland.
SERVICE . . .

- Faculty connected and committed on national, regional and local levels to the historical profession by their service as board members, consultants and professional experts.

- Student adoption of the Westport Historical Society and Harris-Kearney House Museum in Kansas City, Mo.

- Sponsorship of Park University’s annual Spencer Cave Black History Month Lecture and the Dr. Jessie Bell Woodside Holt Women’s History Month Lecture.

- Annual “senior alumni gift” on the Parkville Campus related to horticulture or architectural preservation.

- Sponsorship of the oldest honor society on the Parkville Campus — Park’s Zeta Omicron chapter of Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society, chartered in 1958.
History Program

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