How to Build an Experiential Major Map

Four Key Elements for Designing Experiential Major Maps

1. Road Map for Timing of Student Activity
2. Key Pillars of the Student Experience
3. Academic, Cocurricular, and Support Services Info
4. Career Outcomes Information

Students often struggle to navigate and connect institutions’ siloed, disparate academic and cocurricular opportunities. Faculty, academic leaders, and student services leaders can guide students in their decision-making by clearly articulating how academic and nonacademic opportunities fit together. To enable this articulation, leading institutions provide experiential major maps that help students make informed coursework decisions, encourage integration of complementary experiences, and drive engagement at opportune moments on their pathways to degree.

Look to the example at right to learn how each element is used in map design.

CULTIVATE Learning and Academic Excellence

- Review general education requirements and pick the best-fit thematic curriculum pathway
- Review program requirements with your academic advisor
- Register for Introduction to History (HIST 105)

ENGAGE Globally and Locally

- Participate in Orientation Abroad and the corresponding reflection seminar
- Sign up for a foreign language course and join a foreign language club
- Visit the International Student Center to learn about study abroad opportunities, clubs, on-campus events, and spring break community impact

PREPARE for Postgraduation Success

- Consider taking a first-year history field exposure course
- Attend the College-to-Career orientation session with Career Services and fill out the career fields of interest form
- Speak with Career Services about on-campus and summer job opportunities
- Meet with Career Services about internships
- Take on a leadership role in a student club or association
- Attend the Career Fair to explore postgraduation career opportunities

What Skills Do Employers Want?
- Communicate clearly and effectively
- Work in a team
- Solve problems and make decisions
- Analyze quantitative data
- Lead and influence others

What Careers Can I Pursue?
- Museum curator
- Advancement officer
- Lawyer
- Program coordinator
- Social policy researcher
- Marketer
- Government consultant

Careers of History Students

- Lawyer
- Social policy researcher
- Program coordinator
- Advancement officer
- Museum curator
- Marketer
- Government consultant

Where Our Students Go One Year Out:

- Full-Time Employment: 42%
- Part-Time Employment: 29%
- Unemployed: 9%
- Volunteering/Interning: 5%
- Further Education: 4%

This Major Gives Me the Skills to:
- Understand how political, social, economic, and cultural change occurs
- Connect current events to historical trends and narratives
- Research and synthesize large amounts of material and identify relevant information
- Prioritize tasks, meet deadlines, and manage time
- Present ideas clearly and concisely
- Engage with complex narratives

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For step-by-step guidance on map development, download our Experiential Major Maps Workbook.

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