

## Experiential Learning in History

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Description and relation to the major: Students in the discipline of History learn a variety of skills during the coursework in the major. During the Capstone seminar, taken during the senior year, students complete a major research project based in part on materials they collect in historical archives. It is designed to provide a summative academic exercise that assesses all the skills that students have gained in research, writing, presentation and communication skills.

The internship at the Haggin Museum allows them to put these skills into practice in a “real world” museum setting. They help plan and set up museum exhibits. They work in the archives department to classify and process donated materials. They participate in and lead educational activities at the museum for a range of learners. Thus the internship is based on the Experiential Learning model. “Experiential learning opportunities allow students to relate theory to practice, reality-test potential careers, and make connections between their education and the world in which they will live and be active.”

### Assessment:

1. post-internship exit interview
2. essay style self-assessment of the experience
3. assessment instrument is completed by the Haggin Museum staff

Participation rates: Since spring 2006, we have had four interns placed at the museum. This is about ten percent of our majors in those two classes. However, for the class of 2007, we had nearly twenty percent participation.

Outcomes: One intern was placed in a job at the museum upon completion of the internship. She is now pursuing a Master’s Degree in Museum Studies at San Francisco State University.