



Assistant Professor of History

Union Commonwealth University seeks applicants for a 9-month full-time tenure-track faculty position at the rank of Assistant Professor of History, with appointment beginning in the Fall 2026 semester. Candidates must possess a Ph.D. in United States history or a closely related field (ABD considered). Areas of scholarly focus are open, with particular interest in historians whose work engages the American South, Appalachia, rural life, environmental change, or the intersections of culture, economy, and place.

The individual hired for this position will play a key role in the continued development of Union's history curriculum as the University deepens its commitment to American history and public-facing humanities education. We are especially interested in candidates who approach history as a lived process shaped by land use, labor, migration, culture, and human-environment relationships, and who can help students understand how regional histories connect to national and global narratives.

Union has a long history of serving students from Central Appalachia, a region that is economically distressed and historically underserved. Many of Union's students are first-generation college students from rural communities, and the University is taking intentional steps to make higher education more accessible, relevant, and rooted in place. For the 2026-2027 academic year, Union will offer a tuition-free pathway for students from the local region, expanding access to students who might otherwise be unable to pursue a college degree.

The successful candidate will be a student-centered teacher committed to inclusive and engaged pedagogy. Teaching responsibilities will include undergraduate survey and upper-division courses in American history, with opportunities to develop classes that foreground regional history, environmental and agricultural themes, public history, and experiential learning. The university values courses that integrate archival research, material culture, digital tools, oral history, and community engagement, helping students experience history as both produced and studied.

Union encourages faculty to contribute to public history initiatives, interdisciplinary collaborations, and community-based projects that connect the University to the broader region. Faculty are also expected to advise students, participate in departmental and university service, remain professionally active, and contribute to the campus's intellectual life. This is a location-bound position, and the individual hired will be expected to reside near campus and be physically present at least four days per week during the academic year.

Screening of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and the contact information for three professional references to:

Dr. Joseph W. Pearson

Associate Provost & Dean of the Union College of Arts & Sciences

facultyhiring@unionky.edu