

Master of Arts (MA)

The Master of Arts Degree in Public History offers options in historic preservation and digital heritage.

The **M.A. in Public History: Historic Preservation Option** prepares the student for further study or career placement in museums, historical sites or agencies. Students will develop familiarity with issues in public history, material culture, the historic landscape, and the built environment. Students will participate in field exercises and projects that take history out of the classroom and into public venues.

The **M.A. in Public History: Digital Heritage Option** prepares the student for careers at the intersection of public history and the digital humanities. In addition to core courses, students can opt for computer science, educational technology, or multidisciplinary tracks. Students will hone skills connected to the increased uses of technology in documenting, preserving and communicating history. Students will learn the essential issues facing heritage institutions as they increasingly engage with online populations. They will be conversant in both the historical context and the technological knowledge required for collaboration between industry and public history institutions.

Faculty support the development of individual interests through research and independent projects. They are well-prepared instructors and active scholars, encouraging students to explore history beyond the classroom. Professors have demonstrated expertise in museums, historic sites, archives, public programming, architectural history, digital humanities, the National Register of Historic Places, and preservation of the built environment. Graduate classes average fewer than 15 students, which allows for meaningful interaction between students and instructors.

Becoming Career Ready...

/Students develop advanced knowledge and skills relevant to the documentation and interpretation of historical documents, objects, buildings, landscapes, or historic sites.

/Students develop advanced historical research and analysis skills through work with varied primary and secondary source materials.

/Students develop expertise in skills in communicating history to a variety of audiences, including public, professional and academic.

Career Planning

Career Fields for Program Graduates

- Historic Preservation Agencies and Organizations
- Museums
- Historic Sites
- Archives
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Education

Internship and Employment Opportunities of Recent Graduates/ Graduate Schools and Programs of Recent Graduates

- State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historic Society
- North Carolina Maritime Museum
- National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office
- Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site
- Old Town Cape, Cape Girardeau, MO Main Street program
- Field Archaeologist at URS Corp
- Executive Director at Preservation Alliance of Minnesota
- NEPA Program Manager, Schofield Barracks, Wahiawa, Hawaii
- Archaeologist, US Forest Service
- Head, Special Collections and Archives, Idaho State University
- Curator, Governor's mansion, Jackson, Mississippi
- Manuscript Specialist, State Historical Society of Missouri-Kansas City
- History Associate, Missouri History Museum
- Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Division, Alabama Historical Commission
- Consulting Service Associate, Partners for Sacred Places
- Curator, Bolduc House Museum
- Archival Technician, Arkansas State Archives
- Historic Macon Foundation
- Landmark Society of Western New York
- Castine Historical Society
- Deutschheim State Historic Site

Admission Requirements

In addition to the criteria established for general admission to graduate studies are the following departmental criteria:

1. Undergraduate GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale
2. A letter of intent which indicates how the applicant's past experiences have prepared him or her for a graduate degree. A letter of intent for the MA in Public History should indicate how the applicants past experiences have prepared him or her for a graduate degree in Public History and to succeed at the graduate level.
3. Two letters of recommendation which attest to the applicant's academic and/or professional achievement and ability to succeed in the graduate program.
4. An academic or professional writing sample.

Letters should be addressed to the Director of Admissions. All documents should be submitted directly to the Office of Admissions.

Provisional and Probationary Admission:

An applicant lacking any of the above requirements may, under certain circumstances, be admitted provisionally or on probation.

MA: Public History

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This is a guide based on the 2021-2022 Graduate Bulletin and is subject to change. The time it takes to earn a degree will vary based on factors such as course load and summer enrollment. Students meet with an academic advisor each semester and use Degree Works to monitor their progress.

CURRICULUM CHECKLIST

Public History - 36 Hours Required

Required Courses:

- ___ GH600 Introduction to Public History (3)
- ___ GH610 Methods of Research in History (3)
- ___ US635 American Material Culture (3)
- ___ GH695-697 Thesis (6)
- OR
- ___ HP640 Internship
- AND
- ___ HP645 Advanced Project in Applied History (3+3)
- ___ GR698 Master's Final Comprehensive Examination (0)

Choose One of the Following Option Areas:

DIGITAL HERITAGE OPTION

- ___ GG563 Advanced Topics in Geography (3)
- ___ GH550 Heritage Outreach (3)
- ___ HP575 Collections Management (3)

Choose one 12-hour track:

Computer Science track – 12 hours

- ___ CS500 Fundamentals of Programming (3)
- ___ CS533 Mobile Computing (3)
- ___ CS630 Current Topics in Human Computer Interaction (3)
- ___ 3 hours of departmentally approved electives (3)

Educational Technology track – 12 hours

- ___ SE600 Multimedia in Education (3)
- ___ SE617 Foundations of Educational Technology (3)
- ___ SE683 Instructional Design & Technology (3)
- ___ 3 hours of departmentally approved electives (3)

Multidisciplinary track – 12 hours

- ___ Select 3-9 hours from list of approved CS prefix or SE prefix courses
- ___ Select 3-9 hours from list of departmentally approved electives

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OPTION

- ___ HP585 History of American Architecture (3)
- ___ HP588 Legal and Economic Principles of Historic Preservation (3)
- ___ EH620/US620/WH630 Seminar in History (3)
- ___ Choose 12 hours from departmentally approved electives (12)

Departmentally Approved Electives:

- ___ GH520 Techniques of Oral History (3)
- ___ GH550 Heritage Outreach (3)*
- ___ HP525 Living History (3)
- ___ HP540 Topics in Historic Preservation (3)
- ___ HP552 Historic Preservation Field School (3)
- ___ HP575 Collections Management (3)*
- ___ HP580 History of American Building Materials and Techniques (3)
- ___ HP585 History of American Architecture (3)**
- ___ HP588 Legal and Economic Principles of Historic Preservation (3)**
- ___ HP589 Historic Preservation Based Economic Revitalization (3)
- ___ HP630 Issues in HP: Archives, Museums, Historic Site Administration (3)
- ___ HP640 Internship (3)
- ___ HP645 Advanced Project in Applied History (3)
- ___ HP650 Problems in Historic Preservation (3)
- ___ EH620/US620/WH630 Seminar in History (3)

*Required for Digital Heritage Option

**Required for Historic Preservation Option

Sample Two-Year Plan – Digital Heritage Option

	Fall	Spring
First Year	GH600 Intro to Public History US635 American Material Culture Track Option Course	GH610 Methods of Research in History GG 563 Advanced Topics in GIS Track Option Course
Second Year	GH550 Heritage Outreach HP 640 Internship Track Option Course	HP 575 Collections Management HP 645 Advanced Project Track Option Course GH 698 Comprehensive Exams

Sample Two-Year Plan – Historic Preservation Option

	Fall	Spring
First Year	GH600 Intro to Public History HP585 History of American Architecture US635 American Material Culture	GH610 Methods of Research in History HP588 Legal and Economic Principles of Historic Preservation HP Elective
Second Year	US620 Seminar in History HP Elective HP Elective	HP640 Internship HP645 Advanced Projects in Applied History HP elective GR698 Comprehensive Examinations