

Master of Arts (MA)

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

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: Heritage Interpretation Emphasis** prepares the student for fields at the intersection of education and public history. Students will hone skills aimed at connecting classrooms with museums and historic sites. Students will develop a familiarity with issues confronting social studies teachers and public history educators, study the contexts in which those professionals work, and develop plans for increasing student learning in those contexts that highlight the collaborative possibilities between classrooms 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, 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/Students develop advanced knowledge and skills relevant to the documentation and interpretation of historical documents, objects, buildings, landscapes, or historic sites.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 2020-2021 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

36 Hours Required

Required Courses:

- ___ EH620/US620/WH630 Seminar in History (6)
- ___ GH600 Introduction to Public History (3)
- ___ GH610 Methods of Research in History (3)
- ___ HP588 Legal and Economic Principles of Historic Preservation (3)
- ___ US635 American Material Culture (3)
- ___ GH695-697 Thesis (6)
- OR
- ___ HP640 Internship (3)
- AND
- ___ HP645 Advanced Project in Applied History (3)

Choose one option:

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OPTION

- ___ HP585 History of American Architecture (3)
- Choose 9 hours from:
- ___ GH520 Techniques of Oral 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)
 - ___ HP589 Historic Preservation Based Economic Revitalization (3)
 - ___ HP630 Issues in Historic Preservation (3)
 - ___ HP640 Historic Preservation Internship (3)
 - ___ HP645 Advanced Project in Applied History (3)
 - ___ HP650 Problems in Historic Preservation (3)

HERITAGE INTERPRETATION OPTION

- ___ HP635 Issues and Interpretations in Public History (3)
- Choose 9 hours from:
- ___ GH520 Techniques of Oral 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)
 - ___ HP589 Historic Preservation Based Economic Revitalization (3)
 - ___ HP630 Issues in Historic Preservation (3)
 - ___ HP640 Historic Preservation Internship (3)
 - ___ HP645 Advanced Project in Applied History (3)
 - ___ HP650 Problems in Historic Preservation (3)

Students may also choose HP585 or GH653 if not otherwise required.

Sample Two-Year Plan - Historic Preservation

	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 US620, Seminar in U.S. History
Second Year	WH630, Seminar in World History HP650, Problems in Historic Preservation HP Elective	HP640, Internship HP645, Advanced Projects in Applied History GR698, Comprehensive Examinations HP elective

Sample Two-Year Plan – Heritage Interpretation

	Fall	Spring
First Year	GH600, Intro to Public History US620, Seminar in U.S. History US635, American Material Culture	GH610, Methods of Research in History GH653, Problems in Social Studies US507, Civil War and Reconstruction
Second Year	WH630, Seminar in World History HP650, Problems in Historic Preservation HP Elective	HP640, Internship HP645, Advanced Projects in Applied History GR698, Comprehensive Examinations HP Elective