

HISTORY, MA: PUBLIC HISTORY

Public History Graduate Program

The Public History program curriculum combines graduate-level topical and methods courses in history, core courses in public history, courses in the student's area of specialization, and internships with public-history organizations in the Milwaukee region and beyond. Coursework and internships prepare students for careers in historical societies, museums, archives, libraries, nonprofit organizations, government, and other professional fields, or for entry into a public history PhD program.

The Public History Specialization enables students to earn a master's degree in history while specializing in one of the following tracks:

- Museum Studies
- Nonprofit Administration
- Historic Preservation
- Archives
- Cross-Disciplinary Studies with Thesis

For details on the curricular requirements of each track, click on the "Requirements" tab on this page and refer to the "Credits and Courses" section.

Alternatively, a student in the coordinated degree program may combine the MLIS and the MA in History with a specialization in Public History. For more information, see the History, MA/Library and Information Science, MLIS page. (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/history/history-ma-library-information-science-mlis/>)

Although a majority of students in our program pursue the specialization in Public History at the master's level, it is also possible for PhD students in History to pursue a Public History minor. For more information about the PhD program, see the History, PhD page. (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/history/history-phd/>)

Admission Requirements

Application Deadlines

Application deadlines vary by program, please review the application deadline chart (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines/>) for specific programs. Other important dates and deadlines can be found by using the One Stop calendars (<https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines/>).

Admission

To be considered for admission, an applicant must meet Graduate School requirements (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/>) plus these departmental requirements:

1. An undergraduate minor or 18 credits in history or equivalent preparation.
2. Two letters of recommendation from persons familiar with the applicant's scholastic achievement and potential.
3. A sample of the applicant's written work that demonstrates their ability to conduct historical research and/or the ability to analyze critically the work of others.

Please visit the History department's website for information on the History Department Application (<https://uwm.edu/history/students/graduate/how-to-apply-to-the-graduate-program/>).

Applicants may be admitted with course deficiencies provided that the deficiencies amount to no more than two courses. The student is expected to satisfy deficiency requirements within three enrolled semesters. The deficiencies are monitored by the Graduate School and the individual graduate program unit. No course credits earned in making up deficiencies may be counted toward the degree.

Advising

The Director of Graduate Studies provides initial advising for students in selecting courses and assists in selecting a Major Professor for long-term advising; the Director may assign a provisional graduate advisor before students select a Major Professor. Students are required to consult periodically with, and have their schedules approved by, the Director of Graduate Studies, the provisional advisor, or the Major Professor. The Major Professor normally serves as the chair of the student's academic review and supervises either the writing of the student's thesis or the student's reading for the comprehensive exam.

Museum Studies Track

Space is limited in this specialization, and students interested to enroll in this track must first be admitted to the History Department as an MA student with a concentration in Public History. Then prospective students must apply separately for admission to the Museum Studies Certificate Program (MSCP) (<https://uwm.edu/museum-studies/admissions/>).

Cross-Disciplinary Studies with Thesis Track

Prospective students interested to pursue this track must contact the Public History Director prior to applying for admission to the MA program in History.

Credits and Courses

Minimum degree requirement is 36 graduate credits, 12 of which must be taken in General History courses, 12 in Public History courses, and the remaining 12 in the chosen area of specialization. For students completing either the Museum Studies track or the Nonprofit Administration track, an additional 3 credits in the area of specialization is required for a total of 39 credits.

Before matriculation, students should select a specialization:

- Museum Studies
- Nonprofit Administration
- Historic Preservation
- Archives
- Cross-Disciplinary Studies with Thesis

Museum Studies Track

Space is limited in this specialization, and students interested to enroll in this track must first be admitted to the History Department as an MA student with a concentration in Public History. Then prospective students must apply separately for admission to the Museum Studies Certificate Program (MSCP) (<https://uwm.edu/museum-studies/admissions/>).

Code	Title	Credits
General History		
Select 6 credits in colloquia ¹		6

Select 6 credits in seminars ¹	6
Public History	
Students are advised to complete these two courses in the first year:	
HIST 700	Public History Seminar 3
HIST 715	Research Methods in Local History 3
Students also complete the following, generally taken at any point after the second semester:	
HIST 701	Graduate Internship in Public History ² 6
Specialization	
ANTHRO 620G	Museum Fundamentals 3
ANTHRO 720	History and Theory of Museums 2
ANTHRO 721	Administration and Organization of Museums 3
ANTHRO 723	Museum Collections Management and Curation 3
ANTHRO 722	Visitor Experience Design in Museums 3
ANTHRO 725	Professionalism Capstone in Museum Studies 1
Total Credits	39

¹ As a substitute for one colloquium or seminar, students may take 3 credits of HIST 716, HIST 717 or another appropriate course, which must be approved in advance by the program director.

² Students must take a total of 6 credits of HIST 701, and this requirement is generally completed as two 3-credit internships. However, an individual internship may be taken for 1 to 6 credits. Unless granted an exception by the program faculty, students complete their 701 internship(s) after having taken both HIST 700 and HIST 715.

Nonprofit Administration Track

Code	Title	Credits
General History		
Select 6 credits in colloquia ¹		6
Select 6 credits in seminars ¹		6
Public History		
Students are advised to complete these two courses in the first year:		
HIST 700	Public History Seminar	3
HIST 715	Research Methods in Local History	3
Students also complete the following, generally taken at any point after the second semester:		
HIST 701	Graduate Internship in Public History ²	6
Specialization		
The following are required courses for this track:		
BUSMGMT 721	Fundraising and Development for Nonprofit Organizations	3
BUSMGMT 724	Accounting for Nonprofit Organizations	3
NONPROF 725	Governance of Nonprofit Organizations	3
Students also select two of the following courses:		
NONPROF 705	Professionals and Volunteers in Nonprofit Organizations ³	
NONPROF 740	Executive Leadership of Nonprofit Organizations	
BUS ADM 766	Marketing for Nonprofit Organizations ³	

NONPROF 791	Nonprofit Advocacy and Public Policy
NONPROF 795	Introduction to Nonprofit Revenue Streams and Portfolios ³
Total Credits	39

¹ As a substitute for one colloquium or seminar, students may take 3 credits of HIST 716, HIST 717, or another appropriate course, which must be approved in advance by the program director.

² Students must take a total of 6 credits of HIST 701, and this requirement is generally completed as two 3-credit internships. However, an individual internship may be taken for 1 to 6 credits. Unless granted an exception by the program faculty, students complete their 701 internship(s) after having taken both HIST 700 and HIST 715.

³ These electives are strongly recommended, but students with prior coursework or employment experience in nonprofit administration may opt for alternatives to one or more of these electives.

Historic Preservation Track

Code	Title	Credits
General History		
Select 6 credits in colloquia ¹		6
Select 6 credits in seminars ¹		6
Public History		
Students are advised to complete these two courses in the first year:		
HIST 700	Public History Seminar	3
HIST 715	Research Methods in Local History	3
Students also complete the following, generally taken at any point after the second semester:		
HIST 701	Graduate Internship in Public History ²	6
Specialization		
These two courses must be taken within the first two years:		
ARCH 560G	Introduction to Historic Preservation (offered every other year)	3
ARCH 760	History of Building Technology (offered every other year)	3
Students select two of the following electives:		
ARCH 550G	Seminar in Building Types and Settings	
ARCH 551	American Vernacular Architecture	
ARCH 562G	Preservation Technology Laboratory	
ARCH 583G	Emerging Digital Technology:	
ARCH 801	Special Topics: ("Practicum in Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures" and other approved subtitles)	
ARTHIST 356G	American Architecture	
ARTHIST 370G	Trends in Contemporary Architecture	
ARTHIST 462G	Frank Lloyd Wright	
ARTHIST 750	Colloquium in American Art:	
ARTHIST 760	Colloquium in Modern Art/Architecture:	
Total Credits		36

¹ As a substitute for one colloquium or seminar, students may take 3 credits of HIST 716, HIST 717, or another appropriate course, which must be approved in advance by the program director.

² Students must take a total of 6 credits of HIST 701, and this requirement is generally completed as two 3-credit internships.

However, an individual internship may be taken for 1 to 6 credits. Unless granted an exception by the program faculty, students complete their 701 internship(s) after having taken both HIST 700 and HIST 715.

Archives Track

Code	Title	Credits
General History		
Select 6 credits in colloquia ¹		6
Select 6 credits in seminars ¹		6
Public History		
Students are advised to complete these two courses in the first year:		
HIST 700	Public History Seminar	3
HIST 715	Research Methods in Local History	3
Students also complete the following, generally taken at any point after the second semester:		
HIST 701	Graduate Internship in Public History ²	6
Specialization		
This course must be completed during the first semester of the first year:		
INFOST 650G	An Introduction to Modern Archives Administration	3
Then select three of the following:		
INFOST 682G	Digital Libraries	
INFOST 750	Arrangement and Description in Archives ³	
INFOST 752	Archival Outreach: Programs and Services	
INFOST 753	Preserving Information Media ³	
INFOST 791	Topics in Library and Information Science: (with appropriate subtitle)	
INFOST 855	Advanced Appraisal ³	
INFOST 891	Advanced Topics in Library and Information Science: (with appropriate subtitle)	
Total Credits		36

¹ As a substitute for one colloquium or seminar, students may take 3 credits of HIST 716, HIST 717, or another appropriate course, which must be approved in advance by the program director.

² Students must take a total of 6 credits of HIST 701, and this requirement is generally completed as two 3-credit internships. However, an individual internship may be taken for 1 to 6 credits. Unless granted an exception by the program faculty, students complete their 701 internship(s) after having taken both HIST 700 and HIST 715.

³ These electives are strongly recommended, but students with prior coursework or employment experience in archives may opt for other electives.

Cross-Disciplinary Studies with Thesis Track

Students in the Cross-Disciplinary Studies track complete a thesis in public history, and they are required to take 6 Master's Capstone credits and 3 credits of public-history internship. Instead of the 12-15 credits in specialized courses, students in the thesis track must also take 9 credits in cross-disciplinary courses in the humanities and/or social sciences. Selected in consultation with the Public History Director and the student's

major professor, cross-disciplinary courses may focus on culture and politics in public history, or they may include coursework in theory or methodology relevant to public history.

Code	Title	Credits
General History		
Select 6 credits in colloquia ¹		6
Select 6 credits in seminars ¹		6
Public History		
Students are advised to complete these two courses in the first year:		
HIST 700	Public History Seminar	3
HIST 715	Research Methods in Local History	3
Students also complete the following, generally taken at any point after the second semester:		
HIST 701	Graduate Internship in Public History ²	3
Thesis credits may be completed after the approval of the thesis prospectus (see below):		
HIST 985	Master's Capstone	6
Cross-Disciplinary Requirement		
Select 9 credits in the humanities and/or social sciences that focus on culture and politics in public history (see below)		9
Total Credits		36

¹ As a substitute for one colloquium or seminar, students may take 3 credits of HIST 716, HIST 717, or another appropriate course, which must be approved in advance by the program director.

² Students pursuing Cross-Disciplinary Studies with Thesis Track must take 3 credits of HIST 701. Unless granted an exception by the program faculty, students complete their 701 internship(s) after having taken both HIST 700 and HIST 715.

Thesis Prospectus

Within the first semester after completing 9 credits (including two of the following courses: HIST 700, HIST 715, a colloquium, and/or a seminar), public history students who choose to write a thesis are subject to an academic review. The review is a one- to two-hour meeting involving the student, the student's major professor, and two other members of the History Graduate Faculty who will serve as secondary readers of the student's thesis. With the assistance of their major professor, the student must prepare a thesis prospectus in advance of the review. The review involves an evaluation of the student's academic progress in master's coursework, two unrevised course papers, and the thesis prospectus.

Recommendations for Cross-Disciplinary Coursework

The following are recommended courses to fulfill the cross-disciplinary requirement (others may be chosen with the approval of the Public History Director):

Code	Title	Credits
Elective courses to fulfill cross-disciplinary track requirements		
ANTHRO 340	Cultures of Online Games and Virtual Worlds	3
ANTHRO 380	Anthropological Applications of GIS	3
ANTHRO 744	Theories of Social Action: Theater, Ritual, Game	3
ARCH 583G	Emerging Digital Technology:	3
ARCH 742	Professional Practice II	3

ARCH 771	Representation I	3
ARCH 772	Representation II	3
ART 313G	Creative Coding:	3
ART 316G	Creative Interfaces:	3
ART 317G	3D Environments and XR	3
ART 318	Creative Electronics	3
ART 327	Digital Media Workshop:	3
ART 412G	Advanced Creative Technologies	3
ART 418G	Advanced Electronics and Sculpture:	3
ART 426G	Motion Graphics	3
ART 433G	Digital Imaging for Fabric	3
ART 452G	Contemporary Issues in Photography	3
ART 456G	Advanced Photography & Imaging:	3
ART 526G	Research in Universal Design and Fabrication	3
ARTHIST 376G	History and Theory of New Media Art	3
COMMUN 813	Seminar in Mediated Communication	3
COMMUN 873	The Digital Mirror	3
COMMUN 893	Rhetoric of/and the Internet	3
DAC 661G	Digital Engagement Seminar	3
ENGLISH 439	Information Design	3
ENGLISH 709	Rhetoric, Writing, and Information Technology	3
ENGLISH 711	Topics in Public and Professional Writing:	3
ENGLISH 713	Research Methods in Rhetorics, Literacies, and Community Engagement:	3
ENGLISH 742	Media Studies	3
ENGLISH 887	Seminar in Digital Studies:	3
FILM 420G	Intermediate Media Arts Module:	3
FILM 763	Experimental Documentary	3
FILM 764	Observational Documentary	3
FILM 782	Visual Effects	3
HIST 450G	The History of Milwaukee	3
HIST 715	Research Methods in Local History	3
HIST 717	History and the New Media	3
INFOST 661G	Information Ethics	3
INFOST 670G	Instructional Technologies	3
INFOST 682G	Digital Libraries	3
INFOST 685G	Electronic Publishing and Web Design	3
URB STD 921	Seminar: Research Methods in Urban Studies	3
URBPLAN 791	Introduction to Urban Geographic Information Systems for Planning	3
URBPLAN 792	Using Urban Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for Planning	3
WGS 500G	Advanced Social Science Seminar in Women's and Gender Studies:	3

Approved Cross-Listed Courses

WGS 501G, with the topic "Women, Gender, & Global Revolutions," counts as a History course.

Additional Requirements

Internship

All internships must be approved by the Public History Director and are to be supervised and evaluated by the Public History Director and the host institution. All students must write a substantial paper as a part of their internship experience.

Thesis Option for Students in Non-Thesis Tracks

A thesis is not required for students in the Museum Studies, Nonprofit Administration, Historical Preservation, or Archives tracks, but with the approval of the Public History Coordinator these students may write a thesis in public history, which will add 6 credits to the 36-credit Public History specialization. Public History students who write a thesis are subject to the Academic Review and Thesis Prospectus requirements outlined for the General History: Thesis (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/history/history-ma/>) Option.

Comprehensive Examination

Not required.

Time Limit

The student must complete all degree requirements within seven years of initial enrollment.

History MA Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from the History MA program will:

- Demonstrate a knowledge of general historical problems and the complexity and diversity of human experience.
- Demonstrate a knowledge of specific historical areas and/or eras in human experience.
- Demonstrate a knowledge of major historical debates within the subject matter of their course work, and a familiarity with major methodological and interpretive constructs.
- Demonstrate an ability to make an evaluative presentation of historical material.
- Prepare a high-quality capstone project, such as a thesis, comprehensive exam, portfolio, or internship.