

HISTORY, PUBLIC HISTORY - MASTER OF ARTS

(Code 380-808)

Public History prepares students for a wide range of career options by familiarizing them with museum work, historic preservation, archives, and other public history subfields, and by providing hands-on experience through internships and other opportunities. The Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Public History and Historic Preservation opened its Northern Field Services Office in the History Department in 2006. The Field Services program provides programming and assistance to history and preservation organizations state-wide and collaborates with the Public History program to coordinate internships and other opportunities in public history. The Public History program also works closely with the UWEC Special Collections and Archives, which regularly hosts interns. The Archives is home to one of a network of 14 Area Research Centers (ARCs) which the Wisconsin Historical Society and UW System administer cooperatively, providing students access to the resources of the Society as well as the other 13 ARCs.

Program Requirements

To complete the Public History Program students must fulfill the following requirements:

Code	Title	Credits
Required courses		
HIST 586	Introduction to Public History	3
HIST 686	Seminar in Public History	3
HIST 790	Internship in Public History	3
HIST 793	Current Trends in History	3
Select a minimum of 6 graduate credits from the following:		6
HIST 701	Readings in European History	
HIST 703	Readings in World History	
HIST 711	Readings in U.S. History	
Students may choose from the following culminating experiences:		
Option 1: Thesis		
A minimum of 30 graduate credits in history which requires a minimum/maximum of 6 credits of HIST 799. HIST 795 and HIST 796 do not count toward this option.		
HIST 719	Readings in Area of Thesis	3
HIST 799	Thesis	6
Option 2: Thesis + Practicum		
A minimum of 30 graduate credits in history which requires a minimum/maximum of 3 credits of HIST 796 and a minimum/maximum of 3 credits of HIST 799. HIST 795 does not count toward this option.		
HIST 719	Readings in Area of Thesis	3
HIST 796	Public History Thesis Practicum ¹	3
HIST 799	Thesis	3
Option 3: Non-thesis		

A minimum of 33 graduate credits in history with no thesis. Maximum 3 credits of HIST 795 may apply toward this option. HIST 796 and HIST 799 do not count toward this option.

¹ The practicum requires students to share their thesis research with a public audience in cooperation with a community partner.

NOTES:

- At least 18 credits must be taken in courses open only to graduate students (700-level).
- Up to nine credits may be from disciplines outside of history with the approval of the advisor.
- All students must attain a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Areas of Expertise and Exams: Graduate students prepare themselves in an area of expertise designed to meet their needs and interests. Areas of expertise may be defined by broad themes, topics, chronology, or geography. A required written comprehensive exam will be based upon substantial knowledge of the student's area of expertise based upon research, course work, and bibliographies created in consultation with faculty. During their final semester all students are also required to take an oral exam related to their area of expertise. Non-thesis students' oral exam will be based upon their course work and written comprehensive exam. For students completing a thesis, the oral exam will be related to their research. The oral exam committee includes the graduate coordinator, one or two additional history graduate faculty, and one graduate faculty from outside the Department of History.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students completing this program will be expected to meet the following learning outcomes:

- The student demonstrates a broad knowledge and understanding of history.
- The student demonstrates an understanding of theoretical approaches to history and historiography.
- The student analyzes and interprets historical developments through research, writing, and oral presentations.
- The student applies an understanding of the historical complexity of the people, institutions, events, and ideas that shape the world today.
- The student demonstrates the foundations of a professional identity as an historian.
- The student demonstrates an understanding of the theory and ethics of public history (for public history students).