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:

**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**

A minimum of 30 graduate credits in History which includes 6 credits of HIST 799

- HIST 719  Readings in Area of Thesis
- HIST 799  Thesis

**Option 2**

A minimum of 30 graduate credits in history which includes 3 credits of HIST 796 and 3 credits of HIST 799

- HIST 719  Readings in Area of Thesis
- HIST 796  Public History Thesis Practicum
- HIST 799  Thesis

**Option 3**

A minimum of 33 graduate credits in history with no thesis

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. At least 18 credits must be taken in courses open only to graduate students.

**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.

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