Master of Arts in Public History

The M.A. in Public History integrates traditional graduate study in history with professional training in the skills used in the public and private sectors. The curriculum offers a choice of two areas of concentration for the major field: historic preservation and museums. In addition, students complete course work in a minor field within the general graduate history curriculum, usually but not exclusively, U.S. to 1877 or U.S. since 1789.

A reading knowledge of one foreign language or competence in an appropriate methodology is required. Choice of the latter must be approved by the Graduate Committee.

PhD candidates interested in Public History are encouraged to consider obtaining the MA in Public History and should consult the Requirements for a PhD in Public History and the Sample PhD Program with MA in Public History.

Degree Requirements

Candidates for the MA in Public History choose a major and minor field, perform a 145 hour internship, present a portfolio of their work, and write a thesis. A minimum of 30 semester hours, of which 12 hours will be in public history courses, 15 hours will be in the history core, and 3 hours of thesis credits are required. Required courses are as follows:

1. Major Field (12 hours – 6 hours chosen from one of two concentrations, 6 hours of courses with public history content)
   - Historic Preservation Concentration: HIST 788, HIST 792, HIST 692, HIST 789, HIST 786
   - Museums Concentration: HIST 787, HIST 789, HIST 692, HIST 786, HIST 781

2. Minor Field (15 hours)
   - HIST 720: Introduction to the Study of History (Required for all Public History students)
   - US to 1877 minor field: HIST 701 or HIST 752 & HIST 702; US since 1789 minor field: HIST 702 and HIST 703; Other field: 2 relevant reading seminars (HIST 700 and above) approved by the advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies.
   - C. One elective in History at the 700-level.
   - d. HIST 800: Topics in History Research

3. HIST 799: Thesis Preparation (3 credit hours) The master’s thesis will ordinarily be a revised version of the student’s 800-level research paper, submitted as an article-length, potentially publishable essay. The thesis shall be prepared for submission according to the current regulations of The Graduate School. An oral comprehensive examination on the student’s thesis will be given after the student’s thesis advisor approves the thesis for defense. In this examination, the student will be asked to place his/her thesis in historiographic perspective.
**Internship:** Students must complete an internship of at least 145 hours in a professional capacity. Students must have an internship contract approved in advance of the work by the Director of the Public History program. Students must submit a final report following the conclusion of the internship and must solicit a work report about their performance from their internship supervisor to be sent directly to the Director of the Public History program.

**Portfolio Presentation:** In addition to the thesis, students will compile a portfolio of their public history work in accordance with departmental policy, and will present that portfolio at a public review.

**Other:**

Candidates for the MA in Public History shall file a Program of Study no later than 12 months after entering the program.

All students enrolled in public history may also enter the Museum Certificate Program Coordinated by the University’s McKissick Museum, or the certificate program in Historical Archeology and Cultural Resource Management offered by the Department of Anthropology. Students may apply for dual degree status with the MA/MLIS, offering in conjunction with the School of Library Science.

M.A. courses and language examinations for M.A. students are valid for six years. Individual history courses in a student's program may be revalidated by repetition and successful completion of the course or by a written and/or oral examination administered by an appropriate member of the faculty. Students seeking to revalidate a course by examination must pay to the University a fee for each course revalidated.

Students shall finish the program with at least a “B” average. If a student produces any six hours of work with a grade below a “B,” or for any three hours receives an “F,” that person will be dropped from the program and disqualified from receiving a graduate degree in history from the University of South Carolina. These rules do not apply to a “U” in a foreign language course.