

University of South Carolina
Public History Program

Department of History
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208 USA

<http://www.cas.sc.edu/hist/pubhist/>



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Established in 1975 as the Applied History Program, the Public History Program at the University of South Carolina admits ten to twelve graduate students each year. The program offers an M.A. in Public History. Students in the history Ph.D. program may select public history, historic preservation, or museum studies as one of their fields of study. In addition, students have the choice of two graduate certificate programs (the “Certificate in Museum Management” and the “Certificate in Historical Archaeology & Cultural Resource Management”), as well as the dual-degree Joint Program with the School of Library and Information Science. Over 200 students have graduated from the program since 1975, with a current average of eight to ten graduating annually.

Type of Program: Public History Graduate Program

Degree(s) offered: B.A. in History
M.A. in Public History
M.A. in History
Ph.D. in History
Ph.D. in History with a Certificate or Concentration in Public History

Concentration(s):

- Museum Studies
- Archival Practices
- Historic Preservation
- Library Science Program

Course Offerings:

- Introduction to the Study of History; required; offered annually
- Historic Preservation; required for preservation track; offered annually
- Material Culture Studies; required for museums track; offered annually
- Historic Preservation Practicum; offered every other year
- History and Theory of Museums; offered every other year
- Charleston Field School; offered every other year
- England Field School; offered every other year
- Oral History; offered every other year
- Administration & Management of Museums; offered every three semesters
- Exhibition Development; offered every three semesters
- Collecting, Collections Management, & Curatorial Practice; offered every three semesters
- Historic Site Interpretation; offered occasionally
- Multiple library and archives courses offered through the School of Library and Information Science
- Multiple historical archaeology and public anthropology courses offered through the Department of Anthropology
- Multiple readings and research seminars in history offered within the Department of History, which houses the Public History Program

Thesis required? Yes

Special project required? Yes

Description: The thesis may be a traditional historical research paper or an applied public history project. In addition, most public history classes require real-world individual and team projects as part of the coursework. A capstone portfolio presentation is required for all Public History students.

Credit Hour Requirement: 33 for the M.A. in Public History. The optional certificate programs require additional coursework.

Internship Required? Yes

Who arranges internships? The student in close consultation with his/her Public History faculty advisor

Credit hours earned for internships: It is a program requirement but not a tuition-paying course requirement

Who evaluates internship? What are the criteria for evaluation? Students work 145 hours in a professional capacity in an historical institution or agency. They complete an advance contract, do the work agreed upon, and submit a final report. The institutional supervisor sends a written evaluation to the Public History faculty advisor.

Places where students have interned in the past three years:

- Smithsonian Institution
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- National Park Service
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- National Air and Space Museum
- Library of Congress
- Johnson Space Center
- National Baseball Hall of Fame
- Ohio Historical Society
- Wisconsin Historical Society
- State Museum of Pennsylvania
- Boston Preservation Alliance
- Multiple South Carolina placements in the State Historic Preservation Office, the State Parks Service, the State Museum, Historic Columbia Foundation, Historic Charleston Foundation, and the South Carolina African American Heritage Council, among others.

Admission Requirements:

Minimum GPA: N/A
Statement of Purpose
Letter(s) of Recommendation
Transcripts
Writing Sample
GRE Aptitude Score

Financial Aid Available:

Loans
Scholarships
Assistantships
Stipends
Fellowships
Tuition Waiver
In-State Status

Maximum annual stipend for: MA: \$14,000; most are \$11,000 PhD: N/A

Average number of students who receive: Stipend: We have been able to fund all of our Public History students with graduate assistantships. Scholarships: N/A

How many students are admitted annually? BA: N/A MA: 10 to 12 PhD: N/A

Placement assistance offered? Close consultation with faculty advisor; the nationwide alumni network; professional workshops and the portfolio presentations; in-house student and alumni listservs; the hands-on experience of graduate assistantships and internships

Employers who have hired your graduates in the past three years:

- National Park Service
- Smithsonian Institution
- Arizona Department of Transportation
- North Carolina State Parks
- University of Georgia Libraries
- Historic Columbia Foundation
- Lexington County Museum
- Thomas Cooper Library
- Texas State Archives
- South Carolina Military Museum
- City of Columbia Planning and Preservation Office
- multiple local and regional consulting firms