

New Program Proposal

Museums, Heritage, & Public History

MA in Museums, Heritage, and Public History

The MA in Museums, Heritage, and Public History joins theoretical and practical study at an advanced level to prepare students for careers in museums, heritage institutions, historic sites and societies, and related organizations. The program works closely with cultural resources in St Louis, particularly the city's many museums and historic sites. We focus on community engagement, the interdisciplinary and cross-cultural study of material culture, interpreting and debating the past, new media and public education, and research in archival and material collections. Our graduates work in art museums, history museums, science centers, historic house museums, and other cultural institutions across the United States and internationally.

Admission Requirements

Prospective students for the Master of Arts in Museums, Heritage, and Public History must apply specifically for this program on the graduate application. Applications for the Master of Arts in Museums, Heritage, and Public History will be accepted only for the fall semester.

Prospective students must demonstrate high academic potential. Typically, the History department admits only students with at least a 3.2 grade point average in their undergraduate major; most successful applicants have higher grades. An undergraduate major in History is not required for admission to this program.

Applicants must submit three letters of recommendation, preferably from former teachers and/or employers, and a sample of their written work. Applicants must also complete the Museums, Heritage, and Public History Supplemental Application, which includes a statement of career intent.

Admissions decisions are based on the undergraduate transcript, the letters of recommendation, the sample of written work, and the supplemental application.

Applications must be received by the university no later than February 1.

Program Requirements (34 hours)

All candidates for the MA in Museums, Heritage, and Public History must complete the following core courses (20 hours):

HIST 6000	The Historian's Craft	3
HIST 6001	Introduction to Public History and Cultural Heritage	3
HIST 6002	Material Culture in Historical Context	3
or HIST 6134	History Curatorship	
HIST 6131	Museum Origins and Evolution	3
HIST 6142	Readings in U.S. History	5
or HIST 6143	Readings in World History	
Choose one of the following:		3
HIST 6125	Practicum in Public History and Cultural Heritage	
HIST 6127	Museums and Communities	
HIST 6129	Emerging Museum Practices	
Total Hours		20

Candidates must also complete 10 credit hours of elective courses. These may include courses listed above, if not already taken for the core, or additional courses which may include the following:

ANTHRO 4309	Archaeological Field School	3
ANTHRO 6139	Practicum In Exhibit & Program Development	3
HIST/ART HS 5592	The History of the Visual Arts in American Museums	3
ART HS 5593	Museum Management & Curatorial Practice	3
HIST 6130	Collections Management and Registration	3

HIST 6133	Museums and History in the Digital Age	3
HIST 6137	Museum Organization and Operations	3
POL SCI 6300	Leadership and Management in NonProfit Organizations	3
P P ADM 6311	Staff Management Issues in Nonprofit Organizations	1
P P ADM 6312	Legal Issues in Managing Nonprofit Organizations	1
P P ADM 6313	Financial Issues in Managing Nonprofit Organizations	1

Students may substitute other courses with approval of the Director of the Museums, Heritage, and Public History program. For courses outside the History Department, a maximum of six credits may be at the 3000 level. No 3000 level courses may be taken for graduate credit within the History Department.

Candidates conclude the degree with an internship or exit project represented by the course numbered HIST 6138 (4 credits). This capstone project will be customized to the interests and career aspirations of each student, as approved in advance by the Director.

In addition to these requirements, candidates for the MA in Museums, Heritage, and Public History are required to demonstrate either oral or written proficiency in one second language (in addition to English) by completing an appropriate language test. The test will be designed through consultation with the candidate and the faculty of the Department of Language and Cultural Studies.

Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

Department	Contact Person	Phone #	Objections
S004900	Laura Westhoff		
S002450	Patti Wright		
S002600	Maureen Quigley		

Rationale

This new MA would be housed in the History Department but with a distinct name. The degree better reflects the expertise of UMSL faculty, the orientation of the professional field (museums, heritage, and public history), and the resources and partnerships in St Louis on which we would draw. The total credit hours to degree is more in line with other MA programs in the College of Arts and Sciences. The program title would alleviate or end confusion among potential applicants about the program and its relationship to the MA in History.