



History MA

with an emphasis 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.

Career Outlook

According to the Institute of Museum and Library Services, there are more than 35,000 museums in the United States, employing more than 400,000 individuals. History museums constitute 48% of the total museums in the country; there are more than 16,800 historical societies and historic preservation organizations alone. While job requirements vary among specific professional roles, the MA degree offered by this program qualifies graduates for a wide range of careers in the museum and heritage field. Faculty and mentors in the Museum Studies Program provide students with placement assistance, counseling, and access to information on career opportunities. Our alumni are employed at institutions around the country, from Santa Fe to Philadelphia, Minneapolis to Dallas.

Future Career Options

- Archive Registrar
- Archivist
- Conservator
- Docent
- Exhibition Designer
- Historian
- Historic Site Interpreter
- Historical Preservation Officer
- Museum Curator
- Museum Education
- Museum Director
- Membership Officer
- Museum Preparator
- Records Systems Manager
- Researcher for Public History

Skills Developed By Degree Completion

- Historical research based on disciplinary protocols
- Digital technologies used to create, present, and distribute interpretive content
- Assessment and evaluation strategies tied to best professional practices for museum, historic site, and program activities
- Effective communication of interpretive content for diverse public audiences
- Professional and ethical competencies required of contributors to museum, heritage, and public history collaborative settings
- Strategies for community collaboration and capacity to understand and facilitate diverse perspectives in planning and interpretation

Successful alumni have gone on to fulfill many of the opportunities above. Additional possibilities are taken from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Contact an advisor to discuss additional future career options.

2024-2025 2-YEAR ACADEMIC MAP

Master of Arts in History with an emphasis in Museums, Heritage, and Public History

Year
1

FALL SEMESTER (9 credit hours)

HIST 6000: The Historian's Craft (3)

HIST 6001: Introduction to Public History and Cultural Heritage (3)

Elective (3)

SPRING SEMESTER (9 credit hours)

HIST 6127: Museums and Communities (3)

HIST 6133: Digital Public History (3)

Elective (3)

Year
2

FALL SEMESTER (8 credit hours)

HIST 6131: Museum Origins and Evolution (3)

HIST 6142: Readings in US History (5) or HIST 6143: Readings in World History (5)

SPRING SEMESTER (8 credit hours)

HIST 6138: Museum Studies Internship/Capstone Project (5)

Elective (3)

Check once completed



Last updated May 2024



IT STARTS RIGHT NOW

This is a sample academic map for the courses to take each academic semester/session. This map is not a substitute for academic advisement. Contact your advisor when making final selections.

APPLY FOR GRADUATION

Don't forget that students should apply for graduation one year prior to the intended graduation date, so apply prior to the deadline.

umsl.edu

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314-516-5451

umsl.edu/gradschool