

PUBLIC HISTORY (MA)

The Master of Arts in Public History program provides students both the theoretical and practical skill sets needed to perform public history work in a variety of vocations, whether as museum professionals, archivists, government contractors, community consultants, teachers both inside and outside the classroom, among others. Public historians are fundamental to shaping our understanding of the past—and our approach to the present.

Loyola University Chicago's distinguished MA in Public History prepares students to contribute to our shared knowledge of the history that informs our world today. Public history uses the past to serve a variety of contemporary needs. It entails the application of the skills and methods of history to the study, management, preservation, and interpretation of historical records and artifacts. A public historian is a professional who can put knowledge and skills to use in our society in such diverse activities as museum, historical society or archival work; neighborhood or community history projects; historic preservation and cultural resource management programs; and local, state, or federal research projects. Working with architects, librarians, business people, government policy analysts, exhibit designers or history enthusiasts, public historians contribute to our knowledge and understanding of the past.

The MA in Public History can be pursued full time or part time.

Curriculum

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
HIST 400	Contemporary Approaches to History	3
<i>Five Public History Courses</i>		15
HIST 479	Public History Media	
HIST 480	Public History: Method & Theory	
HIST 481	Management of Historic Resources	
HIST 482	Archives & Record Management	
HIST 487	Public History: Museums	
HIST 582	Public History Internship	1
<i>One 500-level Research Seminar or HIST 599 Directed Research</i>		3
<i>Three Minor Field Courses</i>		9
HIST 400-level course		
HIST 400-level course		
HIST 400-level course		
Total Hours		31

Suggested Sequence of Courses

The below sequence of courses is meant to be used as a suggested path for completing coursework. An individual student's completion of requirements depends on course offerings in a given term as well as the start term for a major or graduate study. Students should consult their advisor for assistance with course selection.

Course	Title	Hours
Year 1		
Fall		
HIST 400	Contemporary Approaches to History	3
HIST 479	Public History Media	3

HIST 480	Public History: Method & Theory	3
Hours		9
Spring		
HIST 482	Archives & Record Management	3
HIST 400-level course		3
HIST 400-level course		3
Hours		9
Summer		
HIST 582	Public History Internship	1
Hours		1
Year 2		
Fall		
HIST 400-level course		3
HIST 500-level course		3
Hours		6
Spring		
HIST 481	Management of Historic Resources	3
HIST 487	Public History: Museums	3
Hours		6
Total Hours		31

Comprehensive Field Examination

Toward the end of their graduate program, public history students must pass a two-hour oral examination in the field of public history before a two-person faculty committee, one of whom must be the Public History Program Director. The examination covers the field of public history and reflects the readings and assignments included in each of the public history courses as well as a review of the student's portfolio.

There is no examination in the minor field, but students must maintain at least a B average (3.0) in the three minor field courses.

Public History Portfolio

The portfolio, which represents the capstone of the program, documents the achievements of master's students and thereby identifies their strengths, weaknesses, and abilities as professional historians. Students begin compiling their portfolio during the first semester in the program. The portfolio will be evaluated by the two-person faculty examination committee. The portfolio will be submitted to the examination committee a minimum of two days prior to the oral exam.

Graduate & Professional Standards and Regulations

Students in graduate and professional programs can find their Academic Policies in Graduate and Professional Academic Standards and Regulations (<https://catalog.luc.edu/academic-standards-regulations/graduate-professional/>) under their school. Any additional University Policies supercede school policies.

Upon completion of the MA in Public History, graduates will be able to:

1. Use public history methods and theories to share historical interpretation with a broad range of public audiences;
2. Apply new media digital tools to the preservation and presentation of archival material;
3. Utilize the best professional practices to preserve, catalog, and present historical artifacts and records;

4. Understand and employ local, state, and federal preservation rules to establish the significance of historic properties;
5. Demonstrate the ability to work with public history institutions to make the past relevant to diverse communities;
6. Perform historical research in archives and libraries and evaluate the provenance, context, validity, and biases of these sources from the past;
7. Apply the necessary research skills to produce original scholarship on a chosen historical topic using primary sources while evaluating the validity, context, and biases of secondary source literature produced by other scholars;
8. Demonstrate the ability to deploy multiple forms of communication (written, oral, and new media) to discuss their own historical scholarship and graduate-level knowledge of their chosen fields.