

# PUBLIC HISTORY, MASTER OF ARTS

Offered by Department of History (<http://catalog.unk.edu/graduate/departments/history/>)

## Public History Program Information and Admission Requirements

### Master of Arts Degree

- Option A: Thesis Option
- Option B: Non-Thesis Option

### Master of Arts in Public History Admission Criteria

Admission to the Public History MA program is based on undergraduate GPA, letter of intent, references, and a writing sample. An applicant interested in pursuing a MA in Public History should<sup>1</sup>:

1. Meet the requirements for admission set forth by the Office of Graduate Studies and Academic Outreach by submitting a graduate online application (<https://www.applyweb.com/unkgrad/>),
2. Have completed an undergraduate program containing at least 18 semester credit hours of history or related disciplines or have completed an undergraduate program with comparable experience in the field of history,
3. Have a 3.0 undergraduate GPA.
4. Submit a letter of intent that describes the applicant's interests and goals in obtaining a graduate degree,
5. Submit evidence of the writing and analytical skills necessary for graduate level course work,
6. List at least two references.

### Program Requirements

- At least half of the course work in each program (excluding thesis credit hours) must be completed in non-P courses.
- Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA in all graduate credit hours to graduate.

### Academic Project for Non-Thesis Students

Students pursuing the non-thesis option must do the following:

1. Complete all coursework with a cumulative GPA of 3.0.
2. At the conclusion of the program, students will develop and complete a substantial, original public history project. Student projects serve as an opportunity to demonstrate knowledge, skills, and abilities in public history practice. Exact details will vary and should be developed in consultation with the Graduate Program Chair. Students will be required to write a process paper to accompany their project and to defend their work before a committee consisting of at least three faculty.

### Thesis and Thesis Committee for Thesis Students

Students interested in pursuing the thesis option must do the following:

1. Complete at least 12 credit hours of course work with a 3.5 GPA including HIST 801.
2. Complete HIST 894 with a grade of B or better, and maintain an overall GPA of 3.5 or better.

3. Obtain a Letter of Agreement from a history faculty member who agrees to serve as thesis advisor.
4. Submit to the graduate chair and receive approval of a Thesis Prospectus that outlines the proposed thesis topic.
5. Submit "Proposed Supervisory Committee for Thesis" form.
6. Successfully defend their completed thesis in an oral defense to be conducted by the student's thesis committee.

A completed thesis must be submitted for the approval of the thesis committee within two years from the completion of the course work. This time requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Department's Graduate Committee.

The thesis committee shall consist of a minimum of three members:

1. The candidate's thesis advisor who will serve as chair;
2. a member representing the candidate's major discipline (generally from the degree granting institution); and
3. a third member representing a related field selected at large from the University of Nebraska Graduate Faculty.

Students in the thesis-option are encouraged to present their research at an academic research conference approved by their thesis advisor.

<sup>1</sup> In the absence of any of the above, admission may be granted on a conditional basis.

### Accelerated Master of Arts in History Admission Criteria

UNK undergraduate students may apply to the Accelerated MA in History Program or Accelerated MA in Public History Program by submitting an application to the UNK Office of Graduate Studies and Academic Outreach. Applicants must have junior standing and a minimum GPA of 3.0 in undergraduate coursework. In their application, they should include a letter of intent that describes their interests and goals in applying to the Accelerated Master's Program, submit a writing sample demonstrating the writing and analytical skills necessary for graduate level course work, and list at least two references. Applicants will be admitted on a conditional basis to the MA in History Program or MA in Public History Program. Full admission requires completion of the undergraduate degree and a minimum GPA of 3.0 in both undergraduate and graduate coursework. The Accelerated Master's Program is open only to UNK students enrolled in one of the UNK History Department's undergraduate degree programs.

<sup>1</sup> In the absence of any of the 6 criteria, admission may be granted on a conditional basis.

This program is offered on campus and online.

### Option A: Thesis

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Core Courses</b>		
HIST 801	America Interpreted	3
HIST 864	Public History Seminar	3
HIST 865	Public History Methods	3
HIST 868P	Digital History	3
HIST 875	Internship in History <sup>1</sup>	3
Select 6 credit hours of U.S. History Courses		6
OR Select 6 credit hours of Non-U.S. History Courses		
Select 6 credit hours of Public History electives		6

HIST 894	Introduction to Thesis	3
HIST 896	Thesis	6
Total Credit Hours		36

### Option B: Non-Thesis

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Core Courses</b>		
HIST 801	America Interpreted	3
HIST 864	Public History Seminar	3
HIST 865	Public History Methods	3
HIST 868P	Digital History	3
HIST 875	Internship in History <sup>1</sup>	3
HIST 897	Public History Project	6
Select 6 credit hours of U.S. History courses		6
OR Select 6 credit hours of Non-U.S. History courses		
Select 6 credit hours of Public History electives		6
Select 3 credit hours of U.S., Non-U.S., or Public History courses		3
Total Credit Hours		36

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Students already employed in a public history position or possessing substantial and substantive experience in public history work may substitute an additional elective in public history for an internship with the approval from the Graduate Program Chair (GPC). The Public History GPC will determine if a student's outside experience is significant enough to merit this course substitution.