

Central Connecticut State University
M.A. in Public History

History Department
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 6050

http://www.history.ccsu.edu/ma_pubhist.html



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Established in 2002, the M.A. in Public History at Central Connecticut State University admits five to eight students each year. The program specializes in preparing students for work in history museums and historic preservation, but also includes opportunities for coursework in digital history, oral history, and historical archeology. CCSU is centrally located in New Britain, and the M.A. Program in Public History uses all of Connecticut and southern New England as its field lab, drawing on the region's wealth of museums, historical societies, archives, and historic sites. The University is home to Connecticut History, the scholarly journal of the Association for Connecticut History. In addition, CCSU's History Department includes the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies, a distinct academic chair that owes its existence to New Britain's Polish-American immigrant community.

Type of Program: Public History Graduate Program

Degree(s) offered: M.A. in Public History

Concentration(s):

- Museum Studies
- Historic Preservation
- Local/Community History
- Please note that the areas noted above are not formal concentrations in that they do not appear on a student's transcript. But these are the areas in which strong course work exists.

Course Offerings: Below are our regular public history course offerings. Students are also required to take traditional history courses including "The Professional Historian"(required, offered every year) which focuses on research and writing skills development.

- Public History Courses:
 - o Seminar in Public History (required, offered every year)
 - o Internship in Public History (required, offered every year)
 - o Capstone Project in Public History (required, offered every year)
 - o Historic Preservation (not required, offered every third semester)
 - o Museum Studies (not required, offered every third semester)
 - o Digital History (not required, offered every third semester)
 - o Local and Community History (not required, offered every year)
 - o Material Culture (not required, offered every year)
 - o Oral History (not required, offered every year)
 - o Field School in Historical Archeology (not required, offered every summer)
 - o Heritage Tourism (not required, offered irregularly)

Thesis required? No

Special project required? Yes

Description: The program culminates with a capstone project as opposed to a traditional research paper. Student-designed projects incorporate primary source historical research and communicate their findings to a nonacademic audience. It is expected that many students will choose their final projects in conjunction with their internship

experience. The topic and format of the Capstone Project must be developed in consultation with the Public History Coordinator and the Capstone Project Adviser. Every Capstone Project must: 1. Make a scholarly contribution to the discipline of history; 2. Involve original research using primary sources; 3. Demonstrate the student's knowledge of the historical topic and the historiography of that topic and place his/her work within this body of knowledge and academic study; 4. Demonstrate the student's ability to think and write critically, analytically, and clearly; 5. Demonstrate the student's knowledge of public history practices and techniques and his/her ability to craft a project that meets professional public history standards. Students are required to complete both the project component and a 25-30 page paper of publishable quality. Potential projects include, but are not limited to:

- Exhibitions
- National Register Nominations, Context Studies, or Historical Surveys
- Walking Tours
- Local or Institutional Histories
- Oral History Projects

Credit Hour Requirement: 33

Internship Required? Yes

Who arranges internships? Students choose their internships with input and assistance from faculty advisor.

Credit hours earned for internships: 3

Who evaluates internship? What are the criteria for evaluation? Students will receive a letter grade evaluating the successful completion of their internship. This grade will be assigned by the sponsoring faculty member based on the student's work journal, final paper, and annotated bibliography. The faculty member may also take into account the evaluation of the professional supervisor, however, all final grades are awarded based solely on the judgment of the sponsoring faculty.

Places where students have interned in the past three years:

- Connecticut Humanities Council
- The Connecticut Historical Society
- Connecticut Landmarks
- The Windsor Historical Society
- the Litchfield Historical Society
- Hartford Preservation Alliance
- Connecticut Explored (a statewide history magazine)
- Connecticut State Archives
- New Haven Preservation Trust
- The History Division of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism

Admission Requirements:

students who do not meet these requirements may apply for conditional admission

- Minimum GPA: 3.0
- a degree in history or related field
- Letter(s) of Recommendation
- Transcripts

Financial Aid Available:

- Loans
- Scholarships
- Assistantships
- In-State Status

Maximum annual stipend for: MA: N/A PhD: N/A

Average number of students who receive: Stipend: N/A Scholarships: 1

How many students are admitted annually? BA: N/A MA: 5 to 8 PhD: N/A

Placement assistance offered? In conjunction with Career Services, the Public History Coordinator assists students with job searches, resume and coverletter writing, and interviewing

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

- The National Park Service
- The Windsor Historical Society
- The Connecticut Old State House
- The New London Custom House Museum
- The Children's Museum of Southeastern Connecticut
- Litchfield Historical Society
- Connecticut Landmarks
- Private Practice as a Historical Consultant