

Middle Tennessee State University Public History Program

Dept. of History
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

<http://www.mtsu.edu/publichistory/index.shtml>

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MTSU was among the first American universities to embrace the study of public history when it initiated the Master of Arts in History with a concentration in Historic Preservation in 1973. As the study of public history became established in graduate education nationwide, the Department of History expanded the program to include Museum Studies, Cultural Resources Management, and Archival Management and Administration. As a result of these changes, the History Department changed the official degree title in 1991 to M.A. in History with an emphasis in Public History. Recognizing that only a handful of universities offer doctoral training in the field, MTSU initiated the Ph.D. in Public History in 2005 - the first doctoral program to declare public history as the major field of study.

Type of Program: Public History Graduate Program

Degree(s) offered: M.A. in History
M.A. in Public History- with post-M.A. certificate programs
Ph.D. in Public History

Concentration(s):

- Museum Management*
- Archival Management*
- Historic Preservation*
- Cultural Resources Management*
- Oral History

** indicates availability of certificate*

MTSU is a member of the Archival Education Collaborative, an intercollegiate collaborative of five universities that provides a comprehensive program of professional education recommended by the Society of American Archivists

Course Offerings:

- Public History Seminar; required; offered annually
- Historiography; required unless already taken at M.A. level (for Ph.D. students); offered each semester
- Historical Research Methods; required unless already taken at M.A. level (for Ph.D. students); offered each semester
- Public History Internship; required for M.A. students
- Professional Residency Colloquium; required for Ph.D. students
- Essentials of Historic Preservation and Cultural Resource Management; offered annually
- Essentials of Archival Management; offered annually
- Essentials of Museum Management; offered annually
- Seminar in Historic Preservation; offered every other year
- Seminar in Cultural Resource Management; offered every other year
- Seminar in Archival Management; offered every other year
- Seminar in Museum Management; offered every other year
- Oral History Theory and Methodology; offered every other year
- Seminar in Administration of Historical Organizations; offered every other year
- Seminar in Collections Management for Archives and Museums; offered every other year
- Seminar in Public Programming for Historical Organizations; offered every other year
- Archives Practicum; offered as needed

- Seminar in American Architectural History; offered every other year
 - American Material Culture; offered every other year
 - Archaeology for Public History; offered every other year
 - Variety of courses in archival studies offered through the Archival Education Collaborative
- Variety of readings, topics, and research seminars offered by the History Department (9 hours required for M.A. students; 9-15 hours required for Ph.D. students)*

Thesis required? Yes, but non-thesis option with a research component is available

Special project required?

Description: N/A

Credit Hour Requirement: M.A.: 33 (36 for the non-thesis option) Ph.D.: 60. The optional certificate programs require further coursework

Internship Required? Yes, for M.A. students. Ph.D. students are required to complete a two-semester professional residency, the details of which are arranged by the student and his or her dissertation supervisor. Further information about the residency can be found on our website, listed above.

Who arranges internships? The Student working with the Internship Coordinator, Dr. Martha Norkunas.

Credit hours earned for internships: 3.0 semester hours

Who evaluates internship? What are the criteria for evaluation? Interns are paired with a professional mentor and either work on a specific project or rotate through a series of departments working on smaller projects for a minimum of 300 hours. Interns write a scope of work, keep a daily journal, maintain a portfolio of projects, and write an 8-10 page self-reflective essay. These items are evaluated by the Internship Coordinator, Dr. Martha Norkunas.

Places where students have interned in the past three years:

- American Association for State and Local History
- Archives, Tennessee Tech University
- Belmont University
- City of Franklin, Tennessee, Historic Preservation Planning
- Cowpens National Battlefield
- Don F. Pratt Museum, Fort Campbell Kentucky
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Historic New Orleans Collection
- Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Historical Commission
- Middle Tennessee State University Center for Historic Preservation
- Middle Tennessee State University Center for Popular Music
- Middle Tennessee State University Digital Media Initiative, Walker Library
- New York Historical Society
- Rutherford County, Tennessee, Archives
- Smithsonian Institution, Museum Conservation Institute
- Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
- Stones River National Battlefield
- Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area
- Tennessee State Department of Tourism
- Tim’s Ford State [Tennessee] Park
- Tennessee State Library and Archives
- Tennessee State Museum
- Women’s Rights National Historical Park Administrative History Project

Admission Requirements:

- Minimum GPA: 3.00
- Statement of Intent
- Letter(s) of Recommendation
- Transcripts
- Writing Sample
- GRE Aptitude Score

Financial Aid Available:

- Loans
- Assistantships
- Stipends
- Fellowships
- Tuition Waiver
- In-State Status

Maximum annual stipend for: MA*: 6,000 PhD*: 14,000 **plus tuition waiver*

The cost of living in Murfreesboro, Tennessee is comparatively low. These are teaching and research assistantships awarded by the History Department; additional assistantship opportunities are available through our partners.

Average number of students who receive: Stipend: 15(MA) 10 (PhD) Scholarships: N/A

Total number of new and continuing assistantships awarded annually; this number does not include assistantships offered through our partners.

How many students are admitted annually? BA: N/A MA: 15-20 PhD: 3-6

Placement assistance offered? Faculty often work with students to help them find placement through professional contacts and our nationwide alumni network. Internships and professional residencies also produce job placements. The graduate community at MTSU frequently hosts workshops on CV writing, job interviews, and portfolio creation.

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

- 1220 Exhibits
- Albert Gore Research Center, Middle Tennessee State University
- Ancestry.com
- Blount Mansion Association
- Burritt on the Mountain, Huntsville, AL
- Carl Sandberg National Historic Site
- City of Franklin, TN, Preservation Planner
- Civil War 150 Leadership Corps Member, Ohio History Service AmeriCorps Program
- Colorado Historical Society
- Department of Defense
- Department of Museum Program and Studies, Tusculum College, Greeneville, TN, Interim Director
- East Tennessee History Museum
- First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University
- Freed-Hardeman University, adjunct
- Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm Historic Site
- Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County Historical Commission
- Middle Tennessee State University, adjunct
- Music management archival consultant, Nashville, TN
- Nashville Public Library
- National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City