

University of West Georgia
Public History



History Department
University of West Georgia
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<http://www.westga.edu/pubhistory/index.php>

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The Public History program at the University of West Georgia was established in 1998. We offer several program options, including a concentration in public history in the M.A. program, an add-on Museum Studies Certificate program with the Atlanta History Center, and an add-on Public History Certificate program for students who already hold an M.A. in History or a closely-related field. UWG has a new agreement to cross-list classes in Library and Information Science with Valdosta State University. One of the strengths of the program is the array of graduate research assistantships offered at the Center for Public History, the Annie Belle Weaver Special Collections, the Antonio Waring Archaeology Laboratory, and other sites within the region. The program admits approximately twelve to fifteen students each year and graduates from eight to ten students during an academic year.

Type of Program: Public History Graduate Program

Degree(s) offered: B.A. in History
M.A. in History with a Certificate or Concentration in Public History
Museum Studies Certificate with the Atlanta History Center and a Public History Certificate

Concentration(s):

- Museum Studies
- Archival Practices
- Historic Preservation
- Historical Administration
- Material History
- Library Science Program
- Local/Community History
- Oral History
- Non-Print Media/Media studies

Course Offerings:

- Introduction to Public History, required, offered every two years
- Theory & Practice of Oral History, not required, offered every two years
- Introduction to Archival Theory and Practice, not required, offered every two years
- History of American Architecture, not required, offered every two years
- Advanced Archives Practicum, not required, offered every two years
- Theory and Methods of Material Culture Study, not required, offered every two years
- Studies and Research in American Folklife, not required, offered every two years
- Administration of Museums and Historic Sites, required for Museum Studies Certificate, offered every two years
- Collections Management in Museums, required for Museum Studies Certificate, offered every two years
- Education and Interpretation at Museums, required for Museum Studies Certificate, offered every two years
- Exhibits at Museums and Historic Sites, required for Museum Studies Certificate, offered every two years
- Digital History and New Media, not required, offered every two years
- State and Local History, not required, offered every two to three years
- Digital Archives, not required, offered every two years
- Historic Preservation, not required, offered every two to three years
- Cultural Resource Management, not required, offered by the Anthropology department every two to three years
- Public History Internship, required, offered every semester

Thesis required? No

Special project required? Yes

Description: Public History concentrators must complete either a thesis or a thesis/project. The thesis/project requires a publishable quality essay and a distinct project that they student has completed.

Credit Hour Requirement: 36

Internship Required? Yes

Who arranges internships? A public history advisor and the student arrange the internship together.

Credit hours earned for internships: 3

Who evaluates internship? What are the criteria for evaluation? The faculty member evaluates the internship, drawing upon a midterm and final evaluation prepared by the internship sponsor and the midterm and final evaluations prepared by the student

Places where students have interned in the past three years:

- Atlanta History Center
- National Park Service sites
- National Archives
- Georgia Archives
- Georgia Humanities Council
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Other museums and historical organizations in Georgia and around the country

Admission Requirements:

Minimum GPA: N/A
 Statement of Purpose
 Transcripts
 Writing Sample
 GRE Aptitude Score

Financial Aid Available:

Loans
 Scholarships
 Assistantships
 Stipends
 Fellowships
 Tuition Waiver
 In-State Status

Maximum annual stipend for: MA: Graduate Research Assistantships typically pay \$3,000 per semester plus a tuition waiver
 PhD: N/A

Average number of students who receive: Stipend: Approximately 10-15 public history students each year receive a graduate research assistantships
 Scholarships: N/A

How many students are admitted annually? BA: N/A MA: 12-15 PhD: N/A

Placement assistance offered? We assist students with developing resumes and we maintain a list-serve for current students and alumni to share job announcements. Our faculty members are constantly helping to identify jobs for which student skill sets would be appropriate.

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

- Atlanta History Center
- Georgia State Archives
- New South Associates
- Main Street Laramie (WY) and Douglasville (GA)
- Fort Casper Museum (WY)
- Country Music Hall of Fame: Patriot’s Point (SC)
- Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield NHP
- Marietta Museum of History
- Georgia DOT
- Cherokee Museum (OK)
- Chieftain’s Museum
- Vulcan Park and Museum (AL)
- Georgia Humanities Council
- Bartow History Museum
- Bandy Heritage Center at Dalton State University
- Civil War Center at Kennesaw State University
- Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum (TN)
- Manzanar NPS (CA)
- Museum of the Grand Prairie (IL)
- Meteetsie Historical Society (WY)
- Columbus Museum (GA)
- Capps Museum and Archives at Delta State University (MS)