

Western Michigan University
Public History Program

Dept. of History
Friedmann Hall
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
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The graduate Public History Program at Western Michigan University was established nearly twenty years ago with the aim of preparing students for careers in the applied field of history. It admits one to two Ph.D students and four to six Master of Arts students annually. Three to four students complete the program each year. Some students combine their graduate degree with a graduate certificate in Ethnohistory.

Type of Program: Public History Graduate Program

Degree(s) offered: B.A. in Public History
B.A. in History
M.A. in History
M.A. in History with a Certificate or Concentration in Public History
Ph.D. in History
Ph.D. in History with a Certificate or Concentration in Public History

Concentration(s):

- Museum Studies
- Archival Practices
- Historic Preservation
- Material History
- Local/Community History
- Oral History
- Historical Archaeology
- Ethnohistory in conjunction with Anthropology cultural resources management

Course Offerings:

- Topics in Public History (offered under different subtitles) required; offered annually
- Seminar in public history (offered under different subtitles) required, offered annually
- Material Culture, optional, offered every other year
- Oral History, Optional, offered every other year
- Ethnohistory, required for certificate, offered every other year
- Cultural Resources Management, optional, offered every year

Thesis required? No

Special project required? Yes

Description: Each student completes a project linked to his/her internship; a thesis can be written as an option.

Credit Hour Requirement: 39

Internship Required? Yes

Who arranges internships? program co-directors work with students to arrange internships

Credit hours earned for internships: 6

Who evaluates internship? What are the criteria for evaluation? the internship is offered on a credit/no credit basis. The students, the program co-directors, and the agency supervisors all participate in a written and oral evaluation process.

Places where students have interned in the past three years:

- WMU students complete internships at a wide variety of local, state, regional, and national organizations ranging from the Kalamazoo Valley Museum to the National Park Service.

Admission Requirements:

Minimum GPA: varies depending on other qualifications
Statement of Purpose
Letter(s) of Recommendation
Transcripts
Writing Sample
GRE Aptitude Score
Students are encouraged to submit a portfolio of Public History work.

Financial Aid Available:

Loans
Scholarships
Assistantships
Fellowships
Tuition Waiver

Maximum annual stipend for: MA: varies from year to year PhD: varies from year to year

Average number of students who receive: Stipend: 4 Scholarships: 1

How many students are admitted annually? BA: 50 MA: 5 PhD: 1

Placement assistance offered? Faculty work on a one-on-one basis with students to identify career goals and objectives at the outset of the program. The selection of research projects and topics and an internship are regarded as steps that contribute to placement. Faculty review j

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

- Florida Preservation Network
- Veterans' Administration
- Kalamazoo Public Library