

Students interested in pursuing a career in public history are urged to consider the department's MA in Public History track.

Public history students take field courses, seminars, internships, and laboratory courses that cover a broad range of public history sub-fields, including archival management, oral history, museology, cultural resource management, site interpretation, publications, and historic preservation. Coursework includes a balance of classroom and practical offerings.

**HST 500: Intro to the MA Program in History** HST 500 4 cred

*This course is strongly recommended for all MA students beginning their graduate coursework and is required for those who have not completed HST 300: Historical Imagination or an equivalent undergraduate course in historiography.*

**HST 596: Intro to Public History** HST 596 4 cred

*This introductory course in public history is required of all public history track MA students.*

**HST 509: Public History Seminar** HST 509 4 cred

*One seminar course in public history is required of all public history track MA students.*

**HST 504: Public History Internship** HST 504 4 cred

*An internship in public history is required of all public history track MA students.*

**HST 511: Public History Lab** HST 511 3 cred

*Two lab courses in public history are required of all public history track MA students.* HST 511 3 cred

**HST 503: Thesis** (eight credits of thesis work is required of all MA students) HST 503 8 cred

*Public history MA students must present a thesis containing a public component (e.g. exhibit, website, public program, audio or video document).*

*All MA students must be registered for at least 1 credit of thesis work during the term they intend to present their thesis to committee.*

*Students must complete both field examinations and language examinations (or equivalent) before embarking on thesis research.*

**Secondary Field coursework:**

*Coursework for the MA in public history must also comprise a secondary historical field of a minimum of 8 credit of coursework united by a common geographical focus by agreement between the student and the field examiner.*

Field II coursework at least 8 cred

*Seminar courses may also count towards these field requirements.*

**Additional/Elective courses:**

*Students may count a maximum of 12 combined credits of 501 (research) and 505 (reading and conference) courses and a maximum of 9 combined credits of 508 and 509 (practicum) courses towards the MA degree requirements.*

*With advisor approval, a maximum of 12 credits of graduate-level (500-level or higher) coursework outside the field of History may be applied towards the MA degree.*

*A minimum of 48 credits is required for the MA in Public History.*

*All courses must be graded A through F (pass/no pass option is not acceptable).*

total must be at least 48 cred

**Credit Transfers:**

MA students may transfer up to 16 credits of graduate-level coursework from another university or from PSU prior to formal admission to the MA Program, by submitting a GO-21 form to the Office of Graduate Studies.

**Written Examinations:**

All students are required to take written examinations covering their two chosen fields of concentration. The written examination in the student's first field should be passed before the end of the first year of graduate study (i.e., 24 credits). Students should pass the written examination in the second field before the completion of 32 credits.

Examiners will generally expect you to have taken some course work and/or directed reading with them in preparation for the written examinations. You should meet with them well in advance to discuss the examination's scope, format, etc. ***Both written examinations must be passed before a student may register for coursework relating to the thesis.***

**Oral Examinations:**

Each student must also take a final oral examination (sometimes referred to as the thesis defense) covering all aspects of graduate work, after satisfactory completion of the written examinations and approval by the thesis advisor. The composition of your oral examination committee is very important and merits consideration early on in your program. You will need three History professors on your committee, including your thesis advisor (from whom you have taken one written examination), your second area advisor (from whom you have taken the second written examination), a third history professor from whom you have taken at least one class (although in some cases, your third committee member may be from another department, depending on the topic of your thesis), and an outside examiner appointed by the Office of Graduate Studies. ***The two professors that administered your written exams must be on your thesis committee.***

The Office of Graduate Studies will appoint a professor from outside of the History Department to sit on your committee, once you file the GO-16 form during the term prior to your graduation. Pay careful attention to your committee composition and ***do not rely*** on non-regular faculty (this includes temporary faculty, part-time faculty or those outside the department) to administer your written exams in your two main fields of concentration.

**Foreign Language Requirement:**

The department stresses the importance of adequate preparation in foreign languages to be utilized by students in their advanced study and research. Graduate students must demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language germane to their thesis field no later than the point at which they have completed 32 credits of graduate study.

**Enrollment:**

Continuous enrollment in the program is important. You must register for classes in the term during which you are admitted into the program, or the admission will be cancelled by the Registrar's Office. If you must be absent for a term or more, you must state your intentions in a memo to the History Department Graduate Coordinator with a copy to the Graduate Studies Office. ***Once a student has enrolled for any thesis credit, he or she must be continuously enrolled from that point forward until completion of the program. Additionally, a student must be enrolled for at least one credit hour during the term he or she intends to defend the thesis and graduate, even if all 48 credit hours of the MA program have been completed by that time.***

**Graduation Deadlines/Forms:**

The Graduate Office annually prints a list of deadlines for graduation that must be met by students and their departments. There are several forms that must be filed by these deadlines in order for a student to apply for graduation. Consult the OGSR website at [www.gsr.pdx.edu/gs/default.html](http://www.gsr.pdx.edu/gs/default.html).