

PUBLIC HISTORY, UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE

The Certificate in Public History program was created in response to the growing demand for professionals trained to engage diverse audiences with the past beyond traditional academic settings. While the undergraduate certificate itself is new, it reflects long-standing trends in the field of history—where museums, archives, historic sites, cultural institutions, and community organizations have increasingly sought graduates with practical skills in preservation, interpretation, and public engagement.

The program provides students with foundational coursework in historical methods while offering specialized training in areas of emphasis including, but not limited to museum studies, archives and preservation, digital history, and community-engaged history. It also emphasizes applied learning opportunities through internships, field experiences, and collaborative projects with local institutions.

Areas of Interest may include:



- Museum Studies and Material Culture
- Archives and Records Management
- Digital History and Public Engagement
- Community and Oral History
- Genealogy

Career Paths for students who complete the certificate include positions in museums, archives, historic preservation, cultural resource management, heritage tourism, nonprofit administration, government agencies, and education. Many might also pursue advanced study in history, public history, library science, or related fields.

Graduation Requirements

Students will take the Comprehensive Course/Project: Public History Seminar (HST 475 History Internship) to complete their capstone project for the certificate. The total credit hours is 16.

Course Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
HST 210 	History in Action	3
HST 437	Seminar in Public History	3
HST 475	History Internship (At least 3 credits but may take up to 6 credits)	3 or 6
Electives (needs 3-6 hours depending on HST 475 credits)		3 or 6
ANT 201 	Cultural Anthropology (CT)	
ANT 322	Archaeology	
ART 101	Visual Culture and Research	
ART 329	Cinematic Non-Fiction	


DH 201 	Intro to Digital Humanities
ENG 314	Intro to Professional Writing
ENG 408	Writing in the Digital World
HST 218	Ancient Egypt
HST 314	LGBTQ+ History of the US
HST 344	The United States in the 1980s
HST 401	History of Appalachia
HST 414	Am Civil War & Reconstruct
HST 456	Intro to Genealogy
HST 467	Fashion and Textile History
HST 470	The Civil War in Myth & Memory
HST 473	Tracks through Time
GEO 110	Basic GIS
GEO 113	Web GIS
GEO 223	Mapping Our World
JMC 241	Media Design
JMC 260	Digital Imaging for JMC
JMC 265	Introduction to Podcasting
MKT 345	Hospitality & Tour Marketing
MKT 400	Social Media Marketing

Total Credit Hours 16

Semester Plan

First Year

First Semester

	Credit Hours
HST 210 	History in Action 3
Elective	1-3 credits
Elective	3
Credit Hours 7-9	

Second Semester

HST 437	Seminar in Public History 3
HST 475	History Internship 3 or 6
Elective (If needed depending on HST 475 credits)	3
Credit Hours 9-12	
Total Credit Hours 16-21	