Department Mission

The mission of the History Department is to shape exceptional scholars and broaden historical horizons by offering a rigorous program for students who are passionate about history and furthering their education. Small classes and close mentoring with top research faculty mean a personalized graduate experience and access to a close-knit community of scholars. Hands-on learning immerses students in historiographical debates, tightens analytical and writing skills and develops research abilities. The department is committed to the highest levels of academic excellence and to providing top-quality mentoring and training for its students.

Related Degrees

Master of Arts in History with a concentration in Public History

In my work as an education outreach specialist, the Certificate program has influenced the ways I develop resources for a larger audience. It increased my awareness of the importance of community and a greater appreciation that all voices matter.

– Buck Cole, Certificate Recipient ’12,
  Texas General Land Office

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Why choose Texas State?
San Marcos offers a rich locale for public history practice with more than 50 history museums, archives, preservation organizations and historic sites within a 100-mile radius, including The LBJ Presidential Library and Museum, the San Antonio Missions, the Bullock Texas State History Museum and the Texas State Library and Archives.

Students gain practical skills and knowledge through Center for Texas Public History projects while partnerships and interdisciplinary cooperative agreements provide additional resources that enhance each student’s experience.

Course Work
Students are required to complete 15 hours of public history courses including the foundation course of the public history program. Students must complete 12 hours in other public history courses, choosing from course topics such as oral history, cultural resource management, museum studies, historic preservation practice, archival management, and local and community history. The certificate culminates with a presentation of a final portfolio of work. Public history courses are offered in the evenings to accommodate working professionals.

Career Options
Individuals who may benefit from professional training in the field include:

» volunteer historians and preservationists, particularly members of historical societies and directors and docents at museums
» public officials, including historical commission members and urban planners
» educators, including elementary, middle school and high school teachers
» administrators who want to learn how to employ public history in their teaching and curriculum development

Faculty
The History Department boasts an impressive faculty known for their varied research projects and professional expertise. The curriculum takes full advantage of established scholars and practicing professionals in the fields of historic preservation, oral history, local and community history, historic site interpretation, cultural resource management and museum and archival management. Faculty present their research at national and international conferences and publish books, book chapters and peer-reviewed journal articles in top venues in their field.

Important Deadlines*
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Fall: June 15
Spring: October 15
Summer: No admission

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How to Apply
For information regarding admission requirements and submission instructions, please visit: gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply

*International applicants can view specific deadlines and requirements at: gradcollege.txstate.edu/intl_home

For information on deadlines, admission requirements and funding, visit: gradcollege.txstate.edu/certificates