The Department of History at Texas State University offers a master of arts degree in history with a specialization in public history. The program prepares graduates for public history careers by combining a solid history curriculum with public history courses that draw on the experience of 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.

Students have the opportunity to gain practical skills and knowledge through internships while innovative partnerships and interdisciplinary cooperative agreements provide additional resources that enhance the program and each student’s experience.

The History Department boasts an impressive faculty known for their diverse research and teaching interests consistent with a reputation for scholarly excellence. The curriculum takes full advantage of established scholars in the Department of History, experienced professionals on campus and in the region, and cooperating institutions throughout Texas. Dr. Lynn Denton directs the public history program and the university’s Center for Texas Public History.
Course Work
The master of arts in history with a specialization in public history is available with a thesis or a non-thesis option. The non-thesis option requires 36 semester hours, 18 of which must be in designated public history courses. Students also take 18 hours of history courses in an approved period, region or thematic area. The thesis option requires 39 semester hours, including the general research seminar and six hours of thesis credit. All public history students must take the foundation course, the Practice of Public History, U.S. Historiography and at least three hours of internship.

Students may choose to write a thesis; however, it is not required for the public history program. A student may opt to have a six-hour outside cognate apply to the 18 hours required in approved history courses. All students must pass a comprehensive examination before graduation.

Courses include the following:
• The Practice of Public History
• Oral History
• Local and Community History
• Museum Studies and Material Culture
• Historic Preservation
• Archival Management
• Cultural Resource Management
• Public History Special Project
• Special Topics in Public History
• Public History Internship

Certificate in Public History
This certification provides practicing public historians with the opportunity to advance their skills and knowledge of theoretical and methodological approaches in archives, museums, historical interpretation, historic site management and historic preservation.

The program is designed to meet the growing need for public history specialists throughout the state. People who may benefit include community volunteer historians and preservationists, particularly members of historical societies and directors and docents at community museums; public officials, including historical commission members and urban planners; and educators, including elementary, middle school and high school teachers. The program is also useful for administrators who want to learn how to employ public history in their teaching and curriculum development. Public history courses are offered in the evenings to accommodate working professionals.

Students are admitted to the certificate program through the Graduate College. Students may transfer to the master’s program in public history if they submit the ApplyTexas application and fee and receive approval from the Public History Advisory Committee. No more than six hours of credit may be transferred.

For more information on the public history program, visit www.publichistory.history.txstate.edu.

Resources
Within a 100-mile radius of San Marcos are more than 50 history museums, archives and historic sites. The Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and Museum, the Alamo and San Antonio Missions National Park, the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, National Museum of the Pacific War, Texas State Library and Archives, Witte Museum and Austin History Center are just a few.

Admission Policy
Unconditional admission is based on a 3.25 or higher GPA on a minimum of 24 hours of undergraduate work in history, a preferred Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score of 156 (verbal reasoning only) and preferred six hours of undergraduate foreign language credit.

Each applicant must submit the following to The Graduate College:
• the online Graduate College application through ApplyTexas
• application fee
• one official transcript from each college or university attended
• official GRE score. See www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/hist.html for details regarding the GRE requirement.
• statement of purpose: Focused, carefully developed essay of 400-500 words on how the applicant’s undergraduate experience in history courses directed a career toward graduate level work in history, or how that experience shaped the expectations of history course work at the graduate level. Applicants should include their names on all pages.
• two letters of recommendation with at least one from a history professor if the student majored in history
• résumé
• brief statement of speaking and reading foreign language competencies

Visit www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/apply for access to an online application, where to submit application documents and additional details. The application deadline for those wishing full consideration for assistantships is March 15 for the fall semester and October 15 for the spring semester.

Financial Assistance
A limited number of assistantships and scholarships are available to qualified graduate students. Prospective students interested in applying for an assistantship should contact the graduate advisor in the History Department.

For more information about scholarships, financial aid and application deadlines, visit The Graduate College website at www.gradcollege.txstate.edu and click on Financing Your Graduate Education. Please note that program admission priority deadlines must be met in order to be considered for scholarships, fellowships and assistantships.

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