Twin Cities Campus

Heritage Studies and Public History M.H.S.P.H.

School of Architecture
College of Design

Link to a list of faculty for this program.

Contact Information:
School of Architecture
College of Design
Room 101 Rapson Hall
89 Church St SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0811

- Program Type: Master's
- Requirements for this program are current for Spring 2018
- Length of program in credits: 37
- This program does not require summer semesters for timely completion.
- Minnesota Historical Society History Center
- Degree: Master of Heritage Studies & Public History

Along with the program-specific requirements listed below, please read the General Information section of the catalog website for requirements that apply to all major fields.

Heritage studies and public history (HSPH) are the publicly engaged and community-accountable practices of historical scholarship, whether it is based in archival research, archaeology, material culture studies, architecture, preservation, or landscape studies. Although such a commitment to public interpretation, education, and preservation is part of all these disciplines, it is of tremendous benefit to heritage professionals to understand the connections and common issues in all of these perspectives, because the heritage field is increasingly characterized by such interdisciplinary integration.

The goal of this graduate program is to provide heritage and public history professionals this broader view, increasing their resource base and network of expertise. The program takes advantage of the deep scholarly expertise in these fields at the University of Minnesota, as well as the Minnesota Historical Societys extensive resources and expertise, to offer unparalleled training in the theory and methods of heritage and public history studies at the graduate level. The program will combine rigorous scholarly training with hands-on professional development, preparing graduates for positions in major public history and heritage institutions in Minnesota and elsewhere. The program will also train future generations of scholars and practitioners in the field to develop new, innovative, and entrepreneurial forms of historical interpretation in service of the public good.

Students are expected to acquire both general and specialized sets of perspectives and skills. Some required courses are designed to instill breadth and cohort connections; others are designed to build expertise in specific arenas of the heritage field, represented by the program tracks. Students will engage in experiential learning through embedded (credited) internships, and the design and execution of a community-engaged project.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Prerequisites for Admission

The preferred undergraduate GPA for admittance to the program is 3.00.

Special Application Requirements:
Prospective applicants are encouraged to consult the degree programs section of the School of Architecture website for additional information: http://arch.design.umn.edu.

International applicants must submit score(s) from one of the following tests:

- TOEFL

Key to test abbreviations(TOEFL).

For an online application or for more information about graduate education admissions, see the General Information section of the catalog website.

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Information current as of March 29, 2024

Program Requirements

Plan B: Plan B requires 31 major credits and 6 credits outside the major.The final exam is written and oral. A capstone project is required.
Capstone Project: The Plan B option is available only to students pursuing the archaeological heritage track. The Plan B project is identified and planned in consultation with the adviser and the Archaeology Department at the Minnesota Historical Society.

Plan C: Plan C requires 31 major credits and 6 credits outside the major.The is no final exam.A capstone project is required.
Capstone Project: This course will operate as a workshop, drawing together a cohort of students, working individually or as part of a team, to craft independent heritage studies and public history research projects under the supervision of a faculty instructor. Projects may be based in archival research, public exhibitions, archaeology, material culture studies and preservation, architecture and preservation, or landscape studies. Consistent with the values of the program, projects shall have multidisciplinary perspectives, broadly consider aspects of diversity, and will be accountable to some stakeholder(s) identified by the students.

This program may not be completed with a minor.

Use of 4xxx courses toward program requirements is permitted under certain conditions with adviser approval.

Core Coursework (13 credits)
All students must complete the following core courses. Take HSPH 8005 every fall and spring for 2 years for a total of 4 credits.
HSPH 8001 - Who Owns the Past? Common Concerns and Big Questions in Heritage and Public History (3.0 cr)
HSPH 8002 - Core Practices in Heritage Studies and Public History (3.0 cr)
HSPH 8003 - Race and Indigeneity in Heritage Representation (3.0 cr)
HSPH 8005 - Leadership and Future of Historical Organizations (1.0 cr)

Outside Coursework (6 credits)
All students must complete at least 6 credits outside the major, chosen in consultation with the adviser or director of graduate studies.

Program Sub-plans

Students are required to complete one of the following sub-plans.
Students may not complete the program with more than one sub-plan.

Archaeological Heritage

This sub-plan is limited to students completing the program under Plan B or Plan C.

Archaeological Heritage Track (18 credits)
The archaeological heritage track offers both the Plan B and Plan C options. Students are expected to identify their chosen option, in consultation with the advisor or director of graduate studies, by end of their second year in the program.
Required Archaeological Heritage Track Coursework (6 credits)
Take the following courses for a total of 6 credits:
HSPH 8004 - Capstone in Heritage Studies and Public History (3.0 cr)
ANTH 5448 - Applied Heritage Management (3.0 cr)
Electives (6 credits)
Students must complete at least 6 additional elective credits, selected in consultation with the advisor or director of graduate studies.

Plan Options

Plan B Requirements
Take 6 credits of HSPH 8101. At least 3 of the 6 credits must be applied to the Plan B project, with the remaining 3 assigned in consultation with the advisor or director of graduate studies.
HSPH 8101 - Internship (3.0 cr)

-OR-

Plan C Requirements
Take HSPH 8101 twice, to complete two separate internships, for a total of 6 credits.
HSPH 8101 - Internship (3.0 cr)

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