Proposal to change the Master of Arts in History

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# PROPOSAL 1: Masters of Arts in History with a concentration in US History

The faculty of the Department of History recommends changing Masters of Arts (MA) with a concentration in US History requirements to incorporate courses in Public History, Digital Public History, and Professional Development. We also intend to reduce the number of required thesis credit hours from six (6) to four (4) credit hours.

## RATIONALE

The proposed changes in the MA are based on several factors: 1) the curriculum will reflect recommendations from the American Historical Association and the National Council on Public History regarding skills desired by employers of those with Master’s Degrees; 2) it will ensure timely degree completion; 3) it will foster cooperation with other Master’s Degree programs in the School of Liberal Arts whose students would be eligible to take History courses as part of their degree electives; 3) facilitate alignment of the current MA with new MA programs being developed as part of IU Online to encourage faculty efficiency.

**Reflecting the Changing Historical Profession and the Needs of Employers**

In 2015, [Joint Task Force on Public History Education and Employment](https://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/affiliated-societies/national-council-on-public-history/public-history-employer-report-and-survey) of the American Association for State and Local History, the American Historical Association, the National Council on Public History, and the Organization of American Historians surveyed employers in an effort to understand what skills and knowledge are most valued when considering hiring. While employers continue to value core historical skills (critical thinking, content knowledge, ability to conduct research), they also now seek employees who are proficient in digital technologies. This shift towards digital history has been echoed by the American Historical Association who has encouraged graduate training programs to expand student’s fluency in digital technologies as a way to take advantage of the multiplicity of career paths. While Digital Public History was added as an elective in 2015, the decision was made that its growing importance within the historical profession and on the job market merits changing it from an elective to a required course. We have submitted for new course approval, History H565: Introduction to Digital Public History through CARMIN, taking the place of the H547: variable title course on Digital Public History that we have offered students as an elective.

Similarly, national trends in the employment of historians have shown a steady decrease in traditional academic employment. As a result, interest in alternative academic employment has risen. For those with a Master’s degree most alternative academic careers are in libraries, archives, museum, historical societies, academic presses, or corporate positions that require historical thinking. Students completed the Masters in History with a concentration in US History have been taking Public History as an elective. By making it a required course, we believe we will better prepare our students for careers in the public sector and will align our program with recommendations from the Joint Task Force. History H542: Introduction to Public History has been taught annually each fall as a four (4) credit course. We have submitted a change in course credit request for this course so that we may offer it as a required course for all students in our Master’s Degree and not just the students in the Public History concentration.

Additionally, the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, and the National Council on Public History, both through the Joint Task Force and through annual workshops held at their individual annual conferences, have all recommended incorporation of professional development skills within curriculum. Along with employers, these associations have identified that ability to navigate the job market, strategies to manage professional workplace environments, and proficiency in grant writing and fundraising are needed by candidates for employment in addition to digital fluency and knowledge of public history career paths. While students in our programs have participated in professional development opportunities both on campus through the Graduate College, the lack of a required course in professional development has disadvantaged our students on the job market. One prospective employer reported that there was a wide spectrum of competency in professional development skills from our students. By requiring them to attend focused instruction in topics related to professional development, we will be able to communicate key skills around job markets, networking and career pathways, workplace management and diversity, and skills for long-term career paths (grant writing and fundraising). We will be submitting a new course request to fulfil this requirement as History H505: Professional Development for Historians.

**Ensuring Timely Completion of Degree**

A thirty (30) hour degree curriculum requires students within the Masters of Arts to complete coursework and research for their thesis during summer session between their first and second year. As their coursework requires residency in Indianapolis, most delay starting their research until their summer courses are completed. As a result, we’ve found that our students only complete a limited quantity of thesis research in their first summer. The bulk of their research tends to occur in fall of their second year. This delays their time to completion by pushing out completion of the thesis and its defense until the late spring or early summer at the end of their second year, at the earliest. By reducing H750: Seminar in US History from four credits to three, we are proposing to move active research from summer sessions into the academic year by requiring students to complete six credit hours of H750: Seminar in US History, which is a course currently taught as a research intensive four (4) credit course. Instead, students would take History H750 at three (3) credit hours each twice during their degree plan with each being organized around completing original research. These two courses then can serve as the backbone of their thesis research process, alleviating the strain placed on students during the summer. The four credit hours of required thesis credit (H898) then can be focused on students drafting and revising the thesis. We strongly believe this will speed time to degree by reducing the barriers students are experiencing regarding thesis completion as it relates to original research.

**Fostering Cooperation in Liberal Arts**

Currently, the Department of History offers four required courses that are four credit hour courses: History H501, Historical Methodology; History H650, Colloquium in US History; History H750: Seminar in US History; History H542: Introduction to Public History. These four credit configurations are unusual in the School of Liberal Arts. The four credit hour courses are, effectively, enrollment barriers for non-History students. Of these, only Introduction to Public History is listed as an elective course in other SLA degree plans. By reducing our required courses to three (3) credits, we will take advantage of increasing potential enrollments from other SLA departments and programs including Museum Studies and American Studies by allowing direct enrollment with students in course rather than providing alternative course curriculum for students wishing to enroll for only three credits.

Additionally, the Department of History has identified the development of joint degree programs at the Master’s level as the next step in its partnership with the Museum Studies Program in the Department of History. By revising our required courses to three (3) credit hours, we will be better situated to merge our required core with the Museum Studies required core resulting in a thirty hour core joint degree that we could then build out into a full Joint Master’s Degree in History and Museum Studies.

**Alignment of Master’s Curriculum to promote faculty efficiency**

The Department of History has spent the last eighteen months working with peers at other IU institutions to develop two IU Online Collaborative degrees: a Masters of Arts in History and a Masters of Arts in Teaching. When our curriculum was originally designed, there was limited need to think about faculty workload and efficiencies as all degrees were in person and students could enroll across the MA degree plans allowing the assignment of a single faculty member to teach a course. Our in-person Master’s enrollment was strong, steady, and nationally recognized with a large number of faculty who could support graduate teaching. Unfortunately, like many programs, we are facing declining admissions and a reduction in the number of faculty available to teach at the graduate level. We look to the IU Online Master’s programs are areas of potential growth for our program. While the final approval on those degree curriculums are awaiting approval, the submitted version lists all Master’s courses as three (3) credit courses. By reducing our required courses and aligning the credit hours, we will be able to address concerns about faculty efficiency and work. Rather than having to have two distinct syllabi (one at four credits and one at three), faculty will be able to transfer course syllabi between the programs after adjusting for best practices in teaching online. This will allow our program to ensure the quality of our graduate programs and limit the number of simultaneous preparations faculty would need to complete in a single semester if they were assigned to teach in our in-person and online degree programs simultaneously.

For the reasons listed above, we believe that these changes will improve our marketability to degree seekers. Embracing new competencies, ensuring timeliness to degree, and broadening our potential Master’s degrees will allow us to ensure a vibrant and active graduate curriculum. It will also ensure the survival of the MA for years to come as it will synchronize all Master’s degrees that our department are participating in via standard credit hours and faculty workloads. We also believe that it will better position our graduates within the competitive job market.

## PROPOSAL SPECIFICS

We propose these changes to the program:

1. Approval of the change in courses (H501, H650, H750, H542) from four (4) credit hours to three (3) credit hours. (All have been submitted via CARMIN for credit hour change requests).

(2) The addition of History H565: Digital Public History, History H542: Introduction to Public History, and History H505: Professional Development for Historians as required courses. (Both H565 and HXX have been submitted as new course requests via CARMIN.)

(3) The reduction of required thesis hours (History H898) from six (6) to four (4).

(4) The ability to take History H750: Seminar in US History as a repeating course with up to 6 credit hours counting towards the degree.

Included is the proposed curriculum and a sample plan of studies for the MA with a concentration in US History option.

## CURRICULUM PLAN: US History

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| **EXISTING CURRICULUM**  **US History** | **PROPOSED CURRICULUM**  **US History** |
| **30 crs. of which a minimum of 24 must be in history; of the 24 history credits, 18 credits must be at the 500 level or above.** | **30 crs. of which a minimum of 24 must be in history; of the 24 history credits, 18 credits must be at the 500 level or above.** |
| **Required Core Courses (12 credit hours)** | **Required Core Courses (20 credit hours)** |
| H501: Historical Methodology (4 cr.) | H501: Historical Methodology (3 cr.) |
| H650: Colloquium in US History (4 cr.) | H650: Colloquium in US History (3 cr.) |
| H750: Seminar in US History (4 cr.) | H750: Seminar in US History (6 cr.) |
|  | H542: Introduction to Public History (3 cr.) |
|  | H565: Introduction to Digital Public History (3 cr.) |
|  | H505: Professional Development for Historians (2 cr.) |
|  |  |
| **Thesis (6 credit hours)** | **Thesis (4 credit hours)** |
| H898 Thesis (6 cr.) | H898 Thesis (4 cr.) |
|  |  |
| **Elective Coursework (12 credit hours)** | **Elective Coursework (6 credit hours)** |
| 12 crs. elective (maximum of 6 cr. outside history; maximum of 3 cr. in non-U.S. history)  Electives may include the following H547 courses: Historic Preservation, Historic Site Interpretation, Historical Administration, Documentary Editing, Material History, Local and Community History, and Introduction to Archival Practice. Related classes at the graduate level that add breadth and depth to their training may be used as electives with approval of the students’ advisor or the Director of Graduate Studies. | Electives in History (6 cr.); at least 3 credit hours must be a non-US history course  Electives may include the following H547 courses: Historic Preservation, Historical Administration, Documentary Editing, Material History, Local and Community History; H549: Historic Site Interpretation. Related classes at the graduate level that add breadth and depth to their training may be used as electives with approval of the students’ advisor or the Director of Graduate Studies. |
|  |  |
| **Additional Information regarding**  **Language Proficiency** | **Additional Information regarding**  **Language Proficiency** |
| There is no foreign language requirement for the degree per se.  However, those students who will incorporate foreign language documents and scholarship in their graduate work will be expected to translate non-English sources.  They must thus demonstrate an appropriate level of competence in the relevant language before they begin work on their thesis.  The Director of Graduate Studies and the student’s advisor may require the student to take additional coursework. | There is no foreign language requirement for the Masters in History with a concentration in US History; however, students wishing to complete a comparative thesis utilizing non-English language sources may be required to demonstrate linguistic proficiency prior to beginning work on the thesis.  Language competence may be demonstrated in one of the following ways:   * Undergraduate course work: passing the appropriate undergraduate course (normally a two-semester sequence) with a grade of B or better. * Completion of the IUPUI Placement Test for the appropriate language at a graduate level * Being a native speaker of the language with the ability to translate a scholarly article or primary source. * Evidence of previous graduate level command of the language with the approval of the DGS or your advisor. |
|  |  |
| **Admission Requirements** | **Admission Requirements** |
| Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, with an overall undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 (B) and a minimum grade point average of 3.3 (B+) in the student’s undergraduate major; an undergraduate major in history is not required, but applicants without such a background may be required to take additional coursework in history at the undergraduate level as a condition for acceptance into the program | Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, with an overall undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 (B) and a minimum grade point average of 3.3 (B+) in the student’s undergraduate major; an undergraduate major in history is not required, but applicants without such a background may be required to take additional coursework in history at the undergraduate level as a condition for acceptance into the program |
| Appropriate level of achievement on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test (applicants with a post-graduate degree should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies to determine whether they are required to submit GRE scores) | Applicants are not required to submit GRE scores as part of the application requirements for the Department of History.  If scores are submitted by an applicant, they may be reviewed as part of the admission review process.  Applicants who do not submit scores will not be put at a disadvantage. |
| Three letters of recommendation | Three letters of recommendation |
|  | Students are required to submit a writing sample as part of the application requirements for the Department of History. It should demonstrate the applicants' ability to explore and interpret history using primary and secondary sources. This should be no more than 30 pages in length, double-spaced, one-inch margins. |
| **Grades** | **Grades** |
| No grade below B– (2.7) in graduate courses will be counted toward this degree. | No grade below B– (2.7) in graduate courses will be counted toward this degree. Students must have an overall 3.0 grade point average to earn this degree. |

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| **SAMPLE PLAN OF STUDIES** | |  |
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| semester | course | credits |
| FALL 2021 (9) | HIST H650: Colloquium in US History  HIST H542: Introduction to Public History  HIST Electives | 3  3  3 |
| SPRING 2022 (10) | HIST H501: Historical Methodology  HIST H565: Introduction to Digital Public History  HIST H750: Seminar in US History  HIST H505: Professional Development for Historians | 3  3  3  1 |
| FALL 2022 (6) | HIST H750: Seminar in US History  HIST Electives | 3  3 |
| SPRING 2023 (5) | HIST H898: Thesis  HIST H505: Professional Development for Historians | 4  1 |
|  |  |  |
| **TOTAL CREDITS:** |  | **30** |

## IMPLEMENTATION

The Department of History would like to implement these changes for 2021. Current students admitted after fall 2020 may elect to implement this program of study.

# PROPOSAL 2: Masters of Arts in History with a concentration in Public History

The faculty of the Department of History recommends changing Masters of Arts (MA) with a concentration in Public History requirements from thirty-six (36) to thirty (30) credits. We also intend to incorporate courses in Digital Public History and Professional Development. We intend to reduce the number of elective credit hours from eleven (11) to six (6) to allow these courses to be added as required courses. Students who wish to complete a thesis option below will be required to complete an additional 2 credit hours of H898: Thesis for 32 total credit hours. See the Thesis section for additional details.

## RATIONALE

The proposed changes in the MA are based on several factors: 1) the curriculum will reflect recommendations from the American Historical Association and the National Council on Public History regarding skills desired by employers of those with Master’s Degrees; 2) it will ensure timely degree completion; 3) it will foster cooperation with other Master’s Degree programs in the School of Liberal Arts whose students would be eligible to take History courses as part of their degree electives; 3) facilitate alignment of the current MA with new MA programs being developed as part of IU Online to encourage faculty efficiency.

**Reflecting the Changing Historical Profession and the Needs of Employers**

In 2015, [Joint Task Force on Public History Education and Employment](https://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/affiliated-societies/national-council-on-public-history/public-history-employer-report-and-survey) of the American Association for State and Local History, the American Historical Association, the National Council on Public History, and the Organization of American Historians surveyed employers in an effort to understand what skills and knowledge are most valued when considering hiring. While employers continue to value core historical skills (critical thinking, content knowledge, ability to conduct research), they also now seek employees who are proficient in digital technologies. This shift towards digital history has been echoed by the American Historical Association who has encouraged graduate training programs to expand student’s fluency in digital technologies as a way to take advantage of the multiplicity of career paths. While Digital Public History was added as an elective in 2015, the decision was made that its growing importance within the historical profession and on the job market merits changing it from an elective to a required course. We have submitted for new course approval, History H565: Introduction to Digital Public History through CARMIN, taking the place of the H547: variable title course on Digital Public History that we have offered students as an elective.

Additionally, the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, and the National Council on Public History, both through the Joint Task Force and through annual workshops held at their individual annual conferences, have all recommended incorporation of professional development skills within curriculum. Along with employers, these associations have identified that ability to navigate the job market, strategies to manage professional workplace environments, and proficiency in grant writing and fundraising are needed by candidates for employment in addition to digital fluency and knowledge of public history career paths. While students in our programs have participated in professional development opportunities both on campus through the Graduate College, the lack of a required course in professional development has disadvantaged our students on the job market. One prospective employer reported that there was a wide spectrum of competency in professional development skills from our students. By requiring them to attend focused instruction in topics related to professional development, we will be able to communicate key skills around job markets, networking and career pathways, workplace management and diversity, and skills for long-term career paths (grant writing and fundraising). We will be submitting a new course request to fulfil this requirement as History H505: Professional Development for Historians.

**Ensuring Timely Completion of Degree**

A thirty-six (36) hour degree curriculum requires students within the Masters of Arts with a concentration in Public History to complete coursework and research for their thesis during summer session between their first and second year. As their coursework requires residency in Indianapolis, most delay starting their research until their summer courses are completed. As a result, we’ve found that our students only complete a limited quantity of thesis research in their first summer. The bulk of their research tends to occur in fall of their second year. This delays their time to completion by pushing out completion of the thesis and its defense until the late spring or early summer at the end of their second year, at the earliest. By reducing H750: Seminar in US History from four credits to three, we are proposing to move active research from summer sessions into the academic year by requiring students to complete six credit hours of H750: Seminar in US History, which is a course currently taught as a research intensive four (4) credit course. Instead, students would take History H750 at three (3) credit hours each twice during their degree plan with each being organized around completing original research. These two courses then can serve as the backbone of their thesis research process, alleviating the strain placed on students during the summer. The four credit hours of required thesis credit (H898) then can be focused on students drafting and revising the thesis. We strongly believe this will speed time to degree by reducing the barriers students are experiencing regarding thesis completion as it relates to original research. Additionally, for Public History students being freed from summer course work will open the opportunity for them to complete internships at cultural heritage institutions outside the state of Indiana. These opportunities would dramatically improve our student’s credentials on the job market as internships in nationally recognized sites (e.g. Smithsonian Institution, National Parks Service, etc.) can lead to career opportunities that would otherwise be more difficult to achieve.

**Fostering Cooperation in Liberal Arts**

Currently, the Department of History offers four required courses that are four credit hour courses: History H501, Historical Methodology; History H650, Colloquium in US History; History H750: Seminar in US History; History H542: Introduction to Public History. These four credit configurations are unusual in the School of Liberal Arts. The four credit hour courses are, effectively, enrollment barriers for non-History students. Of these, only Introduction to Public History is listed as an elective course in other SLA degree plans. By reducing our required courses to three (3) credits, we will take advantage of increasing potential enrollments from other SLA departments and programs including Museum Studies and American Studies by allowing direct enrollment with students in course rather than providing alternative course curriculum for students wishing to enroll for only three credits.

Additionally, the Department of History has identified the development of joint degree programs at the Master’s level as the next step in its partnership with the Museum Studies Program in the Department of History. By revising our required courses to three (3) credit hours, we will be better situated to merge our required core with the Museum Studies required core resulting in a thirty (30) hour core joint degree that we could then build out into a full Joint Master’s Degree in History and Museum Studies.

**Alignment of Master’s Curriculum to promote faculty efficiency**

The Department of History has spent the last eighteen months working with peers at other IU institutions to develop two IU Online Collaborative degrees: a Masters of Arts in History and a Masters of Arts in Teaching. When our curriculum was originally designed, there was limited need to think about faculty workload and efficiencies as all degrees were in person and students could enroll across the MA degree plans allowing the assignment of a single faculty member to teach a course. Our in-person Master’s enrollment was strong, steady, and nationally recognized with a large number of faculty who could support graduate teaching. Unfortunately, like many programs, we are facing declining admissions and a reduction in the number of faculty available to teach at the graduate level. We look to the IU Online Master’s programs are areas of potential growth for our program. While the final approval on those degree curriculums are awaiting approval, the submitted version lists all Master’s courses as three (3) credit courses. By reducing our required courses and aligning the credit hours, we will be able to address concerns about faculty efficiency and work. Rather than having to have two distinct syllabi (one at four credits and one at three), faculty will be able to transfer course syllabi between the programs after adjusting for best practices in teaching online. This will allow our program to ensure the quality of our graduate programs and limit the number of simultaneous preparations faculty would need to complete in a single semester if they were assigned to teach in our in-person and online degree programs simultaneously.

For the reasons listed above, we believe that these changes will improve our marketability to degree seekers. Embracing new competencies, ensuring timeliness to degree, and broadening our potential Master’s degrees will allow us to ensure a vibrant and active graduate curriculum. It will also ensure the survival of the MA for years to come as it will synchronize all Master’s degrees that our department are participating in via standard credit hours and faculty workloads. We also believe that it will better position our graduates within the highly competitive public history job market.

## PROPOSAL SPECIFICS

We propose these changes to the program:

1. Approval of the change in courses (H501, H650, H750, H542) from four (4) credit hours to three (3) credit hours. (All have been submitted via CARMIN for credit hour change requests).

(2) The addition of History H565: Digital Public History and History H505: Professional Development for Historians as required courses. (Both H565 and H505 have been submitted as new course requests via CARMIN.)

(3) The reduction of elective hours from eleven (11) to six (6).

(4) The ability to take History H750: Seminar in US History as a repeating course with up to 6 credit hours counting towards the degree.

(5) The ability for students to complete their degree as thesis (32 cr) or non-thesis (30 cr).

Included is the proposed curriculum and a sample plan of studies for the MA with a concentration in Public History option for both the thesis and non-thesis option.

## CURRICULUM PLAN: Public History Thesis Option

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| **EXISTING CURRICULUM**  **Public History** | **PROPOSED CURRICULUM**  **Public History Thesis Option** |
| **36 crs. of which a minimum of 30 must be in history; of these 30 history credits, 22 must be at the 500 level or above. These credits must be distributed as follows** | **32 crs. of which a minimum of 30 must be in history; of these 30 history credits, 22 must be at the 500 level or above. These credits must be distributed as follows** |
| **Required Core Courses (20 credit hours)** | **Required Core Courses (20 credit hours)** |
| H501: Historical Methodology (4 cr.) | H501: Historical Methodology (3 cr.) |
| H650: Colloquium in US History (4 cr.) | H650: Colloquium in US History (3 cr.) |
| H750: Seminar in US History (4 cr.) | H750: Seminar in US History (6 cr.) |
| H542: Introduction to Public History (4 cr.) | H542: Introduction to Public History (3 cr.) |
| H543: Practicum in Public History (4 cr.) | H543: Practicum in Public History (4 cr.) |
|  | H565: Introduction to Digital Public History (3 cr.) |
|  | H505: Professional Development for Historians (2 cr.) |
|  |  |
| **Thesis (2 credit hours)** | **Thesis (2 credit hours)** |
| H898 Thesis (2 cr.) | H898 Thesis (2 cr.) |
|  |  |
| **Elective Coursework (11 credit hours)** | **Elective Coursework (6 credit hours)** |
| 11 crs. elective (maximum of 6 cr. outside history; maximum of 3 cr. in non-U.S. history)  Electives may include the following H547 courses: Historic Preservation, Historical Administration, Documentary Editing, Material History, Local and Community History; H549: Historic Site Interpretation. Related classes at the graduate level that add breadth and depth to their training may be used as electives with approval of the students’ advisor or the Director of Graduate Studies. | Electives in History (6 cr.); maximum 3 credit hours outside history  Electives may include the following H547 courses: Historic Preservation, Historical Administration, Documentary Editing, Material History, Local and Community History; H549: Historic Site Interpretation. Related classes at the graduate level that add breadth and depth to their training may be used as electives with approval of the students’ advisor or the Director of Graduate Studies. |
|  |  |
| **Additional Information regarding**  **Language Proficiency** | **Additional Information regarding**  **Language Proficiency** |
| There is no foreign language requirement for the degree per se.  However, those students who will incorporate foreign language documents and scholarship in their graduate work will be expected to translate non-English sources.  They must thus demonstrate an appropriate level of competence in the relevant language before they begin work on their thesis.  The Director of Graduate Studies and the student’s advisor may require the student to take additional coursework. | There is no foreign language requirement for the Masters in History with a concentration in Public History; however, students wishing to complete a comparative thesis utilizing non-English language sources may be required to demonstrate linguistic proficiency prior to beginning work on the thesis.  Language competence may be demonstrated in one of the following ways:   * Undergraduate course work: passing the appropriate undergraduate course (normally a two-semester sequence) with a grade of B or better. * Completion of the IUPUI Placement Test for the appropriate language at a graduate level * Being a native speaker of the language with the ability to translate a scholarly article or primary source. * Evidence of previous graduate level command of the language with the approval of the DGS or your advisor. |
| **Admission Requirements** | **Admission Requirements** |
| Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, with an overall undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 (B) and a minimum grade point average of 3.3 (B+) in the student’s undergraduate major; an undergraduate major in history is not required, but applicants without such a background may be required to take additional coursework in history at the undergraduate level as a condition for acceptance into the program | Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, with an overall undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 (B) and a minimum grade point average of 3.3 (B+) in the student’s undergraduate major; an undergraduate major in history is not required, but applicants without such a background may be required to take additional coursework in history at the undergraduate level as a condition for acceptance into the program |
| Appropriate level of achievement on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test (applicants with a post-graduate degree should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies to determine whether they are required to submit GRE scores) | Applicants are not required to submit GRE scores as part of the application requirements for the Department of History.  If scores are submitted by an applicant, they may be reviewed as part of the admission review process.  Applicants who do not submit scores will not be put at a disadvantage. |
| Three letters of recommendation | Three letters of recommendation |
|  | Students are required to submit a writing sample as part of the application requirements for the Department of History. It should demonstrate the applicants' ability to explore and interpret history using primary and secondary sources. This should be no more than 30 pages in length, double-spaced, one-inch margins. |
| **Grades** | **Grades** |
| No grade below B– (2.7) in graduate courses will be counted toward this degree. | No grade below B– (2.7) in graduate courses will be counted toward this degree. Students must have an overall 3.0 grade point average to earn this degree. |

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| **SAMPLE PLAN OF STUDIES** | |  |
|  |  |  |
| semester | course | credits |
| FALL 2021 (7) | HIST H650: Colloquium in US History  HIST H542: Introduction to Public History  HIST H543: Practicum in Public History | 3  3  1 |
| SPRING 2022 (8) | HIST H501: Historical Methodology  HIST H565: Introduction to Digital Public History  HIST H543: Practicum in Public History  HIST H505: Professional Development for Historians | 3  3  1  1 |
| FALL 2022 (8) | HIST H750: Seminar in US History  HIST H543: Practicum in Public History  Public HIST Electives  HIST H898: Thesis | 3  1  3  1 |
| SPRING 2023 (9) | HIST H750: Seminar in US History  Public HIST Electives  HIST H543: Practicum in Public History  HIST H505: Professional Development for Historians  HIST H898: Thesis | 3  3  1  1  1 |
|  |  |  |
| **TOTAL CREDITS:** |  | **32** |

## CURRICULUM PLAN: Public History Non-Thesis Option

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| --- | --- |
| **EXISTING CURRICULUM**  **Public History** | **PROPOSED CURRICULUM**  **Public History Non-Thesis Option** |
| **36 crs. of which a minimum of 30 must be in history; of these 30 history credits, 22 must be at the 500 level or above. These credits must be distributed as follows** | **30 crs. of which a minimum of 27 must be in history; of these 30 history credits, 22 must be at the 500 level or above. These credits must be distributed as follows** |
| **Required Core Courses (20 credit hours)** | **Required Core Courses (20 credit hours)** |
| H501: Historical Methodology (4 cr.) | H501: Historical Methodology (3 cr.) |
| H650: Colloquium in US History (4 cr.) | H650: Colloquium in US History (3 cr.) |
| H750: Seminar in US History (4 cr.) | H750: Seminar in US History (6 cr.) |
| H542: Introduction to Public History (4 cr.) | H542: Introduction to Public History (3 cr.) |
| H543: Practicum in Public History (4 cr.) | H543: Practicum in Public History (4 cr.) |
|  | H565: Introduction to Digital Public History (3 cr.) |
|  | H505: Professional Development for Historians (2 cr.) |
|  |  |
| **Thesis (2 credit hours)** | **Thesis (0 credit hours)** |
| H898 Thesis (2 cr.) | No thesis hours required |
|  |  |
| **Elective Coursework (11 credit hours)** | **Elective Coursework (6 credit hours)** |
| 11 crs. elective (maximum of 6 cr. outside history; maximum of 3 cr. in non-U.S. history)  Electives may include the following H547 courses: Historic Preservation, Historical Administration, Documentary Editing, Material History, Local and Community History; H549: Historic Site Interpretation. Related classes at the graduate level that add breadth and depth to their training may be used as electives with approval of the students’ advisor or the Director of Graduate Studies. | Electives in History (6 cr.); maximum 3 credit hours outside history  Electives may include the following H547 courses: Historic Preservation, Historical Administration, Documentary Editing, Material History, Local and Community History; H549: Historic Site Interpretation. Related classes at the graduate level that add breadth and depth to their training may be used as electives with approval of the students’ advisor or the Director of Graduate Studies. |
|  |  |
| **Additional Information regarding**  **Language Proficiency** | **Additional Information regarding**  **Language Proficiency** |
| There is no foreign language requirement for the degree per se.  However, those students who will incorporate foreign language documents and scholarship in their graduate work will be expected to translate non-English sources.  They must thus demonstrate an appropriate level of competence in the relevant language before they begin work on their thesis.  The Director of Graduate Studies and the student’s advisor may require the student to take additional coursework. | There is no foreign language requirement for the Masters in History with a concentration in Public History; however, students wishing to complete a comparative thesis utilizing non-English language sources may be required to demonstrate linguistic proficiency prior to beginning work on the thesis.  Language competence may be demonstrated in one of the following ways:   * Undergraduate course work: passing the appropriate undergraduate course (normally a two-semester sequence) with a grade of B or better. * Completion of the IUPUI Placement Test for the appropriate language at a graduate level * Being a native speaker of the language with the ability to translate a scholarly article or primary source. * Evidence of previous graduate level command of the language with the approval of the DGS or your advisor. |
| **Admission Requirements** | **Admission Requirements** |
| Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, with an overall undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 (B) and a minimum grade point average of 3.3 (B+) in the student’s undergraduate major; an undergraduate major in history is not required, but applicants without such a background may be required to take additional coursework in history at the undergraduate level as a condition for acceptance into the program | Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, with an overall undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 (B) and a minimum grade point average of 3.3 (B+) in the student’s undergraduate major; an undergraduate major in history is not required, but applicants without such a background may be required to take additional coursework in history at the undergraduate level as a condition for acceptance into the program |
| Appropriate level of achievement on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test (applicants with a post-graduate degree should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies to determine whether they are required to submit GRE scores) | Applicants are not required to submit GRE scores as part of the application requirements for the Department of History.  If scores are submitted by an applicant, they may be reviewed as part of the admission review process.  Applicants who do not submit scores will not be put at a disadvantage. |
| Three letters of recommendation | Three letters of recommendation |
|  | Students are required to submit a writing sample as part of the application requirements for the Department of History. It should demonstrate the applicants' ability to explore and interpret history using primary and secondary sources. This should be no more than 30 pages in length, double-spaced, one-inch margins. |
| **Grades** | **Grades** |
| No grade below B– (2.7) in graduate courses will be counted toward this degree. | No grade below B– (2.7) in graduate courses will be counted toward this degree. Students must have an overall 3.0 grade point average to earn this degree. |

|  |  |  |
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| **SAMPLE PLAN OF STUDIES** | |  |
|  |  |  |
| semester | course | credits |
| FALL 2021 (7) | HIST H650: Colloquium in US History  HIST H542: Introduction to Public History  HIST H543: Practicum in Public History | 3  3  1 |
| SPRING 2022 (8) | HIST H501: Historical Methodology  HIST H565: Introduction to Digital Public History  HIST H543: Practicum in Public History  HIST H505: Professional Development for Historians | 3  3  1  1 |
| FALL 2022 (7) | HIST H750: Seminar in US History  HIST H543: Practicum in Public History  Public HIST Electives | 3  1  3 |
| SPRING 2023 (8) | HIST H750: Seminar in US History  Public HIST Electives  HIST H543: Practicum in Public History  HIST H505: Professional Development for Historians | 3  3  1  1 |
|  |  |  |
| **TOTAL CREDITS:** |  | **30** |

## IMPLEMENTATION

The Department of History would like to implement these changes for 2021. Current students admitted after fall 2020 may elect to implement this program of study.

# PROPOSAL 3: Joint Master of Arts in History and Master of Library and Information Science

The faculty of the Department of History recommends changing Joint Masters of Arts (MA) and Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) requirements to incorporate courses in Public History, Digital Public History, and Professional Development. We do not intend to change the overall credit hours required as part of the MA portion of the degree (23 credit hours).

## RATIONALE

The proposed changes in the dual MA and MLIS are based on two factors: 1) the curriculum will reflect recommendations from the American Historical Association and the National Council on Public History regarding skills desired by employers of those with Master’s Degrees; 2) facilitate alignment of the current MA with new MA programs being developed as part of IU Online to encourage faculty efficiency.

**Reflecting the Changing Historical Profession and the Needs of Employers**

In 2015, [Joint Task Force on Public History Education and Employment](https://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/affiliated-societies/national-council-on-public-history/public-history-employer-report-and-survey) of the American Association for State and Local History, the American Historical Association, the National Council on Public History, and the Organization of American Historians surveyed employers in an effort to understand what skills and knowledge are most valued when considering hiring. While employers continue to value core historical skills (critical thinking, content knowledge, ability to conduct research), they also now seek employees who are proficient in digital technologies. This shift towards digital history has been echoed by the American Historical Association who has encouraged graduate training programs to expand student’s fluency in digital technologies as a way to take advantage of the multiplicity of career paths. While Digital Public History was added as an elective in 2015, the decision was made that its growing importance within the historical profession and on the job market merits changing it from an elective to a required course. We have submitted for new course approval, History H565: Introduction to Digital Public History through CARMIN, taking the place of the H547: variable title course on Digital Public History that we have offered students as an elective.

Similarly, national trends in the employment of historians have shown a steady decrease in traditional academic employment. As a result, interest in alternative academic employment has risen. For those with a Master’s degree most alternative academic careers are in libraries, archives, museum, historical societies, academic presses, or corporate positions that require historical thinking. Students completing the Joint MA/MLIS have been taking Public History as an elective (in the case of those with a US History concentration) or as a requirement (in the case of those in the Public History concentration). By making it a required course for all Joint degree students, we believe we will better prepare our students for careers in the public sector and will align our program with recommendations from the Joint Task Force. History H542: Introduction to Public History has been taught annually each fall as a four (4) credit course. We have submitted a change in course credit request for this course so that we may offer it as a required course for all students in our Joint MA/MLIS degree.

Additionally, the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, and the National Council on Public History, both through the Joint Task Force and through annual workshops held at their individual annual conferences, have all recommended incorporation of professional development skills within curriculum. Along with employers, these associations have identified that ability to navigate the job market, strategies to manage professional workplace environments, and proficiency in grant writing and fundraising are needed by candidates for employment in addition to digital fluency and knowledge of public history career paths. While students in our programs have participated in professional development opportunities both on campus through the Graduate College, the lack of a required course in professional development has disadvantaged our students on the job market. One prospective employer reported that there was a wide spectrum of competency in professional development skills from our students. By requiring them to attend focused instruction in topics related to professional development, we will be able to communicate key skills around job markets, networking and career pathways, workplace management and diversity, and skills for long-term career paths (grant writing and fundraising). We will be submitting a new course request to fulfil this requirement as History H505: Professional Development for Historians.

**Alignment of Master’s Curriculum to promote faculty efficiency**

The Department of History has spent the last eighteen months working with peers at other IU institutions to develop two IU Online Collaborative degrees: a Masters of Arts in History and a Masters of Arts in Teaching. When our curriculum was originally designed, there was limited need to think about faculty workload and efficiencies as all degrees were in person and students could enroll across the MA degree plans allowing the assignment of a single faculty member to teach a course. Our in-person Master’s enrollment was strong, steady, and nationally recognized with a large number of faculty who could support graduate teaching. Unfortunately, like many programs, we are facing declining admissions and a reduction in the number of faculty available to teach at the graduate level. We look to the IU Online Master’s programs are areas of potential growth for our program. While the final approval on those degree curriculums are awaiting approval, the submitted version lists all Master’s courses as three (3) credit courses. By reducing our required courses and aligning the credit hours, we will be able to address concerns about faculty efficiency and work. Rather than having to have two distinct syllabi (one at four credits and one at three), faculty will be able to transfer course syllabi between the programs after adjusting for best practices in teaching online. This will allow our program to ensure the quality of our graduate programs and limit the number of simultaneous preparations faculty would need to complete in a single semester if they were assigned to teach in our in-person and online degree programs simultaneously.

For the reasons listed above, we believe that these changes will improve our marketability to Joint MA/MLIS degree seekers. Embracing new competencies will allow us to ensure a vibrant and active graduate curriculum. It will also ensure the survival of the Joint MA/MLIS for years to come as it will standardize requirements, credit hours, and faculty workloads. We also believe that it will better position our graduates within the competitive job market.

## PROPOSAL SPECIFICS

We propose these changes to the program:

1. Approval of the change in courses (H501, H650, H750, H542) from four (4) credit hours to three (3) credit hours. (All have been submitted via CARMIN for credit hour change requests).

(2) The addition of History H565: Digital Public History, History H542: Introduction to Public History, and History H505: Professional Development for Historians as required courses for students in both the US History and Public History concentrations (Both H565 and HXX have been submitted as new course requests via CARMIN.)

(3) The removal of HIST H547: Archives as a required course and instead moving it to become an elective within the program.

Included is the proposed curriculum and a sample plan of studies for the Joint MA/MLIS for each area of concentration

## CURRICULUM PLAN: JOINT MA/MLIS (US)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **EXISTING CURRICULUM**  **Joint MA/MLIS (US concentration)** | **PROPOSED CURRICULUM**  **Joint MA/MLIS (US concentration)** |
| **53 crs. of which 23 must be in history** | **53 crs. of which 23 must be in history. These credits must be distributed as follows** |
| **Required Core Courses (10 credit hours)** | **Required Core Courses (20 credit hours)** |
| One graduate colloquium (4 cr.) | H501: Historical Methodology (3 cr.) |
| One graduate seminar (3 cr.) | H650: Colloquium in US History (3 cr.) |
| H547:  Archives & Records Management (3 cr.) | H542: Introduction to Public History (3 cr.) |
|  | H565: Introduction to Digital Public History (3 cr.) |
|  | H750: Seminar in US History (6 cr.) |
|  | H505: Professional Development for Historians (2 cr.) |
|  |  |
| **Thesis (0 credit hours)** | **Thesis (2 credit hours)** |
| No thesis required | No thesis required |
|  |  |
| **Elective Coursework (13 credit hours)** | **Elective Coursework (3 credit hours)** |
| 13 crs. elective  Electives may include the following H547 courses: Historic Preservation, Historical Administration, Documentary Editing, Material History, Local and Community History; H549: Historic Site Interpretation. Related classes at the graduate level that add breadth and depth to their training may be used as electives with approval of the students’ advisor or the Director of Graduate Studies. | Electives in History (3 cr.); must be at the 500 level or above.  Electives may include the following H547 courses: Historic Preservation, Historical Administration, Documentary Editing, Material History, Local and Community History; H549: Historic Site Interpretation; as well as content-based History courses at the 500-level. |
|  |  |
| **Additional Information regarding**  **Language Proficiency** | **Additional Information regarding**  **Language Proficiency** |
| There is no foreign language requirement for the Joint MA/MLIS. | There is no foreign language requirement for the Joint MA/MLIS. |
|  |  |
| **Admission Requirements** | **Admission Requirements** |
| Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, with an overall undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 (B) and a minimum grade point average of 3.3 (B+) in the student’s undergraduate major; an undergraduate major in history is not required, but applicants without such a background may be required to take additional coursework in history at the undergraduate level as a condition for acceptance into the program | Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, with an overall undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 (B) and a minimum grade point average of 3.3 (B+) in the student’s undergraduate major; an undergraduate major in history is not required, but applicants without such a background may be required to take additional coursework in history at the undergraduate level as a condition for acceptance into the program |
| Appropriate level of achievement on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test (applicants with a post-graduate degree should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies to determine whether they are required to submit GRE scores) | Applicants are not required to submit GRE scores as part of the application requirements for the Department of History.  If scores are submitted by an applicant, they may be reviewed as part of the admission review process.  Applicants who do not submit scores will not be put at a disadvantage. |
| Three letters of recommendation | Three letters of recommendation |
|  | Students are required to submit a writing sample as part of the application requirements for the Department of History. It should demonstrate the applicants' ability to explore and interpret history using primary and secondary sources. This should be no more than 30 pages in length, double-spaced, one-inch margins. |
| **Grades** | **Grades** |
| No grade below B– (2.7) in graduate courses will be counted toward this degree. | No grade below B– (2.7) in graduate courses will be counted toward this degree. Students must have an overall 3.0 grade point average to earn this degree. |

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| **SAMPLE PLAN OF STUDIES (MA/MLIS US)** | |  |
|  |  |  |
| semester | course | credits |
| FALL 2021 (6) | HIST H650: Colloquium in US History  HIST H542: Introduction to Public History | 3  3 |
| SPRING 2022 (7) | HIST H501: Historical Methodology  HIST H565: Introduction to Digital Public History  HIST H505: Professional Development for Historians | 3  3  1 |
| FALL 2022 (6) | HIST H750: Seminar in US History  Public HIST Electives | 3  3 |
| SPRING 2023 (4) | HIST H750: Seminar in US History  HIST H505: Professional Development for Historians | 3  1 |
|  |  |  |
| **TOTAL CREDITS:** |  | **23** |

## CURRICULUM PLAN: JOINT MA/MLIS (Public History)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **EXISTING CURRICULUM**  **Joint MA/MLIS (Public History concentration)** | **PROPOSED CURRICULUM**  **Joint MA/MLIS (Public History concentration)** |
| **53 crs. of which 23 must be in history** | **53 crs. of which 23 must be in history. These credits must be distributed as follows** |
| **Required Core Courses (10 credit hours)** | **Required Core Courses (20 credit hours)** |
| One graduate colloquium (4 cr.) | H501: Historical Methodology (3 cr.) |
| One graduate seminar (3 cr.) | H650: Colloquium in US History (3 cr.) |
| H542: Introduction to Public History (3 cr.) | H542: Introduction to Public History (3 cr.) |
| H547:  Archives & Records Management (3 cr.) | H565: Introduction to Digital Public History (3 cr.) |
|  | H750: Seminar in US History (6 cr.) |
|  | H505: Professional Development for Historians (2 cr.) |
|  |  |
| **Thesis (0 credit hours)** | **Thesis (2 credit hours)** |
| No thesis required | No thesis required |
|  |  |
| **Elective Coursework (13 credit hours)** | **Elective Coursework (3 credit hours)** |
| 13 crs. elective; Students may, if they wish, do a public history internship and count a maximum of two (2) credit hours of HIST-H 543 toward the degree. Students may enroll in HIST-H 543 only after having taken (or while taking) HIST-H 542. | Electives in History (3 cr.); must be at the 500 level or above. Students may, if they wish, do a public history internship and count a maximum of three (3) credit hours of HIST-H 543 toward the degree. Students may enroll in HIST-H 543 only after having taken (or while taking) HIST-H 542.  Electives may include the following H547 courses: Historic Preservation, Historical Administration, Documentary Editing, Material History, Local and Community History; H549: Historic Site Interpretation. Related classes at the graduate level that add breadth and depth to their training may be used as electives with approval of the students’ advisor or the Director of Graduate Studies. |
|  |  |
| **Additional Information regarding**  **Language Proficiency** | **Additional Information regarding**  **Language Proficiency** |
| There is no foreign language requirement for the Joint MA/MLIS. | There is no foreign language requirement for the Joint MA/MLIS. |
|  |  |
| **Admission Requirements** | **Admission Requirements** |
| Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, with an overall undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 (B) and a minimum grade point average of 3.3 (B+) in the student’s undergraduate major; an undergraduate major in history is not required, but applicants without such a background may be required to take additional coursework in history at the undergraduate level as a condition for acceptance into the program | Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, with an overall undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0 (B) and a minimum grade point average of 3.3 (B+) in the student’s undergraduate major; an undergraduate major in history is not required, but applicants without such a background may be required to take additional coursework in history at the undergraduate level as a condition for acceptance into the program |
| Appropriate level of achievement on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test (applicants with a post-graduate degree should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies to determine whether they are required to submit GRE scores) | Applicants are not required to submit GRE scores as part of the application requirements for the Department of History.  If scores are submitted by an applicant, they may be reviewed as part of the admission review process.  Applicants who do not submit scores will not be put at a disadvantage. |
| Three letters of recommendation | Three letters of recommendation |
|  | Students are required to submit a writing sample as part of the application requirements for the Department of History. It should demonstrate the applicants' ability to explore and interpret history using primary and secondary sources. This should be no more than 30 pages in length, double-spaced, one-inch margins. |
| **Grades** | **Grades** |
| No grade below B– (2.7) in graduate courses will be counted toward this degree. | No grade below B– (2.7) in graduate courses will be counted toward this degree. |

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| **SAMPLE PLAN OF STUDIES (MA/MLIS Public History)** | |  |
|  |  |  |
| semester | course | credits |
| FALL 2021 (6) | HIST H650: Colloquium in US History  HIST H542: Introduction to Public History | 3  3 |
| SPRING 2022 (7) | HIST H501: Historical Methodology  HIST H565: Introduction to Digital Public History  HIST H505: Professional Development for Historians | 3  3  1 |
| FALL 2022 (6) | HIST H750: Seminar in US History  Public HIST Electives | 3  3 |
| SPRING 2023 (4) | HIST H750: Seminar in US History  HIST H505: Professional Development for Historians | 3  1 |
|  |  |  |
| **TOTAL CREDITS:** |  | **23** |

## IMPLEMENTATION

The Department of History would like to implement these changes for 2021. Current students admitted after fall 2020 may elect to implement this program of study.