



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
**WHITEWATER**

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

## HISTORY- PUBLIC HISTORY

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of History supports the University of Wisconsin System's mission to develop in its students "heightened intellectual, cultural, and humane sensitivities...professional and technological expertise; and a sense of value and purpose." As students in a liberal arts discipline, history majors and minors are expected to develop:

- An understanding of the subject matter of history that is broad geographically, temporally, and thematically;
- An understanding of historical methods that allows them to independently analyze and assess historical source material from a variety of critical perspectives; and
- The research, writing, and cognitive skills needed to perform at a high level as lifelong learners and to enter or pursue advanced training in professional fields such as teaching, public history, law, journalism, and business.

In addition to providing a high-quality undergraduate program for its majors and minors, the History Department is also dedicated to:

- Enriching the educational experience of all UW-W students through the provision of courses (face-to-face, online, and travel study) that contribute to goals of general education, including the cultivation of an understanding of diversity and international perspectives;
- Contributing to the expansion of knowledge by encouraging and facilitating original research by faculty, academic staff, and students; and
- Serving the needs of the university and broader communities in southeastern Wisconsin through internship programs, in-service training for teachers, and other forms of professional and public service.

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

*Student learning outcomes (SLOs) are statements of what a student will know or be able to do when they have completed a program. They represent the knowledge and skills a program has determined are most important for students to gain from that program. The most useful SLOs are specific and measurable so the program can accurately assess the degree to which students have achieved each outcome, and they align with college and institution mission and values. Data on achievement of SLOs is used to make improvements in the program and increase student success.*

Students who graduate from UW-Whitewater with a degree in History- Public History will meet the following student learning outcomes:

**Subject Matter Objectives:**

- Knowledge of ancient, medieval, and modern history of western civilization.
- Knowledge of the history of the United States since its pre-colonial origins, encompassing both its internal development and relationships with the world.
- Knowledge of the history of one or more of the following regions: Latin America, Asia, Africa, or the Middle East.
- An understanding of historical methods, the evolution of the discipline of history, theories of historical inquiry, and major historiographic debates.
- Basic knowledge of origins, evolution and major debates in field of public history as well as goals and practices of major public history subfields (historical museums, historical societies, historic preservation, etc)

**Cognitive Development Objectives:**

- The ability to explain historical change and continuity in terms of periodization, causation, motivation, consequences, and multiple agents of change.
- The ability to apply abstractions to historical particulars, analyze and evaluate historical sources, including inferences that can be drawn from those sources, and synthesize historical evidence into new patterns.
- The ability to analyze and apply interpretive historical methods to public historical documents and sources such as monuments, buildings, material culture, electronic media and other public and collective representations of the past.
- The ability to articulate a basic understanding of the concept of collective memory.
- The ability to identify, interpret and critically evaluate public reception of historical documents, sources and sites.

**Skills Objectives:**

- The ability to locate, assess, order, and communicate pertinent historical data using appropriate electronic and traditional research methods.
- The ability to pose a meaningful historical question, and then design and execute an analytical research project to investigate that question.
- The ability to write persuasive and polished historical essays [prose] with proper citation of sources.
- An understanding of strategies of visual display and exhibition of historical content for public audiences.
- A grasp of editing and production skills in at least one electronic media – audio, video, or web production.
- A grasp of production, design and/or collections management skills in one chosen sub-field.