

## **PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A JOINT MASTER OF ARTS IN PUBLIC HISTORY AND MASTER OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE**

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve a joint degree program between the Master of Arts in Public History (Dept. of History, CLAS) and the Master of Library and Information Science (SIS), effective Winter 2018.

### **Background**

The proposed joint degree is meant to complement the successful existing MA-MLIS joint degree between the two component units, the Department of History and the School of Information Sciences. The MAPH is a new master's program (now in its third year) designed as a terminal MA degree to prepare students for careers that make historical research accessible to a public audience, in fields outside of academia (museum administration, public policy, historical preservation, archival administration, tourism, etc.). This new joint degree will offer students an opportunity to earn a Master of Library and Information Science as well as a Master of Arts in Public History with a total of 14 overlapping credits, a total of 55 credits for both degrees, as opposed to 69 if the degrees were completed separately. Since the MAPH program began, the Department has received several inquiries from students who would like to enroll in a MAPH-MLIS joint degree program. Libraries, archives, and other institutions that hire information management professionals increasingly seek employees who can communicate with broad public audiences about their collections and holdings, and who can create exhibits and public programming. This is exactly the kind of work the MAPH program trains students to do. The MAPH-MLIS joint degree program, then, responds both to demand from current students and to the changing professional expectations for librarians and archivists.

While it is quite common for library and information science programs to offer joint master's degrees in disciplines such as history, anthropology, and science and technology studies, and several public history programs offer concentrations in archival administration, only a very few ALA-accredited programs currently offer joint degrees in library science and public history. A degree offered jointly by Dominican University and Loyola University Chicago is the only other such program in the Midwest.

### **Program Description**

Students in this joint degree program will earn both the MAPH and an MLIS degree. Graduates of the program will benefit from the joint preparation in public history and library and information science and increase their potential for finding employment in either field. The curriculum will provide students with core courses in the fields of public history and library and information science, as well as supporting/elective courses in each field, and specialized courses in public history as well as the opportunity for interdisciplinary coursework in fields associated with public history, such as anthropology and urban studies. Upon successful completion of this program students will be prepared for employment in a wide range of settings, including libraries, archives, museums, state and federal agencies, and the private sector.

### **Admission Requirements**

Applicants to this program must be admitted to both the School of Information Sciences MLIS program and the Department of History MAPH program. In most cases, students first gain admission to one program, and then apply to the other during their first year of study. Students already in the MLIS program who wish to apply to the MAPH program must file a Change of Graduate Status Request. The applicant will also have to submit all normally required MAPH application materials directly to the Department of History's Director of Graduate Studies, with the exception of the GRE scores, which are waived. Students must meet the admission and graduation requirements of both programs and enroll concurrently in the two programs during most of the period in which they are earning the degrees.

### **Curriculum Requirements**

Students complete a minimum of 55 credits total for both degrees (14 hours are double-counted), rather than the 69 credit hours that would be required if the degrees were completed separately. For the MAPH degree, students complete 33 hours of MAPH credits, including 15 credits of required core courses in History and other allied fields, and 18 credits of elective coursework in one of six tracks (Museum Studies, Cultural Resource Management, Public Policy, African American History & Culture, Urban and Labor History, and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies), inclusive of 8 hours of LIS credits that will also double-count toward the student's MLIS degree. For the MLIS degree, students complete 36 credits of coursework, including 18 credits of required core courses, and another 18 credits of elective coursework, 6 credits of which will be in HIS classes that will double-count toward the MAPH.

### **Graduation Requirements**

Admitted students must complete the required courses for both programs in order to graduate. All coursework must be completed in accordance with Graduate School policies and the regulations governing graduate scholarship and degrees. If students complete requirements for only one degree, then one degree will be awarded. Students may enroll on a full-time or part-time basis but must complete requirements within six years of admission.

### **Program Administration**

Each component of the joint degree will be administered by each respective faculty unit, as is the case for each independent degree. The Department of History will serve as the home department for the joint degree program.

### **Budget and Resource Requirements**

Each constituent degree program already exists independently. No additional courses or faculty will be required for the joint degree; all required and elective courses are already being offered regularly by their respective faculty.

### **Accreditation**

No specialized accreditation is required.

### **Approvals**

The proposal for the MAPH-MLIS joint degree has been approved by the Faculty and Chair of the History Department, the faculty of the School of Information Sciences, the faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Deans of SIS and CLAS, the Graduate Council, Dean of the Graduate School and the Provost.