Historic Preservation?
Why Historic Preservation?

Historic preservation is fundamentally concerned with relationships between time and place. Analysis of historic buildings and sites reveals the interplay between human activity and the built world. Preservation specialists help communities identify and protect valued buildings and sites; make informed choices about rehabilitation, restoration and interpretation; and formulate creative responses to economic and social change. Ultimately, preservation builds community. Shared discourses about past and present compel consideration of embedded patterns and planning for the future. Although often characterized as a niche activity, preservation is central to the way communities negotiate change. No undertaking offers greater perspective on the past, its relevance to the present, and possibilities that lie within reach.

The University of Kentucky Department of Historic Preservation is a recognized leader in the field. Our curriculum emphasizes fundamental skills such as architectural and historical research; documentation; adaptive reuse planning and design; and knowledge of federal, state and local historic preservation laws and regulations. Students become accomplished practitioners with the skills and knowledge needed to work in federal, state and local agencies; private-sector firms; and nonprofit organizations.

Although often characterized as a niche activity, preservation is central to the way communities negotiate change.

Although we continue to train students for established sectors of preservation practice, we also urge students to explore new areas of practice. Questions about sustainability, social justice, and climate change increasingly dominate historic preservation. Preservation specialists have vital roles to play in tackling the challenges facing communities large and small. Although creating more resilient, more humane, and more stable communities will require multiple forms of expertise, preservation is essential. Its concern for effective use of existing infrastructure and accommodating human needs within existing frameworks offers broadly applicable strategies at a time of pressing need.

Central Kentucky offers excellent opportunities for graduate study. The renowned Bluegrass landscape, awe-inspiring collections of 19th- and 20th-century buildings, and communities ranging in size from 50 to 500,000 make Lexington a superb location for investigating American history and architecture, community engagement, and preservation practice.
Historic Preservation at the University of Kentucky
Historic Preservation at UK

The Department of Historic Preservation at the University of Kentucky is a leader in the field. Now in its 20th year, the Master of Historic Preservation (MHP) is a rigorous, intellectually challenging program with an outstanding record of placement. Graduates hold positions with architecture, engineering and cultural resources management firms; local, state and federal agencies; and nonprofit organizations. The MHP curriculum emphasizes critical investigation of historic buildings and sites, preservation planning and policy, and adaptive reuse. Several qualities distinguish our program:

**Exceptional Faculty.** The department has one of the largest faculties of any graduate program in historic preservation. Our roster includes experts in law, planning, historical and architectural research, traditional cultural properties, and neighborhood revitalization. Students benefit from small class sizes, opportunities to work directly with faculty, and an active lecture and workshop series.

**An Interdisciplinary Environment.** The department’s location in the College of Design places students in ongoing dialogue with faculty and students in architecture, interior design, and urban and environmental design. Close ties to other departments and research centers on campus create a truly interdisciplinary environment. Fieldwork provides students with hands-on experience in real-world settings.

**A Focus on the Future.** Preservation has changed dramatically in recent years, and all signs suggest that more changes lie in store. Our curriculum teaches foundational skills while preparing students to think critically and creatively about preservation problems. We view preservation not as a set of rote principles but a continually-evolving process of assessing relationships between past and present. New attention to the social and cultural relevance of historic places has made social justice, equity, and sustainability major emphases.

**The Resources of a Major Research University.** The University of Kentucky offers outstanding resources for graduate study. The University library system oversees extensive collections, including more than 4 million bound volumes, access to over 400 commercial databases, and approximately 27,000 linear feet of manuscripts and archives. The Hunter M. Adams College of Design Library offers easy access to collections relating to architecture, architectural history and theory, interior design, and historic preservation. The Special Collections Research Center houses an outstanding collection of rare books, archives and the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History. Finally, the College of Design Workshop and Digital Fabrication Lab offers students a safe, well-maintained environment for working with advanced technology and three-dimensional construction in most media.
Central Kentucky as a Preservation Laboratory

The restored rotunda of the historic Fayette County Courthouse in Lexington
Central Kentucky as a Preservation Laboratory

Central Kentucky offers exceptional opportunities for studying historic architecture, landscapes and preservation in a variety of different contexts. Extensive collections of 19th- and 20th-century buildings, the renowned Bluegrass landscape, and an eclectic mix of urban and rural communities make Lexington and its surroundings an outstanding laboratory for applied learning. Students learn to conduct original research, view preservation policy and practice in action, examine historic architecture and landscapes, and interact with the public and professionals. Louisville and Cincinnati are both less than 90 minutes away, and Eastern Kentucky is also within easy driving distance. As a location for graduate education in historic preservation, Lexington is tough to beat.

Lexington is consistently rated among the most desirable communities in the nation. A low cost of living, a vibrant arts and cultural scene, easy access to major cities, and mild weather have brought Lexington widespread acclaim. Although the city has grown dramatically in recent decades, Lexington retains the feel of a college town. The University of Kentucky is a major presence, and downtown Lexington offers a rich array of restaurants, coffee shops, theaters, and entertainment venues. Neighborhoods near campus are renowned for their walkability and diverse mix of restaurants, retail, and residential housing.

Recent studies have identified Lexington as a “university city,” one of a small number of communities where a major research university has influenced social, cultural and economic trends. University cities are characterized by well-educated populations, low rates of violent crime, strong arts and culture sectors, and robust economies. The relationship between university and overall population makes for a high quality of life and an entrepreneurial ethos. Put simply, university cities are desirable places to live.

A large number of historic sites and cultural attractions add to central Kentucky’s appeal. Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill; historic communities such as Harrodsburg, Danville and Paris; and the state capitol at Frankfort are all within a 45-minute drive. The Appalachian Mountains of Eastern Kentucky are also nearby.

The Department of Historic Preservation takes full advantage of Lexington and the surrounding area. Students have opportunities to study historic buildings and landscapes firsthand, to work with established professionals, and to see innovative historical programing. These make for a rich and rewarding educational environment that brings the area’s unique landscape into dialogue with contemporary problems in preservation theory and practice.
Admission to the HP Program

MASTER OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Master of Historic Preservation (MHP) draws students from diverse backgrounds. Most applicants have studied subjects such as history, architecture, art history, anthropology, or archaeology as undergraduates. We look for students with strong writing skills, critical thinking ability, and interest in historic buildings and landscapes. Applicants need not have significant experience in historic preservation, only an understanding of why you want to study preservation at the graduate level. Our curriculum offers flexibility, firm grounding in fundamental principles and concepts, and allows students to develop specialized interests as their studies progress. For step-by-step instructions on applying to the MHP program, go to design.uky.edu/masters-of-historic-preservation-admission-guidelines.

We do not expect applicants to have training in design. If you previously studied in a field such as architecture, interior design, or fine arts, you may submit a portfolio as part of your application.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation is a 12-credit-hour program of study intended for working professionals, graduate students in closely related fields of study, and citizen preservationists. It can be taken entirely online, on-campus, or as a combination of online and in-person classes. All students complete a four-course sequence that introduces fundamental skills and knowledge, examines the history and theory of preservation, and explores specialized areas of practice. The University of Kentucky’s Canvas learning management system guarantees high quality content for online courses.

Certificate applicants are required to have an undergraduate degree, strong writing skills, and an interest in learning about historic preservation. Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores are not required. For additional information and application instructions, see design.uky.edu/historic-preservation.

FUNDING

All applicants to the MHP program are considered for teaching and research assistantships, scholarships, and fellowships based on merit, need and availability. Funding is generally not available for graduate certificate students. Information about additional funding opportunities is available from the University of Kentucky Graduate School at gradschool.uky.edu/student-funding.
Master of Historic Preservation Curriculum
Historic Preservation Curriculum

The Master of Historic Preservation (MHP) is a two-year program that prepares students for careers in preservation and related fields. Students undertake a rigorous sequence of courses that culminates in a major project demonstrating original research ability and application of professional skills and knowledge. Select courses are offered online. Hybrid courses, which combine online training with intensive fieldwork, are offered intermittently.

Note: The MHP does not require an internship, but most students do one during the summer following their first year. Students can receive up to six credit hours for a qualifying internship (HP 699 – Summer Internship).

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Historic Preservation at University of Kentucky

The College of Design at the University of Kentucky
design.uky.edu/historic-preservation
On-Campus or Online Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation
On-Campus or Online Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation

The Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation is an intensive, 12-credit-hour program that examines the history and theory of preservation, introduces fundamental concepts, and explores specialized areas of practice. It can be taken entirely online, on-campus, or as a combination of online and in-person classes; the curriculum is the same for all students. Two foundational courses are required: HP 601: Introduction to Historic Preservation and HP 602: Historic Preservation Law. Students then take two electives. Courses in architectural history, adaptive reuse, and preservation planning are offered regularly.

Online, on-campus, and hybrid courses meet the needs of working professionals, graduate students and citizen preservationists.

The graduate certificate serves several constituencies. Online students are generally working professionals and people whose personal circumstances make in-person classes impractical. Architects, realtors, planners, engineers, and other professionals have used the certificate to expand their knowledge of historic preservation, develop new skills, and explore new areas of practice. Citizen preservationists—a broad category that includes owners of historic buildings, people serving on local preservation commissions, residents of historic neighborhoods, and real estate developers specializing in historic properties—have also found the certificate useful for developing knowledge of preservation practice and theory.

On-campus students are mostly graduate students pursuing degrees in closely related fields. Students studying history, anthropology, architecture, interior design, and engineering can use the certificate to develop expertise in cultural heritage, historical interpretation, and preservation policy. In many cases, the certificate has opened up opportunities for internships, employment, and interdisciplinary study.

Hybrid courses, which combine online instruction with intensive fieldwork sessions ranging from several days to two weeks, are offered intermittently. A summer field school is offered annually in this format. For more information, see design.uky.edu/historic-preservation-degrees.
Historic Preservation Faculty

Outstanding faculty are the foundation of preservation education and research at the University of Kentucky. The Department of Historic Preservation includes experts in law, planning, historical and architectural research, adaptive reuse, neighborhood revitalization, and cultural resource management. Affiliated faculty provide expertise in 19th- and 20th-century American history, cultural and social geography, landscape architecture, and anthropology. All are active scholars, educators and practitioners.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Douglas Appler
Ph.D., Cornell University, 2011

Emily Bergeron
Ph.D., Cornell University, 2017
J.D., University of Florida, 2002

Karen Hudson
Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, 1995

Julie Riesenweber
M.A., University of Delaware, 1984

Travis Rose
M.F.A., Savannah College of Art and Design, 2010

Darren Taylor
M.Arch., University of Pennsylvania, 2011

Daniel Vivian
Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University, 2011

AFFILIATED FACULTY

Allison Carll-White
Professor, School of Interiors.
Ph.D., University of Tennessee, 1982

Clyde Carpenter
Professor emeritus, School of Architecture.
M.Arch., University of Pennsylvania, 1962

Ned Crankshaw
Professor and Chair, Department of Landscape Architecture. M.L.A., Iowa State University, 1988

Hans Gesund
Professor, Department of Civil Engineering.
Ph.D., Yale University, 1958

Gregory Luhan

Wallis Miller
Associate Professor, School of Architecture.
Ph.D., Princeton University, 1999
M.Arch., Columbia University, 1986

Lynn Phillips
Assistant Professor, Department of Geography.
Ph.D., University of Louisville, 2013

Richard Schein
Associate Dean of Faculty, College of Arts and Sciences, and Professor of Geography.
Ph.D., Syracuse University, 1989

Amy Murrell Taylor
Associate Professor, Department of History.
Ph.D., University of Virginia, 2001
Annual HP Symposium

The spring historic preservation symposium is a highlight of every academic year. First held in 2005, the symposium has grown to become a major event for the College of Design and preservation supporters from Kentucky and neighboring states. Each year's symposium affords students, faculty, and practitioners opportunities to explore crucial questions:

Where is preservation heading?

What methods and strategies are becoming more relevant?

Which are losing utility, and why?

How can preservationists better protect valuable resources – and help people understand their importance?

Critical dialogue about preservation theory and practice is a hallmark of the series. Recent speakers have included Sia Sanneh of the Equal Justice Initiative, Sean Kelley of Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, Andrew Hurley of the University of Missouri at St. Louis, Richard Longstreth of George Washington University, and Colby Broadwater of the American College of the Building Arts. In 2017, the College of Design livestreamed the symposium for the first time, reaching viewers in locations around the world. Future symposia will be broadcast in similar fashion.

In 2017, the Kentucky Heritage Council recognized the symposium with a Service to Preservation Award. We are honored to have received this award and view it as confirming the symposium’s success and influence.