

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO:

EXIT OPTIONS

THESES

Theses are the option best suited for students who will pursue a Ph.D. program. A thesis is a substantial, original written work on a topic informed by your coursework and your topic should be agreed upon by you and your thesis chair. All these require submission of a successful prospectus and must be defended to a committee of **three** faculty members: 1) committee chair and 2) committee members. Your committee chair should be a faculty member whose field of study best matches your topic and is available to act as the chair for your thesis committee in the semester you complete it.

PROJECTS

Projects are the exit option most frequently pursued by students with a Public History concentration. Students may complete a project in the following areas: **Digital History, Exhibitions, and Oral History**. All projects require submission of a successful prospectus and must be defended to a committee of **three** faculty members: 1) committee chair and 2) committee members. You should consult with your project chair when choosing committee members. Some project types have specific course requirements. Be sure to review these requirements carefully.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

Comp Exams are the most versatile option, preparing students for the widest range of career paths. Comp exams offer a broad understanding of your chosen fields and sharpen your understanding of the major themes and patterns in your field, greatly aiding your future career. Each student must take **two** exams with **two** faculty members for **each** exam. Your primary examiner will help compile a reading list that offers thematic and chronological breadth. No textbooks or novels are allowed on your reading list.

It is **your** responsibility to ensure all forms are signed and submitted, consult with each faculty member and to arrange appropriate dates for defenses or exams. **Carefully read the Step-By-Step Guide to your exit option for more information.**