

## ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION\ACADEMIC AND PERSONNEL

June 16, 2020

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**ACTION:** **Approve Addition of Public History Undergraduate Certificate Offering for History Program for Peru State College**

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Per Board Policy 4200 which requires all new academic programs to be submitted to the Board for approval, Peru State seeks approval to add the following undergraduate certificate in the History program, beginning Fall 2020:

History - Public History certificate

The certificate program will prepare graduates for careers in public history. It will cover the theory and practice of public history. Students will develop an understanding of the ways in which public historians shape public perceptions of the past and the ways in which public perceptions of the past shape public history. Practical applications will be incorporated in both the course work and through class activities and projects, both in and outside of the classroom visits to local and regional museums and archives and interaction with museum and public history professionals during required internships. Students will also develop a basic competence using a variety of digital history platforms.

The System Office and Peru State College recommend approval of the Addition of Public History Undergraduate Certificate for Peru State College.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- PSC Public History Certificate in History Proposal - June 2020 (PDF)

# Peru State College

## Proposal to add Undergraduate Certificate in Public History (Major: History)

### 1. Descriptive Information

- A. Name of Institution:  
Peru State College (PSC)
- B. Name of Program:  
History
- C. Degrees/credentials to be awarded graduates of the program:  
Certificate in Public History
- D. Other programs offered in this field by the institution:  
None
- E. CIP code:  
54.0105
- F. Administrative units for the program:  
School of Arts and Sciences
- G. Proposed delivery site(s) and type(s) of delivery, if applicable:  
On campus PSC
- H. Proposed date (term/year) the program will be initiated:  
Fall 2020
- I. Description of Program:  
This certificate program will prepare graduates for careers in public history. It will cover the theory and practice of public history. Students will develop an understanding of the ways in which public historians shape public perceptions of the past and the ways in which public perceptions of the past shape public history. Practical application will be incorporated in both the course work and through class activities and projects, both in and outside of the classroom, visits to local and regional museums and archives and interaction with museum and public history professionals during required internships. Students will also develop a basic competence using a variety of digital history platforms.

Public History Certificate Requirements:

Fifteen (15) hours of coursework will be required for completion of this undergraduate certificate and will include the following courses.

Hist 322	Introduction to Public History (3) <b>New Course</b>
Hist 324	Introduction to Museum and Archival Practices (3) <b>New Course</b>
Psci/Bus 468	Public Administration (3)
Hist 411	Internship in Public History (6)

*HIST 322 (3 credit hours) NEW*

This course provides an introduction to the theory and practice of public history. The course will orient the student to a range of fields in which public history is practiced and provide students the opportunity to engage in the practice of public history using traditional disciplinary skill sets as well as a variety of new, broadly applicable digital history platforms.

*HIST 324 (3 credit hours) NEW*

This course provides an introduction to museum and archival practices. Students will be introduced to the history of museums and the field of museum studies. This course will consider museum theory and best practices; development, care, and use of museums, collections; collection organization and preservation; museum education and outreach; museum administration, funding, and exhibition development.

*PSCI/BUS 468 (3 credit hours)*

Students will study a range of topics involved in the administration of public agencies. Topics will include the history of America's public service, the development of intergovernmental relations, bureaucracies, public personnel, budgeting, decision making, evaluation procedures, and regulatory administration. This class will encourage students to investigate the role of public administration in the past and today, as well as to conjecture the possibilities for the future.

*HIST 441 Cooperative Education Internship (6 credit hours)*

This course is designed for students to explore and gain work experience related to their major and anticipated career goals. Students may enroll for 1-12 hours of graded credit. A minimum of forty-five hours of work experience will be required for each hour of credit per semester. The student will complete necessary paperwork with the employer and the Internship Supervisor. No more than 12 credits of internship credit may be counted towards graduation requirements.

**2. Centrality to Role and Mission**

This undergraduate certificate program offers students multiple opportunities for "personal and engaging educational experiences," beyond the classroom. Students will have multiple real-life field experiences in fulfilling the requirements of the courses required for completion of the certificate, and the required internship will provide training in the professional setting. The program will provide graduates with the knowledge and skills to enable them to obtain fulfilling employment within their fields of study, gain admission to graduate study, and become leaders within their communities. The program also helps to position the College as being vital to the region by providing well-trained interns for the numerous museums and historical societies in the area.

### 3. Evidence of Need and Demand

#### A. Need for the program:

Training in public history is a growing field and the experience students will gain is required for entry-level positions in museums, archives, historic sites, oral history projects, historic preservation, and cultural and natural resource management sites that are public-facing. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics notes that the job outlook for Historians is growing at a 6% rate through 2028. (<https://data.bls.gov/projections/occupationProj>)

The proposed certificate provides employment opportunities to all history and social science majors, for those in social science education may wish to pursue summer opportunities for employment in this area. However, the certificate primarily serves those who do not wish to pursue a career in education, industry and post graduate opportunities. Offering the certificate fills a need in our local and regional historical societies that continually call on the Social Science faculty for student interns who are qualified to help with staffing and special projects. Recently, these requests have come from Peru, Auburn, Nebraska City, and most recently, from the South Dakota State Parks Commission at Ft. Sisseton and the Homestead National Monument. A student interning at a National Park or Monument gives them an advantage for numerous opportunities with the federal service. Increasingly, our non-teaching history and social science majors have expressed the desire to pursue careers in public history or museum work. However, they are increasingly unprepared for even entry-level jobs if they lack training in public history or museum work. Half of the recent students in the capstone class expressed this as a career aspiration.

- B. Demand for the Program: The program will provide a niche for the College's History/Social Science program that would make it distinctive in the state and region. Among current students, we estimate that 50% of the 40-50 students seeking the social science degree would pursue this certificate, and this new offering could attract individuals in other social science programs who wish to be more marketable as a job applicant. Art majors with an interest in curation would be the largest interest area outside of social sciences. Additionally, this program would be attractive to community members seeking employment in public history. The Southeast Nebraska region features many museums, galleries, and other tourism businesses that would benefit from employees who had these skills.

### 4. Adequacy of Resources

#### A. Faculty and Staff Resources:

Existing faculty will be able to meet this need of the program through a re-adjustment of the course rotation that eliminates sections of current courses. The sections replaced by the new course offerings would be general education sections of Hist 113/114 American History.

#### B. Physical Facilities:

Existing classroom and technological facilities would be able to accommodate the added courses proposed in this certificate. No renovation or reallocation of spaces would be required.

- C. Instructional Equipment and Informational Resources:  
No increase in instructional equipment is anticipated.
- D. Budget Projections for the first five years of program:  
No immediate impact is expected to the existing budget.

**5. Avoidance of Unnecessary Duplication**

There is only one other program in the state that offers a public history option for undergraduate students, which is offered by the University of Nebraska-Kearney. However, this program is brand new as of this past Fall semester and is a testament to the increasing demand for training of this type. Other programs in the region are graduate programs. The undergraduate certificate proposed is unique in that it is offered as a certificate on an existing program rather than a stand-alone program or option.

**6. Consistency with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education**

This program meets the statewide plan for postsecondary education by fulfilling a need of students as well as a workforce need of the state and region. The program provides a quality career option for students in History and Social Science. Coursework provided will prepare the students for career opportunities in public history and museum work, as well as graduate work in those areas. Critical thinking, communication and research skills gained through coursework and experiential learning required for the certificate will groom students to lead informed, healthy and productive lives. This program also prepares students to meet the needs of community and regional organizations looking for qualified interns to assist their organizations in public history. The program will also help Peru State College fulfill its role in an exemplary manner by offering a unique program that maximizes its location in a history-rich part of the state.