Overview

The Preservation Studies program at the Tulane School of Architecture offers an interdisciplinary opportunity to learn about architectural preservation in one of America’s most historic cities. New Orleans maintains a wealth of experience in architectural heritage protection resulting from its over eighty years of historic preservation legislation and its history of preservation achievements.

The Preservation Studies program was founded by architect and preservationist Eugene Cizek, Ph.D. in 1996, with guidance and support from the noted American preservation educator James Marston Fitch, who also attended Tulane’s School of Architecture. Since July 2011, the Preservation Studies program has been directed by John H. Stubbs, international architectural conservation practitioner, former director of field projects for the World Monuments Fund, and teacher of preservation theory and practice at Columbia University for over two decades. The program is also supported by a strong Tulane Preservation Alumni Group, and a Preservation Studies Advisory Group. The program also hosts a biennial Preservation Matters symposium addressing new directions in the field.

For more information, please contact the Program Directors.

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Programs
Undergraduate

Minors

- Preservation Minor (https://catalog.tulane.edu/architecture/preservation/preservation-minor)

Graduate

- Preservation Studies Certificate (Graduate) (https://catalog.tulane.edu/architecture/preservation/preservation-studies-cer)
- Preservation Studies, MPS (https://catalog.tulane.edu/architecture/preservation/preservation-studies-mps)

Courses

Preservation Studies (PRST)

PRST 6210 Intro Preservation Studies (3 Credit Hours)
Through this course, the history of the preservation movement in the Americas will be studied to understand the theoretical, ethical, and philosophical concepts and ideas that will render the physical activity of restoration valid. Values and attitudes of the various cultural groups and settings in the Americas will be reviewed. The role played by preservation philosophies and theories of European and Oriental context will be studied.

PRST 6220 Preservation Technology (3 Credit Hours)
This course will study the highly complex construction methods and systems ranging from traditional rammed earth systems, sun dried bricks, fired bricks, stone and wood, to the new materials developed since the industrial revolution (i.e., iron and steel, reinforced concrete, petrochemical based materials). Understanding the process of procuring construction materials and production, will allow the student to understand the process of deterioration which eventually leads to the need of understanding Preservation Technology.

PRST 6310 Env Law: Historic Preservation (2 Credit Hours)
PRST 6320 Econ & Practice of Preservation (3 Credit Hours)
PRST 6410 Field Studies - North America (3 Credit Hours)
This course will examine preservation advocacy, using field trips and guest lecturers. Students will learn about methods for the application of historic preservation law and practice within the United States and its effects. Speakers and site visits will represent a range of constituencies from citizens leading grass-roots advocacy efforts to save buildings or neighborhoods to the work of local organizations, to the work of state and federal organizations. Field trips to local organizations will likely include the Preservation Resource Center, the Pitot House, Felicity Street Redevelopment, Tulane City Center, the State Historic Preservation Office in Baton Rouge, and the annual conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Field Studies in North America course requires participation at an annual national historic preservation conference in the United States or Canada such those conducted by the US National Trust for Historic Preservation, the International Association of Preservation Technology or the US/International Council on Monuments and Sites.
2019-2020

PRST 6420  Hist Prsrv: South America  (1 Credit Hour)

PRST 6510  Bldg Preservation Studio  (6 Credit Hours)
This studio is the beginning orientation course that examines all aspects of preservation concerns related to the individual building or group of buildings. The student will learn how to analyze the condition of the building(s) and its (their) context. The studio will examine the differences between building stabilization, adaptive reuse, renovation and restoration. A travel and research component will use real life experiences to illustrate the interdisciplinary nature of preservation in the Americas. An internship in an area of personal choice (such as house museum, community action organization, governmental agency, heritage education or community renewal program) will be developed during this studio.

PRST 6520  Urban Conservation Studio  (6 Credit Hours)
Students will do extensive field work to learn analysis, documentation, interpretation and the techniques required for neighborhood, community and general environmental renewal. Basic land use controls, urban design and planning components and developmental alternatives as related to preservation and conservation concerns will be investigated. The role played by landscape and natural systems will be investigated as they relate to the evolution and future opportunities of both rural and urban contexts.

PRST 6610  History of American Arch  (3 Credit Hours)
This course will investigate the Pre-Columbian world of the Americas through the Colonial Period. Landscape, decorative arts and furniture will be surveyed. Design, theory, and their influences will be considered. The course will utilize examples of preservation and conservation projects to illustrate the changes in architectural styles over time and the special issues and challenges that have been created. Individual and group projects and reports will develop public presentation skills.

PRST 6620  New Orleans Architecture  (3 Credit Hours)
This course will focus on the natural and built world of the Americas during the 19th and 20th centuries. Pattern books, interior design, landscape, and urban design theories will be investigated through careful studies of preservation and conservation. Group discussion and individual presentation of research projects will allow the student to integrate their research findings in a public format.

PRST 6830  GIS for Historic Preservation  (1 Credit Hour)

PRST 6850  Preservation Internship  (1-3 Credit Hours)
A sixty hour internship with an approved preservation agency such as the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans, the South Eastern Architecture Archive at Tulane, the NEW Orleans Historic District Landmarks Commission, the Vieux Carre Commission, the Historic New Orleans Collection or some similar entity will provide the student with hands on experience, research opportunities, archival work, public service and heritage education opportunities. The internship can be performed at anytime during the course of academic studies. It will require a contract that defines the activities of the internship and a letter of successful completion from the Director of the chosen agency. The internship will be coordinated by the Director of the Preservation Studies Program and an adviser.

PRST 6900  Preservation Practicum  (6 Credit Hours)
The Practicum for the Master of Preservation Studies program is an alternative option to the Thesis requirement an important part of the MPS course of study. The Practicum is expected to be a concentrated and valuable work experience that the student chooses that must relate to the field of historic preservation. Its accomplishment must entail 480 hours (three months, full-time) unpaid work with an organization. There is wide scope with regard to the possible organizations and locations for students to pursue their practicum experience. With prior approval, students may receive a small stipend or honorarium. Organization of the Practicum experience is the student’s responsibility and must be done in cooperation with the organization that invites your participation and your adviser.

PRST 6920  Preservation Thesis  (6 Credit Hours)
The Thesis for the MSP program is a major course within the MPS program since it calls upon most of what a student has learned during his or her graduate school experience. There is wide scope with regard to possible topic choices and the location of a thesis subject can be anywhere, although if your thesis is site-specific you must have some first hand knowledge of the place by the end of the preceding semester. The thesis topic must relate to the field of historic preservation and its contents should be based mostly on primary research.

PRST 9980  Thesis Research  (0 Credit Hours)