

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A PH.D. IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION (GSAPP)

WHEREAS historic preservation has become one of the major forces shaping cities and landscapes across the world; and

WHEREAS historic preservation is a vibrant profession which has been subjected to new and important challenges that academia is well-equipped to address; and

WHEREAS historic preservation is a growing theoretical concern in many older disciplines, especially in those fields related to historic preservation, and the new Ph.D. program will promote and be enriched by contact with these older disciplines and, in turn, will fill a need within these disciplines for more advanced knowledge on how to study, protect, manage, and physically alter the world's built heritage; and

WHEREAS there is a need for a new Ph.D. program in the academic and professional job market, and the new program will establish the standards for historic preservation to operate as a full discipline in the American research university, building on Columbia's pioneering legacy; and

WHEREAS graduates of the new Ph.D. program will shape the future of historic preservation programs, will act as the key faculty with preservation expertise in architecture schools without historic preservation programs, and will play central roles in professional organizations that value research and scholarship; and

WHEREAS the program will be small and highly selective and will not duplicate any existing program in the University; and

WHEREAS demand for this program is anticipated to be high, and no other institution in the U.S. currently offers a Ph.D. in Historic Preservation; and

WHEREAS the Education Committee of the Senate has favorably reviewed the proposal,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University Senate approve the proposed program with the proviso that the Education Committee will review the program in five years.

Proponent: Education Committee

Purpose and need

The Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP) proposes to establish a new Ph.D. program in Historic preservation.

Columbia University founded the first historic preservation program within academe in 1964, with the goal to train the professional leaders of the United States. The success of the masters degree program over the last half century can be measured by the fact that senior positions in America's major historic preservation institution are overwhelmingly held by our alumni. Those alumni and our faculty have helped shape the profession with pioneering ideas and innovative practices.

The achievements of our masters degree program made it the model for academic instruction that has been emulated across the country. The field has grown and matured into a specific body of historical, theoretical and technical knowledge on how to treat historic buildings, cities and landscapes such that they will retain their cultural value as documents of the past.

Today, historic preservation has become one of the major forces shaping cities and landscapes across the world. While preservation is a vibrant profession, it is also being subjected to new and important challenges that academia is intellectually well equipped to address. For instance, the geographical structuring of practice according to municipal, national and international frames sometimes prevents adequate responses to the pressures that rapidly shifting global flows of information and capital place on the built environment.

The objective of the proposed Ph.D. program is not to defend practice against such challenges, but rather to 1) articulate a historical understanding of the discipline's evolving challenges and purposes 2) promote theoretical speculation on alternative modes of disciplinary engagement suited to the new ethical, technical, aesthetic and social problems of the 21st century, and 3) foster a critical scholarly culture conducive to training the discipline's future leaders.

The new Ph.D. program will finally establish the standards for Historic preservation to operate as a full discipline in the American research university, building on Columbia's pioneering legacy. The need for a new Ph.D. program is also confirmed by the fact that historic preservation is a growing theoretical concern in many disciplines, especially in those fields related to historic preservation through their common engagement with historic built environments such as architecture, engineering, environmental sciences, computer sciences, art and architectural history, archeology, real estate development, and planning. The new Ph.D. program will promote and be enriched by contacts with these older disciplines in the form of elective courses and affiliated faculty who will assist in advising with dissertation research. In turn, the new Ph.D. program will fill a need within other disciplines for more advanced knowledge on how to study, protect, manage, and physically alter the world's built heritage. By establishing a framework for Ph.D. level work in historic preservation, the new program will facilitate new inter---disciplinary research.

The establishment of a Ph.D. program in Historic Preservation is a critical step in GSAPP's mission to advance doctoral level research into the forces shaping the built environment. At present, Ph.D.s are only offered in architecture and planning. With the new Ph.D. program, GSAPP will create a unique research ecology for research into how the environment is planned, built and preserved. All three programs have a strong historical and theoretical emphasis, and will therefore be mutually complimentary. Preservationists in academia and in practice often collaborate with urban planners,

architects, and architectural historians. The new program is modeled on the existing ones in terms of size (3 students per year) and to some degree in curriculum.

The proposed program will not duplicate any existing program in GSAPP or in the University. Rather, it is expected to enhance Ph.D. programs in related disciplines, such as Architecture, Urban Planning, and Art History and Archaeology. The new program will benefit from the availability of elective classes on related topics on offer in existing programs, and will provide new elective courses on preservation that will enrich the study of related disciplines.

The primary need for the program is to supply adequately trained professors to teach historic preservation at leading academic institutions worldwide. As the field has matured, more emphasis is being placed on academia as a source of knowledge production. Masters programs in professional schools have satisfied this mission up to now, but their primary mission is to prepare students to succeed in the profession. In the academic job market Ph.D.s are now regularly required to teach in historic preservation masters programs, which reflects the new expectations about faculty research productivity. The mismatch between the degree we offer and the degree required in the academic job market is preventing our graduates from assuming leadership positions in universities. Because the terminal degree in historic preservation is currently a masters, the top academic positions are slowly being filled by academics from other disciplines and other schools. Over the last 20 years, we have seen an erosion of Columbia University's previous hegemony in supplying the leaders in historic preservation education because of this structural problem. The proposed Ph.D. program will allow Columbia to reclaim its leadership of the field, and set the standards for research, scholarship, and education in historic preservation. The need for Ph.D.s in historic preservation is not only national but also global. The proposed Ph.D. would be the first in the USA. Internationally there are Ph.D. programs 6 in historic preservation in Europe, but they are not enough to supply the demand. Only two other universities in the world offer Ph.D.s in historic preservation that resemble the proposed program: the International University of Architecture in Venice (IUAV), which offers a concentration in restoration within its architecture and urbanism Ph.D. and the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, which offers a Ph.D. in Restoration.

On a yearly average, we receive about 20 unsolicited requests to do Ph.D. level work in preservation at Columbia, even though we do not yet offer such a program. In addition, each year about five masters students at Columbia (about 20% of the class), after completing their Masters thesis, express the desire to continue their academic training by pursuing Ph.D. level work in preservation. No other institution in the US offers a Ph.D. in Historic preservation. However, some universities have started to address the growing job market for Ph.D. graduates through two different strategies. The University of Delaware has cobbled together courses from other existing Ph.D. programs into a doctoral level "Preservation Studies Program." This approach lacks disciplinary specificity and The University of Texas has formalized a concentration in preservation within its Ph.D. program in planning. We have not deemed it necessary to formally consult with these programs.

Curriculum

Students must enroll in two years of coursework (39 credits), and in be residence for three subsequent years (total of 5 years time to completion). Upon completion of coursework, and before the end of their 3rd year, students must:

--pass the M.Phil. Examination involving a Major and a Minor qualifying exam as well as the submission of 3 seminar essays (revised to publication quality) during the Fall semester.

--pass one language exam at any point during the first three years in residence. Students must score at the intermediate level or higher in reading ability. The test is administered by the Columbia University Language Resource Center.

--successfully defend a dissertation proposal during the Spring semester. At the completion of the above requirements, students receive the M.Phil. and are advanced to candidacy for the Ph.D. Students are expected to complete writing their dissertation in two years (5 years time to completion), but in no more than 4 years (7 years time to completion).