The educational objectives (SLO’s) for the field of historic preservation are formally set by the National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE). Founded in the 1970s to provide guidance to university and college programs and serve as a forum for discussion of professional qualifications, the NCPE has set out specific requirements for program content, which are published annually. These are described in the NCPE website (http://www.uvm.edu/histpres/ncpe.html) and are revisited annually. The NCPE has a standing committee on program requirements and all programs are evaluated against the national standards, again on an annual basis.

The NCPE assigns all programs to different levels of standing on the basis of course offerings, course duration, numbers of instructors and specific competencies offered by each program. Rather than specify courses, the NCPE committee has provided wider guidance based on program content in various areas. These include: Knowledge of preservation law, design skills, competency in documentation and recording, knowledge of economics as it applied to historic preservation, conservation science, history of historic preservation, preservation planning and research in history, archaeology, landscapes and architecture. Programs are placed at different levels in the NCPE ranking on the basis of the degree offered rather than on the basis of the program quality. The NCPE does not conduct assessments of individual programs but bases its rankings on individual program reports.

Students in the program are enrolled either as “Stands-alone” certificate candidates or as Concurrent Students, who are degree candidates in American Studies, Architecture, Urban and Regional Planning, Anthropology, Asian Studies, Pacific Island Studies, Art History, Political Science or other related programs.

The program requires three core courses and two electives. Because of the differing academic tracks of the students in the program, no specific sequence is required (or possible). The ideal track is:

American Studies 675 (Cross-listed as Architecture 628 and Planning 675), Preservation: Theory and Practice

Anthropology 645, Historic Preservation

American Studies 695, Practicum in Historic Preservation

Electives can be taken at any point in the program. Students are not permitted to enroll in AmSt 695 until the final term of their enrollment in the program.

In addition to the graduate certificate program, the program director also teaches two undergraduate courses that can serve as an introduction to historic
preservation. These are AmSt 474 Preservation: Hawai‘i, Asia and the Pacific and AmSt 423/Arch 473 History of American Architecture.