There are no formal prerequisites for matriculation into the graduate certificate program in terms of coursework. However, only those students with B.A. or B.S. degrees from accredited colleges or universities who are currently enrolled graduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are permitted to enter the graduate certificate program. Special students and undergraduates are ineligible to receive the certificate.

Graduate students pursuing any degree in any program at UW–Madison are invited to obtain a Graduate Certificate in the Public Humanities. The certificate is not a stand-alone program. Students who wish to receive the Graduate Certificate in the Public Humanities must take a core course, INTER-LS 700 Public Humanities: Theories, Methods, Cases offered each year, and develop a coherent, thematic sequence of three additional courses, for a total of 12 credits. All students also are required to undertake a capstone project.