

Master of Arts in Museum Studies

Museum Studies M.A. Program

The KU master's degree in Museum Studies is a 36-credit-hour program built around 3 fundamental components – *Foundational* courses and experiences, *Conceptual* inquiry and application, and *Professional* specialization and expertise. Students who earn the M.A. in Museum Studies will have acquired mastery of the professional and conceptual dimensions of museums in the broadest sense, while also developing the specialized skills necessary for success in the field.

The graduate curriculum in Museum Studies provides a comprehensive overview of the discipline, opportunities for mastering core components of museum practice, avenues for exploring the interdisciplinary nature of museums, solid grounding in current issues facing museums, and possibilities for research to develop new and innovative approaches in the field. The Museum Studies Program's core courses provide a foundation in the theories, history, techniques, and problems common to museums, historical agencies, and related institutions as well as the specialized operations of such institutions. Students also receive classroom and field training in methods and subject matter within their chosen professional specialty: Leadership and Management, Interpretation, Collections, and Community Connections. The Museum Studies Program also has well-established connections with academic disciplines such as American Studies, Anthropology, Geology, Art History, History, and Natural History, and students have many opportunities to take courses in those fields. Museum Studies graduates are well-equipped to undertake professional and leadership responsibilities in museums, historical agencies, and related institutions.

Graduates (<http://museumstudies.ku.edu/alumni>) of the program work as curators, archivists, directors, exhibit designers, collection managers, and much more at museums across the country and around the world.

Admission to Graduate Studies

An applicant seeking to pursue graduate study in the College may be admitted as either a degree-seeking or non-degree seeking student. Policies and procedures of Graduate Studies govern the process of Graduate admission. These may be found in the Graduate Studies (<http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies>) section of the online catalog.

Please consult the Departments & Programs (<http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences>) section of the online catalog for information regarding program-specific admissions criteria and requirements. Special admissions requirements pertain to Interdisciplinary Studies degrees, which may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

Admission to the Museum Studies M.A. Program

Students are admitted to the M.A. program only in the fall semester. The deadline for submitting applications is **January 15**. The Museum Studies Admissions Committee seeks to notify applicants of admission decisions by early March. Only in exceptional circumstances will we consider applications submitted after the deadline.

Eligibility criteria for admission to the M.A. program follow Graduate Studies' admission policy (<http://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study>). To be considered for admission to regular graduate status in the program, a student must hold a bachelor's degree and have earned at least a B (3.0) grade-point average in previous academic work. Acceptance in the program is determined by the Museum Studies Admissions Committee. A full list of the required application materials can be found on the Museum Studies website (<http://museumstudies.ku.edu/how-apply>).

Non-native speakers of English must meet English proficiency requirements as described here (<http://graduate.ku.edu/english-proficiency-requirements>).

M.A. Degree Requirements

The M.A. degree in museum studies requires 36 credit hours at the graduate level. Students in the Museum Studies program will complete the following:

1. The Museum Studies Core - 9 credit hours
2. Museum Professional Areas - 9 credit hours
3. Museum Conceptual Domains - 6 credit hours
4. Electives - 9 credit hours
5. Museum Experience (Internship) - 3 credit hours
6. Final Product & Examination

1. Museum Studies Core (9 credit hours)

The Museum Studies Core ensures that all Museum Studies students gain a comprehensive understanding of the theories, history, techniques, and problems common to museums, historical agencies and related institutions. The Capstone course, taken in a student's third semester of study, provides an avenue for students to conduct research or other creative activities that advance the discipline of museum studies.

Code	Title	Hours
MUSE 801	The Nature of Museums	3
MUSE 802	Culture of Museums	3
MUSE 803	Seminar in Current Museum Topics	3

2. Museum Professional Areas (9 credit hours)

Students will develop expertise in one of the principal specialties of museum work by completing at least two courses in that area, at least one of which must be a Museum Studies (MUSE) course. Many courses in other departments could fulfill requirements; it is the responsibility of students, and their advisors, to ensure that individual courses meet program requirements based on the general relevance of the course and assurance that the student's work in the class will be applicable to museum studies by meeting with instructors and examining syllabi.

Courses taken must be at the 500 level or above. The following lists include examples of courses that may fulfill the professional areas requirement.

Code	Title	Hours
LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT		
Courses cover areas such as administration, policy, fundraising, and legal issues related to the management of non-profit organizations.		
MUSE 701	Museum Management	3
Examples of Courses in Other Departments and Programs:		
LAW 867	Law and the Arts	2-3
MEMT 823	Seminar in: _____	1-3
PUAD 828	Nonprofit Management and Policy	3

PUAD 830	Administrative Ethics	3
PUAD 855	Financial Management for Public and Not-for-Profit Organizations	3

INTERPRETATION

Interpretation includes developing skills in exhibition design and installation, graphics, and marketing, public programs, as well as innovative approaches to new and emerging technologies.

MUSE 703	Introduction to Museum Exhibits	3
MUSE 705	Introduction to Museum Public Education	3

Examples of Courses in Other Departments and Programs:

ADS 712	Design Strategies and Methods	3
BIOL 720	Scientific Illustration	3
THR 618	Scenography and the Musical Theatre	3

COLLECTIONS

Courses provide opportunities to develop expertise in the practices and policies associated with the management and care of the range of materials in museum collections.

MUSE 704	Introduction to Collections Management and Utilization	3
MUSE 706	Conservation Principles and Practices	3
MUSE 707	Practical Archival Principles	3

Examples of Courses in Other Departments and Programs:

ANTH 520	Archaeological Ceramics	3
ANTH 582	Ethnobotany	3
ANTH 648	Human Osteology	4
BIOL 603	Systematic Botany	3
GEOL 725	Paleontology of Lower Vertebrates	3
TD 504	History of Textiles, Lecture	3
UBPL 760	Historic Preservation Planning	3

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Courses enable students to develop skills in public programming, curriculum planning, visitor studies, audience development, and volunteer management.

MUSE 705	Introduction to Museum Public Education	3
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Examples of Courses in Other Departments and Programs:

ABSC 719	Experimental Field Work in Community Settings	1-5
C&T 808	Qualitative Research: Curriculum Inquiry	3
COMS 855	Qualitative Research Methods in Communication Studies	3
COMS 855	Qualitative Research Methods in Communication Studies	3
HIST 601	Oral History	3
VAE 750	Introduction to Art Museum Education	1-4

3. Courses focusing on Museum Conceptual Domains (6 credit hours)

The conceptual domains of museum work address in depth the conceptual and theoretical foundations of museums. Courses that emphasize conceptual domains will place museological subjects in broader historical and intellectual frameworks. Students may take courses which may be offered in one or several disciplines. Courses will be selected based on the general relevance of the course, and assurance that the student's work in the class will be applicable to museum studies. Please see Museum Studies website for examples of possible courses.

4. Electives and Other Museum Studies Courses (9 credit hours)

Students are expected to deepen their knowledge of the field by taking courses in a subject area pertinent to their area of specialization. Courses will be selected with the approval of the student's committee chair, as well as the course instructor.

5. Museum Experience (3 credit hours)

While enrolled in the Museum Studies program, students are required to gain at least 500 hours of museum experience, of which at least 250 hours must be in an approved, professionally supervised internship MUSE 799 Museum Internship

6. Final Product and Examination

Each student will be responsible for a final product, developed through research or other creative activity, that contributes to museum studies and demonstrates the student's ability to engage conceptually and professionally with the discipline of museum studies.