

# MUSEUM PROFESSIONS MAJOR (M.A.)

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[www.shu.edu/academics/ma-museum-professions.cfm](http://www.shu.edu/academics/ma-museum-professions.cfm) ([http://](http://www.shu.edu/academics/ma-museum-professions.cfm)

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Graduate Studies within the College of Communication and the Arts offers a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in Museum Professions. This 39-credit program prepares students for careers in museums and other cultural institutions through challenging coursework and concrete experience, melding the theoretical with the practical, with an emphasis on ongoing assessment of student learning. A hallmark of the Museum Professions program is its career-focused experiential, social, and constructivist pedagogy; grounding in the professional and scholarly literature; discourse about current issues impacting the museum field and society; emphasis on the broad spectrum of diversity, equity, and inclusion; regular interaction with museum practitioners; and career guidance. After completing this program, students will be able to design compelling education programs or exhibitions for diverse audiences, manage collections based on standards and best practices, and serve as persuasive museum leaders and change agents.

## Program of Study

The Master of Arts in Museum Professions provides students with the resources they need to build and demonstrate mastery of museum generalist knowledge and skills, museum specialist knowledge and skills focused on visitor experience and engagement or collections stewardship, and core competencies for professional roles in museums and other fields. Students enrolled in this 39-credit program engage in the following course of study:

- Foundations.** Students build generalist knowledge and skills in foundations courses exploring the history, function, and future of museums as mission-driven public institutions focused on collecting, communicating, and advocating for the essential and diverse stories about the world in which we live.
- Areas of Advanced Study:** Students build knowledge and skills through courses related to their respective disciplines. Areas of advanced study offer fluidity and flexibility within and across areas of study. Students enroll in courses under the direction of faculty and advisers that best align with their professional goals, while also considering other courses that may broaden their competencies in a competitive job market.
- Capstone Experiences.** Students demonstrate growth and mastery through robust capstone experiences, including master's thesis, professional portfolio, and/or museum internship. Collectively, these experiences provide students with immersive opportunities to apply, test, reflect on, and refine their growing knowledge and skills inside and outside the classroom setting and into professional museum environments.

## Curriculum Requirements

A total of 39 credits is required.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Core Courses</b>		
ARMS 6000	Anatomy of Museum	3
ARMS 6505	History-Theory of Museums	3
ARMS 6805	Legal-Ethical Issues Museums	3
COTC 7110	Communication Research	3
COMM 8000	Communication Research Methods	3
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Thesis Related Courses</b>		
COMM 8199	Sp Tp - Master's Project I	3
COMM 8200	Sp Tp - Master's Project II	3
ARMS 7800	Internship	3
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Areas of Advanced Study</b>		
Select one of the following tracks:		9
Museum Education (p. 1)		
Museum Registration (p. 1)		
Museum Management (p. 1)		
Exhibition Development (p. 1)		
<b>Electives</b> <b>6</b>		
Any courses in any track other than the one the student has chosen.		
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>39</b>

**Note:** Electives will be selected in consultation with a faculty advisor.

### Museum Education

Code	Title	Hours
ARMS 6601	ST - Foundations Museum Ed	3
ARMS 6815	Museums and Communities	3
ARMS 6817	Audience Rsch Proj Evaluation	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>9</b>

### Museum Registration

Code	Title	Hours
ARMS 6802	Object Care	3
ARMS 6803	Museum Registration I	3
ARMS 6818	Intro Archives Museum Professn	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>9</b>

### Museum Management

Code	Title	Hours
ARMS 6806	Museum Fundraising Fundamental	3
ARMS 6815	Museums and Communities	3
COTC 6100	Intro Organizational Comm	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>9</b>

### Exhibition Development

Code	Title	Hours
ARMS 6803	Museum Registration I	3
ARMS 7001	SP TP - Museum Exhibition A-Z	3

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ARMS 7002	Producing an Exhibition	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>9</b>

For more information about this program, visit <http://www.shu.edu/academics/ma-museum-professions.cfm> or contact Ms. Brittany Scoles, via email at [brittany.scoles@shu.edu](mailto:brittany.scoles@shu.edu).