Columbian College of Arts and Sciences offers an interdepartmental program leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the field of museum studies. The program is designed for those who seek a deepening of their primary academic interest along with training in the broad range of talents required in the successful operation of museums. The goal of the program is to produce graduates who are prepared to assume museum positions that require both scholarship and functional skills.

In preparing the academic core portion of the program of study, students draw on courses offered by the appropriate academic departments. Courses that pertain to the museum studies portion of the program are described below and are supplemented by additional courses offered by other departments, such as American Studies, Anthropology, History, Educational Leadership, Fine Arts and Art History, Interior Architecture and Design, and Theatre and Dance.

Applicants to the M.A. program must have an undergraduate major, or its equivalent, relevant to the proposed academic core and must be able to demonstrate a sufficient breadth of academic preparation to support the proposed graduate course of study. Prior museum training is strongly recommended.

Students whose career interests are primarily in museum education should refer to the Master of Arts in Teaching (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/education-human-development/masters-program/teaching-museum-education) under the Graduate School of Education and Human Development.

Graduate certificates in museum studies, exhibit design, and museum collections management and care are offered as well.

**GRADUATE**

**Master's program**
- Master of Arts in the field of museum studies (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/museum-studies/ma)

**CERTIFICATE**
- Graduate certificate in museum studies
- Graduate certificate in exhibit design
- Graduate certificate in museum collections management and care (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/museum-studies/museum-collections-management-care-certificate)

**FACULTY**

*Committee on Museum Studies* M. Atkin, J. Blomster, B. Brennan, M. Coughlin, M. Morris, K. Rice (Director), L. Schiavo, J. Wetenhall, A. Wong

**COURSES**

**Explanation of Course Numbers**
- Courses in the 1000s are primarily introductory undergraduate courses
- Those in the 2000–4000s are upper-division undergraduate courses that can also be taken for graduate credit with permission and additional work
- Those in the 6000s and 8000s are for master's, doctoral, and professional-level students
- The 6000s are open to advanced undergraduate students with approval of the instructor and the dean or advising office

**MSTD 1000. Dean's Seminar. 3 Credits.**
The Dean's Seminars provide Columbian College first-year students focused scholarship on specific intellectual challenges. Topics vary by semester. Consult the schedule of classes for more details. Restricted to First-year students in CCAS.

**MSTD 6101. Museum Management. 3 Credits.**
Overall operation of the museum: legal status of the museum and its obligations to the public; governance, staffing, policymaking as a nonprofit organization. Theory applied to practical situations.

**MSTD 6102. NonProfit Fiscal Management. 3 Credits.**
Basic concepts of general accounting; fund accounting for nonprofit organizations; budgets and budget systems; use of the budget as a management tool; long-range planning; income sources; other financial management concepts.

**MSTD 6103. Leading Change. 3 Credits.**
Leadership challenges and styles as they relate to organizational change efforts. Case studies of museums undergoing change; best practices in leadership at all levels of the museum.

**MSTD 6104. Managing People and Projects. 3 Credits.**
Organizational development and modern management concepts as applied to museums. Managing people in the organization; the importance of project management systems to museum administration.

**MSTD 6201. Museum Collections. 3 Credits.**
Establishing collections policies; laws, regulations, conventions, and codes that affect acquisitions, deaccessions, loans, and collection care; accountability; access problems.

**MSTD 6202. Museum Collections Management. 3 Credits.**
The implementation of collections policies: establishing and managing collections, management procedures and systems, documentation of collections, records preservation, collections access and storage, handling, packing and shipping, and inventory control.
MSTD 6203. Preventive Conservation Concepts. 3 Credits.
Historical development of preventive conservation in museums, conservation ethics, team approaches to conservation, interactions of various materials with agents of deterioration. Basics of materials testing, preparation of condition reports, choosing museum storage and exhibition materials, and risk assessment. Same as ANTH 6203 and AH 6286.

MSTD 6204. Preventive Conservation Techniques. 3 Credits.
Practical applications of preventive conservation of materials, monitoring environmental conditions, conducting risk assessments, evaluation of exhibit and storage areas; developing plans, policies, and procedures for collections care; grant proposal preparation for collections care initiatives. Same as ANTH 6204 and AH 6287.

MSTD 6301. Museum Exhibitions: Curatorial Research. 3 Credits.
Museum research from a curatorial point of view, with emphasis on exhibit theory and practice. Research techniques, information sources, and script production.

MSTD 6302. Museum Exhibition Design. 3 Credits.
The processes of research, conceptualization, planning, and evaluation from a designer’s point of view. Focus is on individual projects with some group collaboration. The designer’s vocabulary, visual thinking, design documentation, and specifications.

MSTD 6303. Advanced Exhibition Design. 3 Credits.
The processes of research, conceptualization, planning, and evaluation from a designer’s point of view. Focus is on individual projects with some group collaboration. The designer’s vocabulary, visual thinking, design documentation, and specifications.

MSTD 6304. Museum Exhibit Development. 3 Credits.
Research techniques; information sources; script production from a content perspective.

MSTD 6305. Visitor Perspectives: Museum Evaluation in Exhibitions. 3 Credits.
Theory and practice of museum evaluation, especially as related to exhibition development. (Same as EDUC 6706).

MSTD 6501. Museum Internship. 1-3 Credits.
Individual work experience in museums of the Washington area and possibly elsewhere. Each student should make arrangements with the Museum Studies Program staff. Museum internships are supervised by one or more members of the cooperating museum staff in the areas of museum management, object care and conservation, and exhibiting.

MSTD 6502. Directed Research. 3 Credits.
Individual research on special topics in the museum field. Topics must be approved by the director of the Museum Studies Program. May be repeated for credit.

MSTD 6601. Special Topics. 3 Credits.
May be repeated for credit provided the topic differs.

MSTD 6701. Museum Hist & Theory. 3 Credits.
Museums viewed from historical, philosophical, and practical perspectives. Examination and comparison of types of collecting organizations. Analysis of contemporary studies on the status of museums and their public programs.

MSTD 6702. Museums and the Public: Exhibiting Culture. 3 Credits.
An introduction to the wide range of problems, possibilities, and choices that are part of the cultural landscape of how museums interact with their audiences through public programs. (Same as ANTH 6202).