

MASTER OF ARTS IN THE FIELD OF MUSEUMS, HISTORY AND CULTURE

This program will begin in the fall 2025 semester. Applications are currently being accepted.

The master of arts in museums, history, and culture is an innovative interdisciplinary program. It provides students with advanced training in the methods and scholarship of history or American studies, while also grounding their education in the ethics of museum practice and the skills used by museum professionals. The program is designed for emerging scholars who wish to develop research skills and an area of expertise as well as the practical knowledge and skills needed to bring history to the public.

Students who choose to study in the field of history can do so in a range of specialized areas, such as Native American history, nineteenth-century U.S history, Asian history, or the history of the Middle East. Those focusing on American studies might specialize in performance studies, histories of race and ethnicity, media and popular culture studies, or urban studies.

The program takes full advantage of GW's location in Washington, DC, close to the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution's many museums. Unique opportunities for internships or independent study are provided by the many local and national cultural and political advocacy programs.

ADMISSIONS

This program will begin in the fall 2025 semester. Applications are currently being accepted.

Admission Fall - April 1 (February 1 for fellowship consideration) deadlines:

Spring - October 1

Standardized test scores: The GRE general exam is not required.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of all applicants except those who hold a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States or from an institution located in a country in which English is the official language, provided English was the language of instruction.

Minimum scores for the program are:

- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 7.0 with no individual score below 6.0;

or TOEFL: 600 on paper-based or 100 on Internet-based;

or PTE Academic: 68

Recommendations: Two letters of recommendation are required.

Prior academic records: Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission.

If transcripts are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translation alone should be uploaded into your application.

Statement of purpose: An essay of 500-750 words on your background and interest in the program

Prerequisite requirements: Bachelor's degree in arts, humanities or social sciences

International Applicants only: Please review International Applicant Information (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants> (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants/>)) carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW, and English language requirements.

REQUIREMENTS

This program will begin in the fall 2025 semester. Applications are currently being accepted.

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext>).

36 credits, including 6 credits in required methodology courses, 6 credits in selected museum skills courses, 3 credits in applied work, a 3-credit capstone project, and 18 credits in elective courses.

Code	Title	Credits
Required		
Methodology courses		
AMST 6100	Scope and Methods in American Studies	
or HIST 6005	Introduction to Historiography	
CMST 6107	Museum Ethics and Values	
Museum skills selected courses		
Two courses (6 credits) selected from the following:		
CMST 6101	Museum Management	
CMST 6201	Introduction to Museum Collections	

CMST 6301 Museum Exhibition Curatorial Research
and Planning

Applied work

CMST 6501 Museum Studies Internship
or CMST 6304 Exhibition Development and Scriptwriting

Capstone project

One 3 credit semester course approved by the director in which the student produces a capstone project.*

Electives

18 credits (six courses) in a combination of Museum Studies (CMST), History (HIST), and American Studies (AMST) courses selected in consultation with the program director.

*The capstone course usually will be AMST 6195 Research Seminar in American Studies or a History (HIST) course designated as a research seminar. Students can arrange to use an independent study to fulfill the capstone requirement with the approval of the program director and a specific professor. The final project completed in a course listed above also could be used to fulfill the requirement for a capstone with the approval of the program director; in such cases the student must take an additional elective course within one of the participating departments.