

MUSEUM AND CURATORIAL STUDIES, MINOR

Museum and Curatorial Studies is an interdisciplinary program that examines the practices associated with the collection, analysis, and exhibition of art, artifacts, specimens, and interpretive displays for the purpose of preservation, interpretation, and public engagement. It also considers the practices associated with the governance, administration, and responsible fiscal management within the professional world of museums and other collection and exhibition spaces. Finally, the field of museum studies seeks to understand the dynamic role museums, galleries, and collecting play in history and culture.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Museum and Curatorial Studies minor, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of approaches to work performed in museums and galleries including operations, collections management, interpretation, exhibition, and museum education.
- Analyze the role of public exhibitions in culture, for example, as institutions embedded in historical contexts and as sites of cultural production.
- Apply interdisciplinary methods and theories appropriate to the various aspects of museum and curatorial studies to an aspect of museum work that could include operation collections management, interpretation, exhibition, or museum education.

Study Plan

To obtain the optional minor in Museum and Curatorial Studies, a student must complete at least 18 hours of designated Museum and Curatorial Studies coursework, including both required and elective courses.

Required courses include:

Code	Title	Hours
MC 200	Introduction to Museum and Curatorial Studies	3
MC/AR 313	Museums and Materials	3
MC 400	Capstone in Museum and Curatorial Studies	3
Total Hours		9

Students will work with the director of the Museum and Curatorial Studies to create a study plan of 9 additional credit hours in elective courses that satisfy the program's learning outcomes and complement a student's major area and interests. These electives must be taken in at least two disciplines, and at least 6 hours of electives must be at the upper-division level. This study plan must be approved before a student completes coursework in the minor program.

Course Offerings

MC 199 Special Topics in Museum and Curatorial Studies (3)

Topics will vary from semester to semester and will be announced in advance. May be taken for more than one semester. Prerequisite: Consent of Instructor.

MC 200 Introduction to Museum and Curatorial Studies (3)

Museums, collections, and exhibition spaces: why do we have them and what are their functions in society? What sort of institutions fall under the definition of a museum? What does it mean to work in a museum, a gallery, a private collection, or to serve in a curatorial role? This class will explore the history of museums and exhibition spaces and current debates about these institutions, including mission and vision statements, roles and organizational structure, architecture and facilities management, and legal and ethical issues. Lectures, readings, and assignments will encompass interdisciplinary ideas and establish for students the capabilities required of a curatorial professional—from the practical skills needed to operate a museum or gallery to theories on the societal role of museums and other exhibition spaces. Students will learn through lecture, discussion, in-class activities, reading, writing assignments, museum visits, and guest speakers. Prerequisite: None.

Course Attributes:

- Gen Ed AY 2024-2025: Arts and Humanities
- Gen Ed Pre-AY 2024-2025: Humanities
- USLO: Critical and Creative Thinking

MC 313 Museums and Materials (3)

Drawing on the resources of the Mulvane Art Museum, this class will examine collection and curatorial practices for museums. Students will learn protocols and guidelines for managing collections. They will study current preventative conservation methods and recommendations for object care. Through hands-on activities, they will learn best practices for object documentation, handling, and storage. They will explore the issues and considerations involved in loaning objects between museums. Prerequisites: MC 200

MC 399 Special Topics in Museum and Curatorial Studies (3)

Topics will vary from semester to semester and will be announced in advance. May be taken for more than one semester. Prerequisite: Consent of Instructor.

MC 400 Capstone in Museum and Curatorial Studies (3)

The Museum and Curatorial Studies Capstone prepares students to successfully plan and complete a project related to their professional interests in Museum and Curatorial Studies. Capstone projects may include an analysis of an issue or topic in areas such as collections, curatorial management, education or administration. Prerequisites: MC 200, AR 313, and at least 12 hours of credit in the Museum and Curatorial Studies minor or permission of the director of the Museum and Curatorial Studies program.