Master of Arts in Museum Studies at The George Washington University

Exhibitions & Visitor Exp. Course Requirements

The GW Museum Studies program is a 36-credit degree. Upon entering the program, every student selects a Museum Studies concentration in one of four areas:

- Museum Management
- Collections Management
- Exhibitions and Visitor Experience
- Public Engagement

All students will complete one core course entitled Museum Ethics & Values, one internship, five (5) required courses in the selected concentration, and five (5) electives. Electives may be drawn from within Museum Studies (including a second internship) or up to four (4) courses from outside the program.

Throughout your program, you should work with your advisor to ensure that you will meet program requirements and your own career and educational goals.

Exhibitions & Visitor Experience Concentration

Students learn strategies, skills, and approaches to content development related to exhibitions and programming in physical spaces, print, and digitally. Classes cover curatorial practice, script development, and evaluation, and teach students how to evaluate visitor experience and develop audience-centered content. Prepares students for work as exhibit developers, curatorial assistants (or curators at smaller institutions), social media managers, visitor experience and museum evaluators.

Required courses

- CMST 6107 Museum Ethics and Values (during your first year) (Fall, Spring)
- CMST 6501 Internship (available after your first semester) (Fall, Spring, Summer)
- CMST 6301 Museum Exhibition: Curatorial Research and Planning (Fall)
- CMST 6304 Exhibition Development and Scriptwriting (Spring) (CMST 6301 required)
- CMST 6305 Visitor Perspectives: Museum Evaluation (Fall)

Select two (2) courses from the below

- CMST 6104 Managing People and Projects (Spring)
- CMST 6106 Museum Marketing (Spring, alternating years)
- CMST 6306 Race, Gender, Sexuality & the Museum (Spring, alternating years)
- CMST 6307 Interpreting Historic Sites and House Museums (Fall)
- CMST 6308 Critical Visitor Experience (Spring)
- CMST 6403 Museums and Technology (Fall)

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- CMST 6701 Museum History and Theory (Fall)
- CMST 6703 Museums & Community Engagement (Fall, starting 2023)
- CMST 6601 Museums and Social Justice (Spring)
- CMST 6601 Museum Programming (Spring)
- CMST 6601 Museums as Learning Institutions (Fall)
- CMST 6601 Community Practicum (selected Summer semesters)