

Integrated Baccalaureate and Master's Degree in Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration (BS) and Museum Studies (MA)



The Integrated Baccalaureate and Master's degree program in Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration (RPTA) and Museum Studies at Western Illinois University provides an opportunity for students to complete a BS degree in four years, with an additional year to complete an MA. This unique 4 + 1 program fast tracks outstanding students to careers working with cultural and natural resources. Both degree programs emphasize applied experience in museums and community resources, with instruction and mentoring from professionals in the field.

Career Opportunities

Have you wondered what kinds of jobs there are in museums? Here's a selection of positions our graduates hold:

- Executive Director, Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies
- Administrator, Bishop Hill Heritage Association
- Curator, Amana Colonies
- Adult Programming Coordinator, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
- Assistant Director and Curator, German American Heritage Center
- Manager, Member and Donor Relations Development, Shedd Aquarium
- Membership Coordinator, Science Museum of Minnesota
- Visitor Services Manager, Milwaukee Art Museum
- Museum Outreach Educator, Figge Art Museum
- Assistant Curator, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum
- Associate and Museum Internship Coordinator, Albright-Knox Art Gallery
- Collections Assistant, National Mississippi River Museum
- Executive Director, Pella Historical Society and Tulip Time Festival
- Preparator, Northern Arizona University Art Museum
- Educator, Play Museum of Illinois State Museum
- Account Manager, Special Events, Field Museum
- Museum Educator, Putnam Museum and Science Center
- Research Assistant, Grout Museum District

Admission Requirements

Undergraduate RPTA students may apply for admission to the Integrated Baccalaureate and Master's degree program after completing 60 semester hours (SH) of undergraduate coursework, a minimum of 30 SH of which must have been completed at WIU. Applicants for admission to the integrated program must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 and a GPA of 3.25 in the RPTA major.

To apply to the integrated program, students should submit the following documents to the WIU School of Graduate Studies:

- A School of Graduate Studies application form available at wiu.edu/graduate_studies
- Official transcripts from each college or university previously attended
- A one-two page personal statement that explains career goals and how the integrated program will further those objectives
- Three confidential letters of recommendation
- Application for a graduate assistantship during the MA in Museum Studies program (optional)

Applications will be reviewed when all application materials are received by the School of Graduate Studies office.

Integrated Degree Course Requirements

Admission must be granted by the School of Graduate Studies before a student will be allowed to enroll in the integrated program's bridge ("B") courses. Students may begin taking bridge course after the completion of 90 SH. Students in the integrated program may use 9 SH of bridge courses to satisfy both the BS in RPTA and MA in Museum Studies, including two required courses and one elective as follows:

Contact Information

Questions about the undergraduate portion of the program:

Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration

Kim Moreno

(309) 762-1495

KM-Moreno@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/coehs/qc/rpta

-or-

Keri Allison

(309) 298-1689

KL-Allison@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/coehs/rpta

Questions about the graduate portion of the program:

WIU Museum Studies program

Pamela White, Director

(309) 762-9481

PJ-White@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/museumstudies

General admission questions:

School of Graduate Studies

(309) 298-1806 or (877) WIU GRAD

Grad-Office@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/grad



**Western Illinois
University**

Required Course (1)

- MST/RPTA 500B Introduction to Museums (3 SH)

Elective Courses (choose 2)

- RPTA 424B Fundraising and Volunteerism in Leisure Services (3 SH)
- RPTA 448B Interpretation of Cultural and Environmental Resources (3 SH)
- RPTA 460B Community Tourism Development (3 SH)
- RPTA 467B Special Event Planning and Management (3 SH)

RPTA Degree (BS)

The bachelor's degree program in RPTA requires 65 SH of study and prepares students for a variety of rewarding careers in recreation and leisure services.

I. RPTA Core Courses: 18 SH

- RPTA 111 Introduction to Leisure Services (3 SH)
- RPTA 230 Leadership in Leisure Services (3 SH)
- RPTA 235 Programming Principles and Applications in Leisure Services (3 SH)
- RPTA 322 Administration of Leisure Services I (3 SH)
- RPTA 397 Research and Evaluation of Leisure Services (3 SH)
- RPTA 398 Internship Seminar (1 SH)
- RPTA 499 Internship in Leisure Services (12 SH)

II. RPTA Elective Courses: 21 SH

III. Approved University Minor or Directed Elective Courses: 16 SH minimum

RPTA students are employed in a wide variety of agencies, including city parks and recreation departments, state and national parks, visitor and convention bureaus, event management businesses, camps, and rehabilitation services. Students in the RPTA program study leisure theory, learn how to program events and recreation activities, and develop competencies in management and administration. The RPTA curriculum emphasizes hands-on learning, with students engaging in many community projects as part of their coursework.

Museum Studies Degree (MA)

I. Core Courses: 18 SH

- MST/RPTA 500 Introduction to Museums (3 SH)
(completed as bridge course)
- MST 501 Museum Administration (3 SH) (Fall Semester)
- MST 515 Museum Education (3 SH) (Fall Semester)
- MST 502 Museum Exhibition (3 SH) (Spring Semester)
- MST 503 Collections Management (3 SH) (Spring Semester)
- MST 516 Visitor Studies (3 SH) (Spring Semester)



II. Directed Electives: 12 SH

- MST 520 Independent Study (1-3 SH, repeatable to 6 SH)
- MST 560 Practicum in Museums (1-3 SH, repeatable to 3 SH)
- MST 599 Special Topics in Museums (3 SH, repeatable under different special topics)

III. Culmination of the Program

- MST 600 Internship: (4 SH)
- MST 601 Workshop Requirement (0 SH)

Total Program: 34 SH (including the 9 SH of bridge courses)

“As a Museum Studies student through Western Illinois University, the relationships you make with classmates and professors are invaluable. The program teaches you how to be a successful museum professional, and the professors encourage and help you achieve your goals especially through the internship requirement. I was accepted as an intern at the Abraham Lincoln President Library and Museum and could not be more excited!”

— Krista Sellers
MA, Museum Studies, 2014