



WESTERN  
ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY  
Quad Cities

# MASTER OF ARTS IN MUSEUM STUDIES

*Higher Values in Higher Education*  
Academic Excellence • Educational Opportunity  
Personal Growth • Social Responsibility

The Master of Arts in Museum Studies degree program will prepare students for diverse types of work associated with museums, including museum administration, collections management, exhibition development, museum education, volunteerism, and fundraising. Students will learn about the purpose, function, and history of museums; become acquainted with the professional challenges and opportunities museum personnel encounter in their field; and gain practical experience working in regional museums.

Teaching methods will include lectures; seminars; hands-on experiences; and a supervised, negotiated internship placement.



**Program Location:** Quad Cities

## Admission Requirements

Applicants must hold a Bachelor's degree and be committed to pursuing a career in museums, historical agencies, preservation organizations, or other related institutions. No prior museum experience is required.

Requirements to be considered for admission into the Master of Arts (MA) in Museum Studies degree program include the following:

- Official transcripts indicating a Bachelor's degree (or foreign credentials equivalent to a Bachelor's degree in the U.S.) with a cumulative or last two years' undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher
- TOEFL score of 600 (paper based), 250 (computer based), or 100 (Internet based) or better for international applicants
- Three letters of recommendation
- A current résumé
- An essay, professional in appearance and content, explaining your academic goals while pursuing graduate study in Museum Studies at Western Illinois University and how your immediate and long-term career plans will be met through this program

Preference will be given to applicants who hold degrees in Art; Art History; Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration; History; Anthropology; and Education.

After being accepted into the program but before beginning the program, students must purchase a Museum Studies membership at the Figge Art Museum in Davenport, Iowa. This fee will be paid to the Figge Art Museum to cover incidental expenses and admission to workshops held at the museum. The fee will include a two-year membership to the museum.

## Degree Requirements

The MA degree in Museum Studies requires 34 semester hours (SH) of coursework, including workshops, a portfolio, and a ten-week internship/special project. Core courses comprise 22 SH, with the remaining 12 SH being directed electives. Coursework will be offered through the College of Fine Arts and Communication Museum Studies Program, the Department of Art, and the Department of Recreation,

Park and Tourism Administration. Some of the courses will be taught at the Figge Art Museum. Students will have the opportunity to serve as interns at the Figge Art Museum and/or at other regional museums.

Students are required to complete an internship of at least ten weeks in a museum or other related organization. Students are responsible for finding their own internships, although the program director assists by informing students about opportunities.

## Distinctive Features

The MA in Museum Studies degree program will provide

- knowledge and training in the various aspects of museum work to include administration, collections management, exhibition development, education, community development, tourism, and fundraising and visitor studies.
- an in-depth understanding of approaches to the documentation, interpretation, presentation, and preservation of curated materials in museums.
- practical training relevant to a professional career in the museum and galleries sector.
- training in organizing events, building volunteer organizations, and raising money throughout the community.
- opportunities for the working professional to attend late afternoon and evening classes on a part-time basis.

## Student Organization – Graduate Experience in Museum Studies (GEMS)

GEMS offers student members the opportunity to participate in museum- and community-based activities in order to better understand the museum profession and the role of museums in society. The organization offers students a forum for dialogue and the presentation of innovative ideas, a benefit to the WIU-QC community as a whole, while promoting fellowship between students and faculty. Activities also include travel to professional conferences and field trips to regional museums.

*“As a Museum Studies student at Western Illinois University you have access to invaluable resources. The instructors are incredibly knowledgeable, classmates are welcoming, and there are many opportunities to work directly with museum professionals. The program prepares you for success in the museum field through hands on experience and a supportive learning environment. I recently traveled to the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Conference as part of the program. I had a fantastic time learning about and discussing current issues in the field with the top museum professionals in the country”*

*—Vanessa Brown, Graduate Assistant*

## WIU.EDU/MUSEUMSTUDIES



### Figge Art Museum, Davenport, Iowa

The Figge Art Museum, overlooking the Mississippi River, is a short drive from the Western Illinois University—Quad Cities campus. Established in 1925, the museum’s collection has grown to over 3,500 works of art, with holdings of African, American, European, Haitian, and Mexican colonial art. In August 2005, the museum moved to a new 100,000 square-foot building designed by London architect David Chipperfield. The stunning building has received several architectural awards and continues to impress visitors. The Figge Art Museum’s galleries, studios, auditorium, research library, and event spaces will provide a dynamic laboratory for students in the Museum Studies degree program.

### Contact Information

For admissions process and general program information, contact the School of Graduate Studies, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1806, (877) WIU GRAD toll-free, [Grad-Office@wiu.edu](mailto:Grad-Office@wiu.edu), [wiu.edu/grad](http://wiu.edu/grad).

For specific program questions, contact Pamela White, Director, Museum Studies Program, Western Illinois University—Quad Cities, 3300 River Drive, Moline, IL 61264, (309)762-9481, [pj-white@wiu.edu](mailto:pj-white@wiu.edu), [wiu.edu/museumstudies](http://wiu.edu/museumstudies).

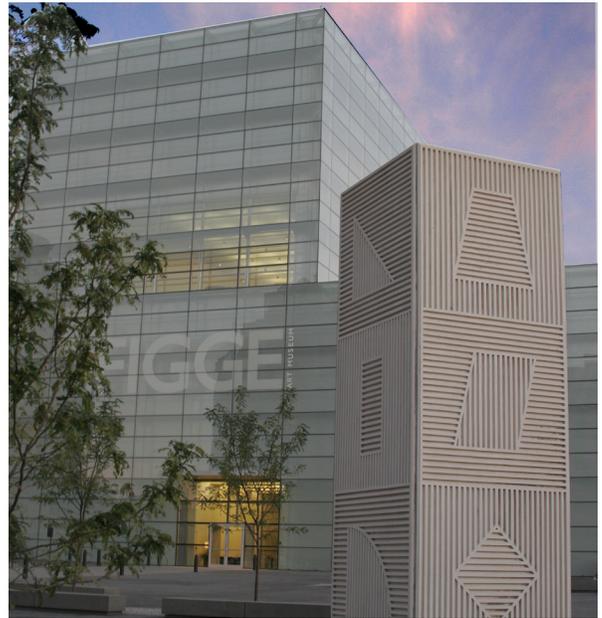
### Assistantship Opportunities

Four graduate assistantships are available within the MA in Museum Studies degree program. They will provide a tuition waiver and a monthly stipend. One of the assistantships is located at the Figge Art Museum, one at the Putnam Museum, and two for students to work with the director of the Museum Studies program, which is housed on the Western Illinois University—Quad Cities campus in Moline.

*Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, and veteran status.*

### Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

The Certificate in Museum Studies offers students in related graduate programs the opportunity to earn an 18 SH certificate. Students take 9 SH of Museum Studies coursework at the Figge Art Museum. Additionally, students take 6 SH of electives among offerings in the Department of Art, the Museum Studies Program, or the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration, and participate in a three-hour internship at the Figge Art Museum or another chosen museum. For *Gainful Employment Disclosure*, visit [wiu.edu/grad/gainfulemployment](http://wiu.edu/grad/gainfulemployment).



Figge Art Museum



College of  
Fine Arts and  
Communication

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