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, IA. 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 and a 10-week internship. Core courses comprise 22 sh, with the remaining 12 sh being directed electives. Coursework is offered through the WIU College of Fine Arts and Communication in museum studies and art, and from the WIU Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration. Students will have the opportunity to intern at the Figge Art Museum, the Putnam Museum and Science Center, or other regional and national museums.

Students are required to complete an internship of at least 10 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.

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, IL.

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 and 6 sh of electives among offerings in museum studies, art or recreation, park and tourism administration. Students also are required to participate in a three-hour internship at the Figge Art Museum, the Putnam Museum and Science Center or another regional or national museum. For Gainful Employment Disclosure, visit wiu.edu/grad/gainfulemployment.

WIU-QC Campus
Western Illinois University-Quad Cities, a non-residential metropolitan campus in Moline, IL, offers undergraduate and graduate programs to students from Illinois and from across the nation and around the world.

“The there is no one-size-fits-all answer when it comes to choosing a museum studies program to join, but if an answer did exist, Western Illinois University’s program would be it. The combination of hands-on learning opportunities, and classroom-based discussions, provides students with the perfect road map for navigating the complex field that is museums. I can honestly say that the time I spent in this program drastically changed my outlook on life as a museum professional as it gave me the skills, knowledge and connections I needed to successfully pursue my goals.”

— Kirsten Belisle, M.A., 2017