



Museum Studies Major and Minor

www.HAA.Pitt.edu/Undergraduate/Museum-Studies

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Students in the Museum Studies program study the collection, preservation, archiving, and exhibition of historic objects, documents, and specimens from material culture, considering not only how museums and historic sites generate knowledge but also how they might partner with diverse communities in the future to enrich our understanding of what it means to be human and how we occupy the world, and thus foster inclusivity and equity.

A major in Museum Studies helps students gain an informed understanding of institutional histories and contexts, critical and theoretical approaches and ethical considerations. In addition by incorporating hands-on, active, and collaborative learning and internship-based experiences, the program is oriented toward professional development and practice. Finally the capstone experience is designed to provide students with the agency to determine what role they wish to play in their professional future. Students in the program develop an annual exhibition, receive close mentoring from faculty and peer cohorts, participate in collaborative research, and have the opportunity to either design their own extensive independent project or engage in a substantive project with a local museum, collection, archive, or historic site.

The Museum Studies major is ideal for students who wish to pursue careers in museums or other cultural institutions, libraries, historic sites, state and federal heritage sites, non-profit organizations, or community-based programs. A minor option is also available and requires 15 to 16 credits of coursework for completion.

Required courses for the Museum Studies major

The Museum Studies major requires the completion of 30 credits, distributed as follows.

Foundational courses; all of the following courses

HAA 0010 Introduction to World Art
HAA 0101 Foundations of Art History
HAA 0125 Museums: Society and Inclusion?

Dispositional Skills and Professional Development

The following course will be taken twice over two terms in which the course content differs. Students should complete this requirement as early as possible, as the course was designed to prepare students for capstone work.

HAA 0102 Proseminar for Undergraduate Majors (1 credit)

Art and Its Publics; choose two of the following courses

ANTH 0538 The Archaeologist Looks at Death
ANTH 0582 Intro to Archaeology
ANTH 0780 Intro to Cultural Anthropology
ARC 0110 Approaches to the Built Environment
ARC 0112 Global Architecture 1: Premodern
ARC 0114 Islamic Architecture
ARC 0116 Global Architecture 2: Modern
ARC 0153 Medieval Architecture
ARC 0182 The City of Rome and its Architecture
ARC 1183 Digital Roman Africa
ARC 1330 Global Preservation
CLASS 0600 Intro to Mediterranean Archaeology
CLASS 0650 Archaeology of the Body
CLASS 1630 Marginality in the Ancient Greek World
COMMRC 1160 Visual Rhetoric
COMMRC 1103 Rhetoric and Culture: Urban Visual Culture
ENGFLM 1417/FMST 1417 Film Festivals and Industry
ENGLIT 1412 Secret Pittsburgh
ENGLIT 1413 Humanities in the City

ENGLIT 1635 Children in Pittsburgh
HAA 0010 Introduction to World Art
HAA 0020 Introduction to Asian Art
HAA 0030 Introduction to Modern Art
HAA 0050 Introduction to Medieval Art
HAA 0070 Art of Europe
HAA 0090 Intro to Contemporary Art
HAA 0105 Art and Empire
HAA 0160 Ancient Empires
HAA 0302 Renaissance Art
HAA 0380 Art of the Spanish World
HAA 0460 Art in Public: Inclusion, Identity, and Activism
HAA 0520 Art and Politics in Modern Latin America
HAA 0620 Art of China
HAA 1050 World Art: Contact and Conflict
HAA 1130 Roman Art
HAA 1304 Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raphael: Painting in 16th-c. Italy
HAA 1450 Art and Politics in the Weimar Republic
HAA 1455 Art in the Third Reich and Memorializations of the Holocaust
HAA 1520 Black Built America: Architectures of Black Resistance in the United States
RELGST 1148 Religions of Ancient Egypt
RELGST 1160 Jerusalem: History and Imagination
RELGST 1170 Archaeology of Israel/Palestine
RELGST 1240 Jews and the City
RELGST 1452 Hymns and Hip Hop: Sounds of Islam
RELGST 1520 Buddhism Along the Silk Road
RELGST 1802 Religynz: Researching Religion in Pittsburgh

Museum Practice; choose one of the following courses

HAA 1019 Curatorial Development
HAA 1021 Inside the Museum
HAA 1022 Exhibition Presentation
HAA 1031 Special Topics: Museum Practices +

+ This course may only meet the Museum Practice requirement when taken for 3 credits.

Competency; choose one of the following courses

ANTH 1541 Cultural Resource Management
ANTH 1551 GIS in Archaeology
COMMRC 0300 Communication Process
COMMRC 0520 Public Speaking
COMMRC 1102 Organizational Communication
COMMRC 1162 Invention: Where do good ideas come from? (UHC)
COMMRC 1170 Cross Cultural Communication
ENGCOMP 0420 Writing for the Public
ENGCOMP 0520 Integrating Writing and Design
ENGCOMP 0610 Composing Digital Media
ENGCOMP 0641 Writing for Change
ENGCOMP 1103 Public Relations Writing
ENGCOMP 1112 Professional Uses of Social Media
ENGCOMP 1400 Grant Writing
ENGCOMP 1401 Writing for Fundraising and Development
ENGCOMP 1410 Advanced Research and Documentary Writing
ENGCOMP 1420 Writing Proposals for Business
ENGFLM 0401/FMST 0130 Intro to Visual Cultures
HAA 1019 Curatorial Development *
HAA 1021 Inside the Museum *
HAA 1022 Exhibition Presentation *
HAA 1031 Special Topics: Museum Practices *
HIST 0760 Introduction to Public History
INFOSCI 0010 Intro to Information Systems and Society
PUBSRV 0050 Ethics and Accountability
PUBSRV 1200 Practices of Non-Profit Management
PUBSRV 1210 Financial Management of Non-Profit Organizations
PUBSRV 1230 Fundraising for Non-Profits
PUBSRV 1390 Theories of Leadership

* Students may take a second Museum Practice course beyond the Museum Practice Course requirement and apply it toward the Competency requirement.

Museum History

HAA 1025 The History and Ethics of Collecting
HAA 1026 Exhibitions: Worlds' Fairs to Biennials
HAA 1027 Heritage Sites
HAA 1030 Special Topics Museum Histories

Capstone; choose one of the following pairs of courses

HAA 0106 Internship Workshop
HAA 1905 Museum Studies Internship

HAA 1950 Honors Thesis
HAA 1951 Honors Thesis Seminar

Grade requirements

A minimum GPA of 2.0 in departmental courses is required for graduation.

Satisfactory/No Credit option

No course required for the major can be taken on an S/NC basis except HAA 0106 and HAA 1905.

Writing (W) requirement

Students must complete at least one W-course in the major. HAA 1010 is the W course for the HAA major.

Honors major requirements

Honors in museum studies is granted if the student satisfies all requirements for the intensive major, and:

- maintains a GPA of 3.5 or above in required courses;
- maintains an overall GPA of 3.25 or above;
- completes HAA 1950 Honors Thesis with a minimum grade of A-, and;
- Completes HAA 1951 Honors Thesis Seminar.

HAA Department Advising

Maria D'Anniballe
FKART 207
412-648-2400
MDAW@Pitt.edu

Checklist for the Museum Studies Minor

This minor requires a minimum of 15 credits of coursework for completion.

Two foundational courses

_____ HAA 0125 Museums: Society and Inclusion?
_____ [Art and its Publics](#) course

One of the following Museum Histories courses

_____ HAA 1025 History and Ethics of Collecting
_____ HAA 1026 Exhibitions: From World's Fairs to Global Biennials
_____ HAA 1027 Heritage Sites
_____ HAA 1030 Special Topics: Museum Histories

One of the following Museum Practices courses

_____ HAA 1019 Curatorial Development
_____ HAA 1021 Inside the Museum
_____ HAA 1022 Exhibition Presentation
_____ HAA 1031 Special Topics: Museum Practices
_____ HAA 1905 Museum Studies Internship †

One elective course

Students take one additional course from the [Art and Its Publics](#) list, a course from the [Competency Course](#) list, or any of the above courses not previously applied to the minor.

† This course has a pre- or co-requisite: HAA 0106 Museum Studies Internship Prep Workshop which would add 1 additional credit to the minor for students who pursue the internship. The Academic Curator of the History of Art and Architecture Department works with Museum Studies minors to place them in internship positions that are approved to satisfy minor requirements. Minors in need of an internship must contact the department.