

## STANDARD GRADUATE MINOR APPROVAL FORM

**Title of the proposed minor:** Interdisciplinary Graduate Minor in Museum Studies (EP.09.58)

**Sponsoring unit(s):** Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Individual sponsors:

*Helaine Silverman*, Professor, Anthropology, 109 Davenport Hall, MC-148; 333-3616; [helaine@uiuc.edu](mailto:helaine@uiuc.edu)

*Wayne Pitard*, Director, Spurlock Museum, 600 S. Gregory, MC-065; 244-3518; [wpitard@uiuc.edu](mailto:wpitard@uiuc.edu)

*Kathleen Harleman*, Director, Krannert Art Museum, 500 E. Peabody, MC-592; 244-6481; [harleman@uiuc.edu](mailto:harleman@uiuc.edu)

*Steven Leigh*, Head, Anthropology, 109 Davenport Hall, MC-148; 333-3616; [sleigh@uiuc.edu](mailto:sleigh@uiuc.edu)

*Susan Frankenberg*, Museum Studies Program Coordinator, Anthropology; 244-1984; [sfranken@uiuc.edu](mailto:sfranken@uiuc.edu)

College sponsor:

*Ann Mester*, Associate Dean, College of LAS, 294 Lincoln Hall, MC-448; 333-1350; [mester@uiuc.edu](mailto:mester@uiuc.edu)

**Proposed effective date:** Upon approval

### **Description and justification:**

Museum studies is an interdisciplinary endeavor that addresses the theory, organization and management of museums and museum collections. Museums themselves are complex organizations within which a diversity of knowledge specialists work together to acquire, conserve, research, communicate and exhibit tangible and intangible evidence of people and their environment. The faculty listed in Appendix 1 seek to create an interdisciplinary Graduate Minor in Museum Studies for graduate students pursuing a MA or PhD in various departments of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS), College of Fine and Applied Art (FAA), Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS), and College of Education (COE). The minor is the collaboration of several departments (Appendix 2: Letters of Support from Department Heads) and will be administered through the Department of Anthropology. The Graduate Minor in Museum Studies, henceforth called GMMS in this proposal, provides students with the applied theory required to work on, with or in museums, while also enabling them to become knowledge specialists in their particular disciplines.

We justify implementation of the GMMS on the basis of the following arguments. Student and faculty interest in museum studies is high because of (a) the role of museums in global tourism, urban economic development, multiculturalism and the creation of identities, (b) the increasing importance of museums as sites of both research and employment, and (c) the way in which museums act as intersections among a broad range of academic disciplines. Additionally, as museums become more complex organizations, individuals seeking to work with or in these environments are increasingly expected to have formalized training in museum studies with transcript recognition of this training. Finally, UIUC is already heavily invested in museum studies by virtue of (a) the number of faculty teaching and researching in this area (see Appendix 3), (b) the presence of the Krannert Art Museum and Spurlock Museum, two dynamic and distinctly different museums, on campus and Allerton Park nearby, (c) the numerous departments with museum-like collections or archives, including Anthropology, Geology, Plant Biology, the Libraries, the School of Music's Sousa Archive, and the Natural History Survey among others, (d) the university's formal affiliation with the Smithsonian Institution and cooperative partnership with the Phillips Collection, both in Washington, D.C., and (e) extant relationships between university units and community museums, libraries and galleries. At present, however, this exceptional expertise and these extant opportunities in museum studies are generally invisible to outsiders because faculty, courses and research are spread across colleges and departments.

Creation of the GMMS coalesces our strength in museum studies, making it more visible both on and off campus and providing students with the transcript recognition now expected in both museum and academic professions. As conceived by the faculty, the GMMS has the potential to be at the cutting edge of research

and practice, to bring top quality graduate students to the university, and to attract significant positive attention to the university by enhancing the quality of research, teaching and service. As a minor, our program differs significantly from the BA and MA museum studies degrees offered at other universities. We are not seeking to create an autonomous unit or a new degree program because we believe museum studies is indeed an interdisciplinary endeavor best served by the breadth of faculty disciplinary expertise and outstanding academic departments already in place at UIUC. The signature qualities that differentiate the GMMS from other universities' offerings and that will make our campus distinguished in this field are its:

- interdisciplinarity with faculty of many departments contributing to the minor
- strong theorization of and historical perspectives about museums
- breadth of conceptualization about what constitutes a museum
- combination of practical and technical training with strong emphasis on intellectual scholarship
- multi-track educational options that allow students to design the minor to fit their career goals
- concern with issues of cultural heritage, cultural tourism and civic engagement
- international focus and emphasis on globalization as a key context of today's museums
- emphasis on technology and media/inter-media as important components of museum studies
- ability to integrate studio art as well as art history for students pursuing a career in art museums
- articulation with the *Collaborative for Cultural Heritage and Museum Practices* on campus

### **Requirements:**

Students seeking the GMMS will fulfill the following requirements:

1. The student must successfully complete a minimum of four graduate level courses (16 hours), consisting of **one required core course** (MUSE 500 Core Problems in Museum Theory and Practice, 4 hours), and **three electives** from an approved list of museum-related courses (12 hours) at least one of which must be at the 500-level.
2. The student must participate in a **capstone experience** consisting of an approved museum-based internship, museum-related project, or museum-related research paper. Every student must provide a product of this experience in the form of either a formal professional presentation or a written document. If a student chooses to write his/her MA thesis or PhD dissertation on a museum topic, this will fulfill (but is not required for) the capstone experience, provided that a member of the Museum Studies Steering Committee is a formal member of the student's thesis or dissertation committee. Students may receive academic credit for their capstone experience through their home department or MUSE 590.

Under these requirements, the GMMS can be obtained in two years (four semesters), although three years (six semesters) is more reasonable since no student can move to ABD status in less than this amount of time. The array of electives allows students to choose or create, in consultation with their advisor, a curriculum track that meets their education and employment goals. We include a list of courses currently identified for the GMMS in Appendix 4, a five-year plan for teaching these courses in Appendix 5, a more detailed discussion of the capstone experience in Appendix 6, and examples of curriculum tracks in Appendix 7.

**Prerequisites for the minor:**

There are no prerequisites for the minor. The only required course for the minor is MUSE 500, Core Problems in Museum Theory and Practice, which will be offered every fall semester.

**Expected enrollment in the minor:**

We anticipate an initial enrollment of 20-30 graduate students for the GMMS, based on recent enrollments in museum-related seminars, persistent student inquiries, and a survey of current graduate students. For example, 15 graduate students from various departments enrolled in ANTH 589: Critical Museum Issues in Spring 2005, and 33 graduate students have enrolled in GLIS 490: Museum Informatics over the past two years. The current count of graduate students enrolled in UIUC PhD programs who have expressed interest in pursuing simultaneous work in a GMMS is:

Anthropology	3
Art History	10
LIS	5
Education	3
Landscape Arch.	4
History	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>

We believe that the GMMS could easily attract up to 40 graduate students per cohort in the long term. The GMMS will make existing graduate programs more attractive to many prospective students because they will know that they can come to UIUC to earn both an advanced disciplinary degree and a GMMS, which will serve to increase their employment opportunities. If the GMMS is approved as an official minor, we expect a much greater number of graduate students to participate based on the interest students have demonstrated, frequent inquiries about the program, and national trends in similar programs.

**Admission to the minor:**

Admission to the minor will be based on review of applications by the Steering Committee (Appendix 1). Students must be in good standing in a qualifying graduate program at UIUC and must receive prior written approval from their advisor and graduate program director in order to pursue the GMMS. Students who are pursuing their MA or PhD degree in participating departments (currently Anthropology, Art History, Landscape Architecture, School of Library and Information Science, College of Education) should contact the Museum Studies Program Coordinator for application instructions. Students from departments not listed above should discuss their interest with their home department before contacting the Museum Studies Program Coordinator. The student's enrolling department will determine how many graduate hours of the minor may count toward the student's major degree requirements. Enrolled students may apply for admission to the GMMS during the first week of fall or spring semester in any academic year.

**Minor advisor:** The Museum Studies Program Coordinator will function as graduate advisor for the minor.

**Certification of successful completion:**

Successful completion of the graduate minor will be monitored by the Museum Studies Program Coordinator.

**Budgetary and staff implications:**

The minor will not require additional staff or significant outlays of additional money. The GMMS relies on courses already being offered as part of regular faculty teaching loads, on graduate student tracking and advising structures already in place, and on an extant voluntary faculty-based steering committee for providing general oversight of the minor. The administrative functions required to implement the minor, which include serving as the minor advisor, ensuring regular offering of the curriculum and liaising both between participating departments and on capstone experiences, have been provided for by hiring an academic professional Museum Studies Program Coordinator through the Department of Anthropology and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

There are no implications for internal reallocations. There will be no changes in class size, teaching loads or student-faculty ratios because the courses that constitute the curriculum of the GMMS are already being offered, or are being added to their home departments' curricula as an enrichment of the departments' offerings. The minor also has no effect on course enrollment in other departments. The courses constituting the GMMS are not competing with each other; instead, many are cross-listed to the advantage of all departments. Additionally, faculty participation on the Steering Committee is voluntary, not arduous, and does not require course release time. The outcomes of discussions of these issues among the participating departments are summarized in the letters of support (Appendix 2).

Implementing the minor does not require new material resources, and will have no major impact on library, computer, laboratory or equipment use. Administration of the minor will occur within an extant unit (Anthropology), and the Krannert Art Museum will provide an office to the Steering Committee. The Library already subscribes to the major museum journals and receives relevant books through its many blanket orders. We do not envision any special computing hardware, software, laboratory or other equipment needs beyond those already budgeted by the participating units.

There are no additional obligatory financial costs to a student pursuing the GMMS. Although an internship is a recommended way of fulfilling the mandatory capstone experience, it is not obligatory, and need not be off-campus, beyond the local area or outside of regular academic semesters. Students wishing to complete an internship at a museum outside Champaign-Urbana would need to make their own financial arrangements with the museum. The museum studies program will circulate information to GMMS students about funding opportunities for museum internships such as those advertised on the MUSEUM LIST-SERVE.

**Statement for the catalog:**

Museum Studies Program Coordinator: Susan Frankenberg  
Department of Anthropology  
109 Davenport Hall (MC-148)  
607 South Mathews Avenue  
Urbana, IL 61801  
(217) 333-3616  
E-mail: sfranken@illinois.edu

*Graduate Minor in Museum Studies*

The Graduate Minor in Museum Studies is designed for MA and PhD students who wish to complement their degree program with interdisciplinary study of the theory, organization and management of museums and

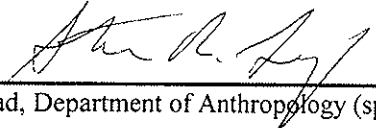
museum collections. The program offers broad coverage of different disciplines' approaches to museum theory and practice, including interdisciplinary perspectives from Anthropology, Art History, Landscape Architecture, History, Education, and Library and Information Sciences. The program also focuses on the collaborative, international and multicultural nature of museum work in curating, researching and communicating the tangible and intangible evidence of people and their environment. Students acquire the applied theory required to successfully work on, with or in museums by completing 16 hours of coursework, including MUSE 500 and 12 hours of electives from an approved list of Museum Studies courses. Students are required to complete a capstone experience consisting of a museum-related internship, project or research paper; they may elect to receive credit toward the 12 hours of electives by enrolling in MUSE 590 for the capstone. Students may tailor the minor to their career goals by choosing among electives that emphasize different theoretical and technical aspects of museum studies.

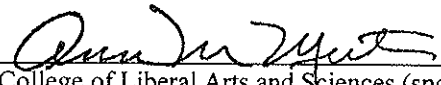
*Admission*


Students wishing to pursue the minor must be in good standing in the graduate program of an academic department, and must apply for acceptance into the minor. Admission to the minor is contingent upon approval of the student's home department and the Museum Studies Steering Committee. Students may apply to the Graduate Minor in Museum Studies during the first week of the fall and spring semesters in any academic year, and should contact the Museum Studies Program Coordinator for application instructions or more information.

	Required Hours
<b>Required Courses:</b>	
MUSE 500- Core Problems in Museum Theory and Practice	4
Electives from an approved list of museum-related courses, at least one of which must be at the 500-level	12
<b>Total Hours:</b>	16
<b>Other Requirements:*</b>	
The student must participate in a <b>capstone experience</b> consisting of an approved museum-based internship, museum-related project, or museum-related research paper. Every student must provide a product of this experience in the form of either a formal professional presentation or a written document. If a student chooses to write his/her MA thesis or PhD dissertation on a museum topic, this will fulfill (but is not required for) the capstone experience, provided that a member of the Museum Studies Steering Committee is a formal member of the student's thesis or dissertation committee. Students may receive academic credit for their capstone experience through their home department or MUSE 590.	

**CLEARANCES:**

 10/10/08  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Head, Department of Anthropology (sponsoring unit) Date

 10/16/08  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (sponsoring college) Date

 1/21/09  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean, Graduate College Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Office of the Provost Date

Appendices available for review in the Senate Office.