

## **Museum Studies Minor**

### **Assessment Plan**

#### **College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences**

Developed Spring 2025 by Rachel Zimmerman (Art & Creative Media)

#### **Mission**

The Museum Studies Minor challenges students to examine how objects, texts, and experiences create meaning. The minor centers experiential learning to empower students with a breadth of skills, analytical tools, and perspectives, enabling multidisciplinary approaches to problem-solving. The minor prepares students for the study of museums and for work in museums and related institutions.

#### **Status of the program**

The Museum Studies minor was added to the catalog in 2021 after a hurried approval process due to an impending Dean retirement and the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. Initially housed within the Department of Art & Creative Media, the minor has been moved to CHASS to better reflect the multidisciplinary nature of the program. The program does not have its own budget or faculty lines. Although the minor has not been marketed, 7-10 students have been enrolled each year.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. History and Theory—The ability to analyze historical, political, social, financial, cultural, and ethical factors that affect museum operations.
2. Collections—A foundational understanding of collection care, acquisition, repatriation, and deaccession.
3. Employment—Awareness of the various tasks and roles that museum workers perform, and of the major issues within museum employment.
4. Experience—Foundational skills required for a variety of tasks that are performed within a museum, gallery, library, or archive environment.

#### **Curriculum**

The program is designed around a core that includes the study of museums (MST 300 Museum Ethics & Issues) and practical experience in a museum, gallery, archive, or library (MST 498 Internship). Electives from a wide variety of disciplines provide students with further historical and theoretical knowledge, experience with collections and exhibitions, communication skills, and other skills and knowledge relevant to cultural and educational institutions.

#### **Assessment Methods**

The primary method of evaluation will be examination of artifacts from MST 300 and MST 498 self-assessments and supervisor evaluations. Other courses that are appropriate for assessment are offered once every year or two.

	Artifacts for Assessment
SLO 1	MST 300 blog posts/research paper
SLO 2	MST 300 blog posts/research paper; ANTH 340 research project
SLO 3	MST 498 assessment and report; ART 415 reading responses
SLO 4	MST 498 assessment and report; ART 415 exhibition; HIST 491 presentations

Artifacts will be scored according to the appropriate SLO and with the following ratings:

1 Insufficient to Review

2 Introductory

3 Proficient

4 Advanced

Scores will be averaged and a score of 3 or above will be considered successful.

### **Closing the Loop**

This is the first time that the program has been assessed. One challenge is that most courses are currently taught by adjuncts without service responsibilities who cannot be expected to engage in assessment discussions. Internship supervisors for MST 498 will be asked to provide feedback on the students' preparation and work which will allow opportunities for conversation and improvement of the program.