Master of Arts in Museum Studies

The core curriculum of the Museum Studies Program (MSP) provides the student with a firm foundation and knowledge in all of the museum’s functions. The elective courses, internship, and culminating master’s thesis or work project focus upon the student’s specialized area of museum work. Area specializations include: curatorship; cultural property law and protection; exhibition design; museum education and public programming; museum management and fundraising; and registration/collections management.

Admissions Requirements

In addition to meeting the minimum requirements for graduate study at the CSU, applicants to Museum Studies must also have:

- An undergraduate degree from an accredited institution in anthropology, art history, classics or classical archaeology, design, education, history, science, public/arts administration, or other disciplines relevant to Museum Studies, such as communications, environmental studies, fine arts, or humanities, with a 3.20 grade point average in the major, and a 3.00 overall average
- Minimum of six months of volunteer or paid experience in a museum or related setting, including internships, prior or concurrent to formal application to the MSP
- GRE scores with a qualitative score of 156 or better (550 or better on tests taken prior to 2011) and an analytical writing score of 4.5 or better; GRE scores must be current, taken within five (5) years of the semester you wish to attend
  - If an International Applicant: TOEFL Scores of 550 or better or Internet-Based Test (iBT) TOEFL Scores of 80 or better are required, taken within two (2) years of the semester you wish to attend

Application Procedures

Applications for the MSP are accepted beginning October 1 through February 1 for admission the following fall. Applicants are required to file two separate applications, one to the University, and one to the MSP. Applicants who do not complete both requirements cannot be considered for admission. Both the University’s Division of Graduate Studies and the MSP must accept an applicant. Admission to this impacted program is highly competitive and it is not possible to admit all fully qualified individuals.

Please view our FAQs section for frequently asked questions regarding the MSP and application requirements before contacting the department with questions.

All applications must be completed by February 1. Late applications will not be accepted.
STEP 1: University Application

Complete online a graduate admissions application at CSU Mentor here. The CSU Mentor Application Fee is $55.00 USD. The University Admissions Office must receive this formal application for admission and one set of official transcripts, in the same envelope for the fastest processing, from ALL post-high school institutions attended by February 1 to complete your University file.

Mail official transcripts and $55.00 USD application fee to: Graduate Admissions Office, San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway Ave, ADM 250, San Francisco, CA 94132.

Note: You can save your CSU Mentor Application to work on later, however, it does not mean that your application will be submitted automatically. Ensure that you complete and submit your saved CSU Mentor application by February 1. We cannot be responsible for online applications that are still in progress (saved in the system) or not submitted correctly.

STEP 2: Museum Studies Program Application

Complete an online application to the MSP through Submittable. The MSP is piloting this program for regular use. Currently, there is no application fee, although this may change in the future.

We will not accept hard copy applications.

The following documents are required for the MSP application, which you will be required to upload onto the Submittable website:

1. A Museum Studies Master of Arts Admissions Application, complete online here. Scroll down for “Museum Studies Program Master of Arts in Museum Studies.” This application establishes your file with the MSP.
2. An electronic copy of transcripts (official or unofficial) from all institutions of higher learning attended. The Museum Studies transcript requirements are in addition to the official transcripts required in the application to the University. Note: transcripts will NOT be forwarded to the Museum Studies Program from the Graduate Admissions Office and vice versa.
3. One electronic copy of your current resume or CV
4. Your 1000-word Statement of Purpose, addressing your career objectives, the path that led you toward museum work and reasons for attending SF State Museum Studies, and any research completed on the field to determine possible areas of focus; relevant educational background and other relevant coursework or workshops; your museum experience(s) or volunteer work.
5. Two letters of recommendation from individuals qualified to testify to your capabilities and readiness to enter graduate study in Museum Studies. You will be providing the name and
email address of two recommenders. Once you submit your online application, the recommender will be sent an email with a summary of what is happening and a link, which will bring them to a private portal for adding their letter. Once submitted, reference letters are merged with the applicant's account, but are kept confidential from the applicant. Applicants will only receive confirmation that the letter was submitted.

6. A 750-word comparison/contrast essay of current exhibitions at two museums in your area, addressing us what you liked and/or what could be improved in terms of curatorial content, display technique, or visitor education.

7. Graduate Record Exams (GRE) General Test scores are required and will be evaluated in conjunction with other qualifications. The ETS code for SF State is 4684; there is no major code for Museum Studies. Please provide an unofficial electronic copy of the GRE score report to expedite application review.

For questions regarding how to use Submittable, go here.

WRGP/WICHE Tuition Reciprocity, http://wiche.edu/wrgp

If you are a resident of a Western region state, you may elect to apply for the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education’s (WICHE) Western Region Graduate Program (WRGP). Since 2012, SFSU Museum Studies is a Distinctive, High-Quality Program in the WRGP. The WRGP allows residents of the 15 westernmost states to pay California resident tuition rates for the duration of their full-time study. This waiver is competitive, and an additional application is required when submitting your University materials. The Admissions Committee will
International Applicants

The letters of recommendation, statement of purpose and any other supplemental written documents must be translated into English. The Division of Graduate Studies requires the TOEFL exam for English language assessment, which must have been completed within the past two calendar years. International applicants should check the graduate studies website for university graduate admissions requirements.

Application Status Notification

We welcome your inquiry and wish you success in the event you apply. Admission to the Museum Studies Program is highly competitive. As an impacted program, or, one that receives many more applications than there are spots available, only a limited number of applicants can be admitted. Please be assured, however, that your materials will be carefully reviewed. Applicants will be informed of the status of their applications for fall admission by April 1, not any earlier.

Application Checklist

Use this checklist to ensure that all requirements listed below have been completed by February 1

| 2. Museum Studies Admissions Application, complete online at Submittable. Make sure you select the application for “Museum Studies Program Master of Arts in Museum Studies” |
| 3. Transcripts |
| 4. Current Resume/CV |
| 5. Statement of Purpose |
| 6. Letters of Recommendation |
| 7. Exhibit Comparison Essay |
| 8. GRE Test Score Report |
| 9. TOEFL or iBT Score Report, if an International Applicant |
QUICK LINKS & RESOURCES FOR APPLYING TO SF STATE MUSEUM STUDIES

Graduate Admissions at SF State

Information for Domestic Students
Information for International Students

STEP 1: University Application (CSU Mentor Application)

Domestic Student Application
International Student Application

STEP 2: Museum Studies Program Application

To submit an application to the MSP, go here

Be sure to complete the “Museum Studies Program Master of Arts in Museum Studies” Application!

For help using the Submittable system, go here

Estimated Full-Time Tuition Rates, as of Fall 2015

California residents per academic year: $7,742.00 USD
Out-of-state and international students per academic year: $15,484.00 USD

For itemized costs, and part-time tuition rates, as of Fall 2015, go here

Frequently Asked Questions of the MSP

WICHE/WRGP Tuition Reciprocity Program

Financial Aid at SF State

Free Application For Student Aid (FAFSA)

Apply by February 1 for an early decision on your Financial Aid Offer!

For FAFSA Frequently Asked Questions, go here

GRE/TOEFL Exams

ETS Code for SF State: 4684; there is no additional code for ‘Museum Studies’