

DEPARTMENT OF ART
MUSEUM STUDIES MINOR PROGRAM REVISION PROPOSAL-
MEMORANDUM-

Existing Program, MINOR
Museum Studies
24 S.H.

Core Requirements (12 cr):

Art 380: Intro to Museum Studies.....3
 Art 381: Contemporary Museum Issues.....3

Select one of the following:

Art 498: Internship.....6
 His 498: Internship in History..... 6

Core Total..... 12

Specialization Requirements (3-6 cr)

Students who are not art majors but who are interested in museum studies with an art emphasis must complete the following:

Art 250: Survey One3
 Art 251: Survey Two.....3

Students interested in minor with an historical agencies emphasis must complete the following:

His 452: Seminar in Regional and Local US History.....3

Elective Requirements (6-9 cr):

Select 6-9 credit hours under advisement.

Cognate Requirements:

None.

Proposed Program, MINOR
Museum Studies
24 S.H.

Core Requirements (15 cr):

Art 250: Survey One3
 Art 251: Survey Two.....3
 Art 380: Intro to Museum Studies.....3
 Art 381: Contemporary Museum Issues.....3

Select one of the following:

Art 498: Internship.....3
 His 498: Internship in History.....3

Core Total.....15

Electives Requirements (9 cr)

Select 9 credit hours under advisement from the following departments: art, art history, anthropology, communication studies, or history.

Cognate Requirements:

None.

Justification for Museum Studies Minor Revision

The revisions being proposed to the museum studies minor include changing the internship requirement from 6 credit hours to 3 credit hours, deleting the HIS 452 Seminar requirement for students with a history emphasis, deleting the selection of an emphasis (art versus history) and making ART 250 and ART 251 required courses. The justification for these proposed changes are as follows:

- 1) The 6 credit hour internship is a financial burden for students. Most museum internships, if not all at this level, are unpaid. Many students do their internship during the summer months when they also need paying jobs to save for the upcoming school year. The proposed change reduces this requirement to 3 credit hours, which eliminates the financial burden upon students without compromising the experiential education component of the minor program.
- 2) For the past four years HIS 452 has not been offered due to faculty resources in the history department. There are no immediate plans in that department to offer this course regularly (see attached letter of support from history chair, Christopher Mack). With the majority of museum studies students coming from the history department, their training in the discipline is more than adequately covered by the coursework in their major and the internship requirement.
- 3) When this minor was initially created it was designed with two separate emphases, art history versus history. This is a superficial distinction with respect to a minor academic degree and real world museum practice. Anyone who works in a history museum also works with visual materials (photographs, paintings, and three-dimensional objects), which are used to educate audiences or tell the story regardless of whether the museum has a fine art or an historical emphasis. Anyone working in a fine art museum must know the historical facts. The need for students to "select" an emphasis has been removed. Another change is that all students are required to take both ART 250 and ART 251, which provides students with an overall history of western culture (and some non-western) through the study of visual images and objects. Instead the students "emphasis" will be fulfilled in their choice or major and/or their selection of electives and internship (ART 498 or HIS 498).