

**Master of Arts in Critical Museum Studies**  
**Student Handbook**  
**(revised 2024)**

Students enter the program in one of the five formal concentrations or tracks as detailed below. Students may select a track upon admission or enter the program undecided. It is also possible to switch tracks after admission, but the final decision must be made prior to forming the thesis committee.

1. Anthropology
2. Art/Visual Studies
3. Arts Management
4. Classics
5. Media Studies

*Requirements for the MA in Critical Museum Studies Degree*

- Nine credits core coursework
- Twelve credits elective courses
- Three credits Independent Study
- Six credits Internship
- Six credits Master's Thesis guidance

TOTAL: 36 credits

**Core courses** – Nine credits

Students select three courses from the five core areas. Courses selected must be from three different core areas in order that students get a wider view and variety of perspectives on Museum Studies as a discipline.

- Anthropology: APY 514: Museum Management, APY 618: Cultural Heritage, APY 623: Memory and Commemoration
- Art/Visual Studies: VS 501: Intro to Visual Studies, VS 521: Critical Theory  
Arts Management: AAP 518, Issues in Museum Management, AAP501: Why Manage the Arts, AAP521: Arts Institutional Engagement
- Classics: CL 580: Roman Ceramics & Small Finds, CL 712: Roman History & The Classical Art Museum, CL 787: Topics in Classical Archaeology
- Media Studies: DMS 532 Graduate Seminar II

**Electives** – Twelve credits

Students will choose electives from the five participating departments. Please make sure to discuss your electives with your main advisor to make sure they are appropriate and helpful to your overall research and program of study.

**Independent Study** – 3 credits

Students will enroll in one 3-credit independent study from any of the three departments, though preferably from their chosen track. The purpose of the independent study is to begin research and conduct directed readings in preparation of writing the thesis.

- Anthropology: APY 601: Individual Readings Archaeology (Gonzalez) or APY 602: Individual Readings Cultural Anthropology (Franquesa)
- Arts Management: AAP 599: Independent Study
- Classics: CL 805: Independent Study
- Visual Studies: VS 595: Independent Study: Advanced Reading

In the first semester, students will begin to conceptualize the planned thesis and begin building a tentative bibliography of at least 40 books and/or articles. Your bibliography and a paragraph-length description of your proposed thesis are due to your committee by January 15 of your first year and should be approved by the end of the spring semester drop/add period. In the second semester, students will continue their research and read the works listed on their bibliography.

### **Internship – 6 credit hours**

Each student must fulfill an approved internship program, requiring regular meetings with faculty and final report. To register for an internship, you must complete a Graduate Internship Registration Request and collect signatures from your advisor and the representative you're your internship institution and submit to the Program Graduate Coordinator. A six credit internship will require 240 hours of work time. Upon completion a final report should be submitted to your advisor and to the Program Graduate Coordinator.

- Anthropology: APY 538: Field School (Gonzalez) – requires a request to Program Graduate Coordinator to open a section for you
- Arts Management: AAP 511: Fieldwork in Arts Management – this is a 3 credit class and will require 3 additional credit hours of work tbd with main advisor

### **Master's Thesis – 6 credit hours**

The candidate must register for Thesis guidance in their final year to complete the requirements for graduation. At the beginning of the semester students should go over the additional requirement of thesis defense and set a date for the defense with the entire committee well ahead of the UB thesis submission deadlines.

- Anthropology: APY 600: MA Project/Thesis Guidance
- Arts Management: AAP 513: Thesis Guidance
- Visual Studies: VS 598: Thesis Guidance

### **Sample CMS MA Program Timeline:**

This timeline and schedule of coursework can vary according to disciplinary track, courses offered, and student schedule. Please work with Graduate Coordinator to ensure that all forms are submitted if you should wish to carry a course load under 12 credits in any semester.

#### **First Semester: 12 credits**

Core course selection (3 credits)

Core course selection (3 credits)

Elective Course (3 credits)

Elective Course (3 credits)

Additional tasks:

*Select a major advisor.*

*Finalize decision of disciplinary track and inform Graduate Coordinator.*

### **Second Semester: 12 credits**

Core course selection (3 credits)

Elective Course (3 credits)

Elective Course (3 credits)

Independent Study (3 credits)

Additional tasks:

*Finalize committee formation.* By the end of the second semester of your first year, you should have established your committee, which will consist of your major advisor (drawn from the department of your chosen track) and one additional graduate faculty member. All core committee members must be members of the UB Graduate Faculty, while Associate members may serve as supplemental readers. Membership status may be determined by consulting this roster: <http://grad.buffalo.edu/succeed/current-students/grad-faculty.html>

*File a Full Time Status Certification form* to allow continuation of financial aid and loan deferral for any semester for which you register for fewer than 12 credits. Usually at the end of your first year, or upon completion of your coursework, you will file the Full Time Certification form in order to be eligible for full-time status while you complete your internship and/or thesis with fewer than 12 credits. <https://grad.buffalo.edu/succeed/current-students/forms.html>

*Apply for Graduation in HUB.* All students must apply for graduation in HUB in order to become a candidate for degree conferral. <https://grad.buffalo.edu/succeed/graduate/apply-for-graduation.html>

### **Third Semester: 6 credits**

Internship (6 credits)

Often students, in consultation with their advisors, will select a completed paper from one of their first two semesters of coursework to revise and expand into a thesis. Remember, your thesis should reflect an original contribution to the field.

### **Fourth Semester: 6 credits**

Master's Thesis Guidance (6 credits)

Additional Tasks:

*Set Defense Date* with all committee members and establish timeline for completion of thesis drafts. Once a date is chosen for your thesis defense, please ask your advisor to share the date and your thesis title. An announcement will be circulated to the CMS faculty and students one week prior to your defense.

**Finishing Your Degree:**

Thesis formatting guidelines, and directions for submitting the thesis, are available on the Graduate School website: <https://www.buffalo.edu/grad/succeed/graduate/electronic-submission.html>

For the day of defense, students will be provided with an *M Form* for you and your committee members to sign. The exact due date of this form will change according to the Application to Candidacy date table on the UB Graduate School website. This table also includes the deadline to submit the final thesis.

<https://www.buffalo.edu/content/dam/grad/forms/mform-thesis.pdf>

**DEPARTMENT FORMS AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE:**

<https://www.buffalo.edu/cas/anthropology/graduate-program/critical-museum-studies-ma/program-forms.html>