

Board Meeting
January 21, 2010

ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF ARTS IN MUSEUM AND EXHIBITION STUDIES,
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND THE ARTS, CHICAGO

Action: Approve Establishment of the Master of Arts in Museum and Exhibition Studies, College of Architecture and the Arts

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Chicago with the advice of the Chicago Senate, the Graduate College, and the College of Architecture and the Arts, recommends the establishment of the Master of Arts in Museum and Exhibition Studies.

The Master of Arts in Museum and Exhibition Studies (MAMES) is designed to teach students to oversee the arrangement, cataloguing, maintenance, and exhibition of collections, as well as to explore the practical, theoretical, and institutional settings of the museum and exhibition professions. The program will provide professional education in museum and exhibition studies as well as prepare individuals to meet the increasing need for curators, archivists, and museum technicians.

Entering students will find themselves in a rich cultural and intellectual environment, in which interdisciplinary study and practice are intertwined. Students may work with the historical artifacts of the Jane Addams Hull House Museum, or engage in its extensive public programming in social and historical issues, while at the same time collaborating with contemporary artists, all the while taking coursework with historians, critics, theorists, artists, social activists, or others whose passions form the foundation of

the MAMES program. To provide students with specialized training tailored to their needs and capabilities, the MAMES program will make close mentoring relationships with advisors and advisory faculty a hallmark from the start. Students will have the opportunity to explore various professional tracks, including social service, public policy, art, history, and museum training, before settling on their areas of focus.

The MAMES program is a 51 credit hour program which offers an interdisciplinary degree integrating professional and critical practice. Full-time students begin with an intensive summer introductory course, followed by four core courses, electives, a supervised internship, and a final capstone activity (thesis, exhibition, project, or other sanctioned capstone). The core courses afford a common body of knowledge and a common language of critical analysis; but most of the program's coursework is targeted to the specific needs of the individual students through the selection of electives. Students emerging with the Master of Arts Degree are certified as having extensive knowledge of the practical and professional aspects of the museum, exhibition, and visual culture worlds, combined with a strong basis in the subject areas within which they will live their professional lives.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The Interim President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.