

MUSEUMS AND DIGITAL CULTURE, MS

The Master of Science in Museums and Digital Culture (MDC) is an innovative program that focuses on the ways in which museums use digital technology and media to enhance services and engage with visitors across physical and virtual contexts. We prepare graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary for careers in this rapidly changing field as well as prepare them with the ability to engage with today's diverse and connected global audiences.

The program features partnerships and fellowships with New York City's leading museums. The program's faculty includes practicing museum professionals from across NYC's museums and an innovative full-time faculty. Through structured practicums and field research, students develop into innovative and creative leaders in the museum field.

The curriculum builds on commonalities of knowledge and skills across GLAMs (galleries, libraries, archives, and museums) while addressing emerging areas of the museum field such as digital information behavior, digital seeing and aesthetics, digital curation, and the integration of physical and digital elements of the museum.

Course and Credit Requirements

The MDC program consists of 36 credits (12 three-credit courses), all of which must be completed with a B average or higher. The program is designed to be completed in two years (3 courses per semester) or three years (2 courses per semester). Summer courses may reduce the length of time spent in the program. Please note that international students must be enrolled full-time (3 courses, 9 credits per semester). Courses are held at 11:30 AM, 3:00 PM, and 6:30 PM.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
Foundation		
INFO-601	Foundations of Information	3
MDC Core		
INFO-679	Museums and Digital Culture: Theory and Practice	3
INFO-654	Information Technologies ¹	3
INFO-683	Museum Digital Strategy: Planning and Management	3
INFO-684	Museum Information Management: Collection Cataloging & Digital Technology	3
Electives		
Select seven MDC Elective courses		21
Total Credits		36

¹ The INFO-654 Information Technologies requirement may be waived for students with sufficient technical knowledge and/or experience; for more information, please visit the Information Technologies course waiver web page.

Elective Courses (7 Courses, 21 Credits)

Code	Title	Credits
Museum Information Management		
INFO-607	Management and Leadership	
INFO-655	Digital Preservation & Curation	

INFO-661	Art Documentation
INFO-670	Linked Open Data for Libraries Archives and Museums
INFO-647	Visual Resources Management
INFO-632	Conservation and Preservation
INFO-663	Metadata Design
INFO-665	Projects in Digital Archives
INFO-611	Information Policies & Politics
INFO-642	Content & Information Strategy
INFO-698	Practicum/Seminar Information Science
INFO-697	Special Topics

Digital Tools and Technologies

INFO-606	Digital Accessibility
INFO-610	Introduction to Statistics
INFO-616	Programming Interactive Visualizations
INFO-637	Programming User Interfaces
INFO-664	Programming For Cultural Heritage
INFO-638	Web Development
INFO-639	Database Design and Development
INFO-641	Visual Communication & Information Design
INFO-648	Mobile Interaction Design
INFO-658	Information Visualization
INFO-657	Digital Humanities
INFO-656	Machine Learning
INFO-672	UX Design Systems
INFO-680	Extended Reality: user Experience for AR/VR
INFO-698	Practicum/Seminar Information Science
INFO-697	Special Topics

Audience Experience and Community Engagement

INFO-693	Audience Research & Evaluation
INFO-608	Human Information Interaction
INFO-630	Human-Centered Research Design & Methods
INFO-636	Conversational User Experience Design
INFO-645	Advanced Usability and UX Evaluation
INFO-651	Emotional Design
INFO-666	Writing for Digital Experiences
INFO-671	Sustainable Interaction Design
INFO-681	Community Building & Engagement
INFO-675	Museum and Library Outreach
INFO-643	Information Architecture & Interaction Design
INFO-644	Usability Theory & Practice
INFO-649	Practical Ethnography for User Experience
INFO-697	Special Topics
INFO-619	Information and Human Rights

Curatorial Studies and Museum Education

HAD-674	Museology
HAD-672	Curating Culture: A History of Museums, Collecting, and Display
HAD-635	Creating Exhibitions
HAD-675	Museums Seen: Curating Culture in NYC
FA-646	Artist As Curator
ADE-618	Contemporary Museum Education

ADE-628	Museum Education: Collaboration And Innovation
Open Electives	
Select one Open Electives with department approval ¹	3
Total Credits of Electives	21

¹ Students can select from a number of options to fulfill the remaining open elective, including any three 3-credit graduate course from the School of Information or other Pratt school (department approval required).

Advanced Certificates

Students enrolled in the MDC degree may choose to complete any of the following advanced certificates within the museums and digital culture degree.

- Conservation and Digital Curation, Advanced Certificate (<https://catalog.pratt.edu/graduate/advanced-certificates-minors/conservation-digital-curation-advanced-certificate/>)
- Digital Humanities, Advanced Certificate (<https://catalog.pratt.edu/graduate/advanced-certificates-minors/digital-humanities-advanced-certificate/>)
- Museum Studies, Advanced Certificate (<https://catalog.pratt.edu/graduate/advanced-certificates-minors/museum-studies-advanced-certificate/>)
- User Experience, Advanced Certificate (<https://catalog.pratt.edu/graduate/advanced-certificates-minors/user-experience-advanced-certificate/>)

If you intend to complete an advanced certificate, once enrolled in the program, please submit the Certificate Declaration form (<https://www.pratt.edu/resources/school-of-information-certificate-declarations/>) at your earliest convenience. Note that to complete the museum studies certificate, please contact the History of Art and Design Department.

Advanced certificates available for graduate students that can be completed beyond the 36-credit degree can be found here (<https://catalog.pratt.edu/graduate/advanced-certificates-minors/>).

Scholarships

Two-Year Renewable Scholarships for New Students

These scholarships are awarded at the time of admissions and are renewable for the second year for students who maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Students must be full-time (minimum of 9 credits per semester).

Fellowships

The School of Information offers a number of fellowships in partnership with NYC cultural institutions. Each fellowship requires the completion of a 9-month internship (120 hours per semester) and is accompanied by a scholarship in the amount of \$7,730. For a complete listing of fellowship opportunities, please visit the School of Information website and go to Experiential Learning Opportunities, Fellowships (<https://www.pratt.edu/information/experiential-learning-opportunities/fellowships/>).

Admission Requirements

Applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited university. Applicants must have a superior scholastic record or otherwise give evidence of ability to perform work on the graduate level. Applicants are expected to offer evidence of maturity and leadership

potential for the profession. All applicants must apply using the online application. Required documents include:

- Official transcripts of all previous postsecondary education;
- A statement of purpose describing interest in the program and personal goals;
- A current resume/CV; and
- Request two letters of recommendation online from academic or professional sources

A TOEFL of 82 (internet and home test), TOEFL ITP Plus for China of 553, IELTS of 6.5, or a PTE of 53 is required for international students. Students who are not international but whose first language is not English must submit the GRE, TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE. Applicants may choose to apply for nonmatriculated status and take up to 6 credits.

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Course	Title	Credits
Semester 1		
INFO-601	Foundations of Information	3
INFO-679	Museums and Digital Culture:Theory and Practice	3
INFO-654	Information Technologies	3
Credits		9
Semester 2		
INFO-683	Museum Digital Strategy: Planning and Management	3
INFO-684	Museum Information Management: Collection Cataloging & Digital Technology	3
MDC Elective		3
Credits		9
Semester 3		
MDC Electives		9
Credits		9
Semester 4		
MDC Elective		6
Open Elective		3
Required Portfolio Submission		0
Credits		9
Total Credits		36

Throughout the MDC program, students will create a digital portfolio to highlight the work they have completed and demonstrate they have met the program's five student learning outcomes (SLOs):

1. Foundations of Museums and Digital Culture - Analyze and articulate the role and function of information and digital technologies in shaping the evolving social role and practice of museums and related cultural heritage institutions.

2. Museum Information Management and Technologies - Describe and manage analog and digital information and collections to increase the inclusivity, accessibility, and sustainability of cultural heritage.
3. Digital Technology and Tools - Select and effectively employ digital technology to enhance museum and cultural heritage services that inform and engage diverse communities.
4. Research - Investigate information environments and audience needs, behaviors, and experiences through appropriate research methods and data analysis.
5. Professionalism - Engage with relevant ethical, technical, and practical issues and construct a strong professional identity.