

“If museums are to be welcoming places for people of different racial, ethnic, social, economic, and educational backgrounds, and if they are to use their collections to present a variety of perspectives, they must recruit, hire or select, and foster the professional growth of trustees, staff, and volunteers who reflect diverse audiences and multiple perspectives.” – Dr. Lonnie Bunch III, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institutions

Museum Studies and African & African-American Studies offer joint master’s degrees with coordinated curricula so students can complete two M.A. degrees in three years. Fifteen graduate credit hours are applied to both programs, allowing students to complete a 33-credit-hour AAAS degree and a 36-credit-hour Museum Studies degree with just 54 graduate credits.

This program of study is designed to enhance and diversify opportunities for graduate students who are motivated to enter the cultural heritage field as specialists in African & African-American studies. This three-year joint program allows students expand their contacts with faculty, enhance their professional networks, and deepen their knowledge of both fields of study. A complete description of the program can be found at museumstudies.ku.edu or afs.ku.edu.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

With guidance from academic advisors and program staff, dual-degree students craft individualized programs of study tailored to their interests and reflecting current museum standards. Students also have opportunities to engage with the staff and resources of numerous museums in the Lawrence area as well as in Kansas City and Topeka.

Our dual degree in Museum Studies-African & African-American Studies has seven components:

- Museum Studies Core – 9 credits
- Museum Professional Areas – 9 credits
- Museum Experience (Internship) – 3 credits
- African & African-American Studies Core – 12 credits
- African & African-American Studies Area of Specialization – 6 credits
- Joint Degree Electives – 15 credits
- Final Project or Thesis

Museum Studies Core (9 credits) The Museum Studies Core consists of a suite of three courses designed to ensure that all students in the KU Museum Studies Program gain a comprehensive understanding of theory, history, techniques, and problems common to museums, historical societies, and related institutions.

Museum Professional Areas (9 credits) Each student will develop expertise in at least one of the principal areas of museum work: *Leadership and Management*, *Interpretation*, *Collections*, and *Community Connections*. These courses incorporate training in best practices, policy development, legal and regulatory concerns, and future trends.

Leadership and Management addresses avenues for building resilient institutions through administration, planning, collaboration and fundraising, as well as the legal issues related to the management of contemporary nonprofit organizations.

Interpretation considers the processes and practices of making meaning through exhibition design and installation, graphics, marketing, public programs, and innovative approaches to the use of new and emerging technologies.

Collections focuses on expertise in the practices and policies associated with the management and

care of the wide range of objects and materials in museum collections.

Community Connections encompasses the ways museums can engage and collaborate with different publics through programming, curriculum planning, visitor studies, and audience development.

Museum Experience (3 credits) Internships and other museum experiences are a critical component of the KU Museum Studies Program. Upon graduation, each student will have gained at least 500 hours of museum experience, including at least 250 hours in a supervised internship in a local, regional, national, or international setting.

African & African-American Studies Core (12 credits) Each student will take required courses introducing them to the fields of Africana Studies, research methods in the discipline, and a seminar steeped in interdisciplinary, comparative exploration of the histories, cultures, and societies of Africans and peoples of African descent.

African & African-American Studies Area of Specialization (6 credits) Students will enroll in two additional courses focusing on either African Studies or African-American Studies to gain a deeper understanding of relevant histories, cultures, issues, and more.

Joint Degree Electives (15 credits) Electives enable students to deepen their knowledge in a particular area of museum work by taking courses pertinent to their area of specialization. Any graduate level MUSE or AAAS course may count as an elective. Out-of-field courses must be approved by the Directors of Graduate Study for both programs.

Final Project/Thesis and Examination Students completing the joint degree program are required to defend either a final project or thesis in their final semester. The student should consult with their African and African-American Studies and Museum Studies faculty advisors to identify a project or thesis topic that effectively incorporates both areas of study. Faculty advisors from both programs will oversee and evaluate the project or thesis. Students who choose to complete a thesis must enroll in at least 3 credit hours of AAAS 899 in their final semester in lieu of an elective course.

APPLICATION TO THE DUAL-DEGREE PROGRAM

Students apply to both programs separately. Museum Studies admits students each fall, while African & African-American Studies admits for both the fall and spring semesters. To be considered for admission to either program, a candidate must have a bachelor's degree and a grade-point average of at least 3.0 in previous college work. A detailed description of application requirements can be found on the Museum Studies Program website (<http://museumstudies.ku.edu/how-apply>) and African & African-American Studies website (<http://afs.ku.edu/admission>). We welcome questions from prospective students! Please use the information below to contact us by telephone, email, mail, or social media.

KU Museum Studies
Lippincott Hall, Room 6
1410 Jayhawk Blvd.
785-864-4543
museumstudies@ku.edu
museumstudies.ku.edu
Facebook: *KUMuseumStudies*
Twitter: *@KUMuseumStudies*

KU African & African-American Studies
Bailey Hall, Room 9
1440 Jayhawk Blvd.
785-864-3054
afs@ku.edu
afs.ku.edu
Facebook: *KUAAAS*
Twitter: *@KUafs*