MASTER OF ARTS IN THE FIELD OF EXHIBITION DESIGN

The master of arts in exhibition design program program in GW's Corcoran School of the Arts and Design explores the intersection of design and public communications, in the nation's capital, at a critical moment in the history of cultural discourse and spatial practice.

Exhibition design is more than the design of spaces that convey information, share stories, or promote products. It does more than relate artworks, objects, and audiences in experiential compositions. It has the potential to tell us about how we are living and how we could be living.

Students in the program take up the charge to rethink connections in the world. They find shapes for ideas and identities and orient them for diverse publics. They choreograph forms, facts, and fiction that put people in touch with each other and with the (built) environment. They design exhibitions as sites of material expression and activism.

The interdisciplinary nature of the program prepares students to innovate through exhibitions. Students work with curators, artists, and institutions. They design in dialogue, drawing on multiple art, design, and social practices. They also develop dexterity through training in analog craft and digital fabrication, studies in history and theory, and exercises in real-world application.

The program coordinates with an extensive network of national museums in Washington, DC. It also engages the city at-large, identifying opportunities for exhibition in its places of memory and monument, performance and protest, and commerce and leisure.

Visit the program website (https://corcoran.gwu.edu/exhibition-design/) for additional information.

ADMISSIONS

Admission deadlines:	Fall - February 1: Priority consideration for admission and funding; April 1: Guaranteed review for admission and consideration for funding, if available. (Applications for admission will continue to be accepted after April 1, when space remains available in the program.)
Standardized test scores:	The GRE general exam is not required.
	The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of all applicants except those who hold a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States or from an institution located in a country in which English is the official language, provided English was the language of instruction.
	Minimum scores for the program are:
	- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 6.0 with no individual score below 5.0; or
	- TOEFL: 550 on paper-based or 80 on Internet-based; or
	- PTE Academic: 53
	Please note that applicants admitted to the program who are required to take an English for Academic Purposes course (EAP) must be available to complete the EAP course in the summer preceding start of the MA program.
Recommendations required:	Two (2) recommendations
Prior academic records:	Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission.
	If transcripts are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translation alone should be uploaded into your application.
Statement of purpose:	In an essay of no more than 750 words, state your purpose in undertaking graduate study in your chosen field at GW in particular, including your academic objectives and career plans.
Additional Requirements	An interview with the MA-EX Director of Graduate Studies is recommended.
	A design portfolio is required. For applicants without backgrounds in art or design, portfolios may include photography, inspirational images, sketches, or any other media that visually represent the applicant.
	1) Include images and brief descriptions of 2D and 3D work.
	2) Provide a visual narrative that illustrates and describes an experience, a perspective, or a project relevant to the field of exhibition design.
International applicants only:	Please follow this link - https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants (https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants/) - to review the International Applicant Information carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Office of Graduate Studies
The George Washington University
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 107
Washington DC 20052

For additional information about the admissions process visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions (https://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate-admissions-faq/) page.

Contact:

askccas@gwu.edu
202-994-6210 (phone)

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday

REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs (https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext).

48 credits, including 33 credits in required courses and 15 credits in elective courses.

Code	Title	Credits
Required		
CAH 6400	History of Exhibitions	
CEX 6010	Exhibition Design Studio 1	
CEX 6011	Spatial Representation and Making I	
CEX 6012	Spatial Representation and Making II	
CEX 6014	Materials, Detailing, and Fabrication/ Installation	
CEX 6020	Exhibition Design Studio 2	
CEX 6030	Exhibition Design Studio 3	
CEX 6040	Exhibition Design Studio 4	
CEX 6100	Lighting, Acoustics, and Design for the Senses	
CEX 6220	Exhibition Design Research	
CEX 6230	Art and Design Writing	
Electives		
15 credits (5 courses) taken as follows: [*]		
One 3-credit open elective.		
One 3-credit curatorial course including but not limited to the following:		
CIXD 6011	Narrative Media Design for Interaction	

CMST 6301	Museum Exhibition Curatorial Research and Planning
CMST 6304	Exhibition Development and Scriptwriting
CMST 6703	Museums and Community Engagement
CSA 6016	Field and Research Methodologies for Artists
CSA 6097	Topics in Public Strategies

One 3-credit tools/techniques course, which may be, but is not limited to, one of the following:

CIXD 6012	Prototyping Interaction
CIXD 6111	Creative Code
CIXD 6112	Data Visualization and Sonification
CPJ 6050	Advanced Multimedia Lab I
CPJ 6300	Speed of Sound
CMST 6203	Preventive Conservation Concepts
CMST 6204	Preventive Conservation Techniques
CMST 6206	Digitization and Digital Asset Management
CSA 6202	Sculpture Digital Forms
CSA 6214	Metals and Metalworking
CSA 6240	Wear, Strut, Occupy
CSA 6241	Installation Art
CSA 6601	Special Topics: Time-Based and Electronic Media
CSA 6606	Performative Media
CSA 6702	Screenprinting
CSA 6901	Special Topics in Cross-Disciplinary Studio Arts
CIAR 6150	Sketching Architecture and Design
CIAR 6225	Interior Materials and Color Theory
CIAR 6350	Sustainability and the Built Environment
CIAR 6425	Lighting and Acoustics
CIAR 6550	Structures and Building Systems

One 3-credit arts/design business/management course, which may be, but is not limited to, one of the following:

CIXD 6021	Design Leadership and Professional Practices
CMST 6101	Museum Management
CMST 6102	Museum Financial Management
CMST 6104	Managing People and Projects
CMST 6105	Museum Fundraising
CMST 6106	Museum Marketing
One 3-credit history, theory, or criticism course, which may be, but is not limited to, one of the following:	
CIXD 6020	Topics in Human Centered Design
CMST 6107	Museum Ethics and Values
CMST 6306	Race, Gender, Sexuality, and the Museum
CMST 6403	Museums and Technology
CMST 6404	Museums and Social Media
CMST 6601	Special Topics in Museum Studies
CSA 6015	History and Theory of Art in the Public Realm
CSA 6091	Contemporary Art and Theory for Artists I

Or any CAH course numbered 6000 or above.

*Students must meet with the advisor prior to elective selection.