



### Career Opportunities

Have you wondered what kinds of jobs there are in museums? Here's a selection of positions our graduates hold:

- Executive Director, Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies
- Administrator, Bishop Hill Heritage Association
- Curator, Amana Colonies
- Adult Programming Coordinator, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
- Assistant Director and Curator, German American Heritage Center
- Manager, Member and Donor Relations Development, Shedd Aquarium
- Membership Coordinator, Science Museum of Minnesota
- 

- Museum Educator, Play Museum of Illinois State Museum
- Account Manager, Special Events, Field Museum
- Museum Educator, Putnam Museum and Science Center
- Research Assistant, Grout Museum District

### Admission Requirements

Undergraduate RPTA students may apply for admission to the Integrated Baccalaureate and Master's degree program after completing 60 semester hours (of undergraduate coursework) a minimum of 30 of which must have been completed at WIU. Applicants for admission to integrated program must have a cumulative GPA at least 3.25 and a GPA of 3.25 in the RPTA program.

To apply to the integrated program, students should submit the following documents to the WIU School of Graduate Studies:

- A School of Graduate Studies application form available at [wiu.edu/graduate\\_studies](http://wiu.edu/graduate_studies)
- Official transcripts from each college or university previously attended
- A one-two page personal statement that explains career goals and how the integrated program will further those objectives
- Three confidential letters of recommendation
- Application for a graduate assistantship during the MA in Museum Studies program (optional)

Applications will be reviewed when all application materials are received by the School of Graduate Studies office.

### Integrated Degree Course Requirements

Admission must be granted by the School of Graduate Studies before a student will be allowed to enroll in the integrated program's bridge ("bridge") courses. Students may begin taking bridge courses after the completion of 60 semester hours in the integrated program may use the bridge courses to satisfy both the BS in RPTA and MA in Museum Studies, including two required courses and one elective as follows:

### Contact Information

### Required Course (1)

- MST/RPTA 500B Introduction to Museums (3)

### Elective Courses (choose 2)

- RPTA 424B Fundraising and Volunteerism in Leisure Services (3)
- RPTA 448B Interpretation of Cultural and Environmental Resources (3)
- RPTA 460B Community Tourism Development (3)
- RPTA 467B Special Event Planning and Management (3)

## RPTA Degree (BS)

The bachelor's degree program in RPTA requires 66 and prepares students for a variety of rewarding careers in recreation and leisure services.

### I. RPTA Core Courses: 18sh

- RPTA 111 Introduction to Leisure Services (3)
- RPTA 230 Leadership in Leisure Services (3)
- RPTA 235 Programming Principles and Applications in Leisure Services (3)
- RPTA 322 Administration of Leisure Services I (3)
- RPTA 397 Research and Evaluation of Leisure Services (3)
- RPTA 398 Internship Seminar (1)
- RPTA 499 Internship in Leisure Services (12)

### II. RPTA Elective Courses: 21sh

III. Approved University Minor or Directed Elective Courses:  
16sh minimum

### II. Directed Electives: 12sh

- MST 520 Independent Study (1 repeatable to 5)
- MST 560 Practicum in Museums (1 repeatable to 5)
- MST 599 Special Topics in Museums (repeatable under different special topics)

### III. Culmination of the Program

- MST 600 Internships (4)
- MST 601 Workshop Requirement (0)

RPTA students are employed in a wide variety of agencies, including city parks and recreation departments, state and national parks, visitor and convention bureaus, event management businesses, camps, and rehabilitation services. Students in the RPTA program study leisure theory, learn how to program events and recreation activities, and develop competencies in management and administration. The RPTA curriculum emphasizes hands-on learning, with students engaging in many community projects as part of their coursework.

Total Program: 34sh (including the 0 of bridge courses)

## Museum Studies Degree (MA)

### I. Core Courses: 18sh

- MST/RPTA 500 Introduction to Museums (3) (completed as bridge course)
- MST 501 Museum Administration (Fall Semester)
- MST 515 Museum Education (Fall Semester)
- MST 502 Museum Exhibition (Spring Semester)
- MST 503 Collections Management (Spring Semester)
- MST 516 Visitor Studies (Spring Semester)

“As a Museum Studies student through Western Illinois University, the relationships you make with classmates are invaluable. The program teaches you how to be a successful museum professional, and the professors help you reach your goals especially through the in-classroom experiences you make with the professors.”