

**DEGREE/PROGRAM CHANGE  
FORM C  
Form Number: C1425**

Fields marked with \* are required

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Associated Forms exist?  Initiator's Title   
Faculty Contact     Administrative Contact   
Department     Admin Email   
**Branch**    Admin Phone

**Proposed effective term**

Semester  Year

**Course Information**

Select Appropriate Program   
Name of New or Existing Program   
Select Category  Degree Type   
Select Action

Exact Title and Requirements as they should appear in the catalog. If there is a change, upload current and proposed requirements.

See current catalog for format within the respective college (upload a doc/pdf file)

[Form C Museum Studies Undergraduate Minor Catalog Description.docx](#)

**Does this change affect other departmental program/branch campuses? If yes, indicate below.**

Reason(s) for Request (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

A minor in Museum Studies provides students with a truly interdisciplinary course of study to acquire academic knowledge and practical training within the museum fields. While UNM currently offers an Undergraduate Certificate in Museum Studies, which is popular with students considering professional careers with museums and cultural organizations, the certificate coursework is often taken in addition to credits needed for the student to graduate. The Undergraduate Minor in Museum Studies will allow students to enroll in a degree path which will both compliment their current program of study and provide for-credit training and internship opportunities in fields related to their major without extending the number of credits or time needed toward graduation. In addition to fulfilling student requests for the Minor, academic units also have indicated their strong interest in a Museum Studies Minor to expand the applied learning opportunities for their students. Interdisciplinary Programs, such as the Bachelors of Liberal Arts Degree, and departmental programs such as Anthropology have noted that the Minor in Museum Studies will provide students enrolled in their major with skills and theoretical training that will enhance their studies and their employment opportunities upon graduation.

Upload a document that includes justification for the program, impact on long-range planning, detailed budget analysis and faculty workload implications.(upload a doc/pdf file)

[Form C Museum Studies Undergraduate Minor Justification.docx](#)

**Are you proposing a new undergraduate degree or new undergraduate certificate? If yes, upload the following documents.**

Upload a two-page Executive Summary authorized by Associate Provost. (upload a doc/pdf file)

Upload memo from Associate Provost authorizing go-ahead to full proposal. (upload a doc/pdf file)

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**Exact Title and Requirements as they should appear in the catalog.**

The Undergraduate Minor in Museum Studies provides UNM students with an academic foundation and practical training in the fundamentals of museology. The minor is designed to complement majors in the fields of anthropology, biology and environmental sciences, history, art and art history, and education. It is a good fit for any student interested in the role museums play in society or a potential museum career. The program emphasizes mentoring and applied learning through a combination of academic instruction, supervised internships, and participation in professional work settings. Additional emphasis is placed on collection care, management, and preservation.

The Minor consists of a minimum of 18 credit hours in Museum Studies (MSST), including 12 upper division (400 level) undergraduate credit hours of required coursework and 6 upper division credit hours of the students' choosing within the Museum Studies program.

### Minor Study Requirements

The Museum Studies minor consists of 18 credit hours as follows:

Museum Practices (MSST 407)	3
Museum Interpretation (MSST 475)	3
Museum Collection Management (MSST 476)	3
Practicum: Museum Methods (MSST 486) Δ	3
Upper Division Museum Studies Courses**	6
<i>Minimum credit hours required:</i>	18

\*\*Courses taken within a related discipline may be used upon petition to the Director.

**Note:** Only courses in which a student has received a C grade or better (not C-) will be accepted toward the major or minor. Courses required for a major may not be used to fulfill minor requirement.

## **Reason(s) for Request**

A minor in Museum Studies provides students with a truly interdisciplinary course of study to acquire academic knowledge and practical training within the museum fields. While UNM currently offers an Undergraduate Certificate in Museum Studies, which is popular with students considering professional careers with museums and cultural organizations, the certificate coursework is often taken in addition to credits needed for the student to graduate.

The Undergraduate Minor in Museum Studies will allow students to enroll in a degree path which will both compliment their current program of study and provide for-credit training and internship opportunities in fields related to their major without extending the number of credits or time needed toward graduation.

In addition to fulfilling student requests for the Minor, academic units also have indicated their strong interest in a Museum Studies Minor to expand the applied learning opportunities for their students. Interdisciplinary Programs, such as the Bachelors of Liberal Arts Degree, and departmental programs such as Anthropology have noted that the Minor in Museum Studies will provide students enrolled in their major with skills and theoretical training that will enhance their studies and their employment opportunities upon graduation.

## **Justification for the Museum Studies Minor**

The state of New Mexico ranks tenth in the United States in the number of museums per capita, and each year the number of museums and cultural organizations grows while existing organizations expand to meet increasing demand. As the state's flagship university, UNM lacks an educational path to the museum profession, which supports public interest in cultural heritage, informal and life-long learning, and public interpretation of the arts, history, science, and the environment. There is a pressing need for trained museum professionals, and the path to a successful career begins with a high-quality undergraduate education.

The Undergraduate Minor in Museum Studies will provide UNM undergraduate students with academic and practical training in the fundamentals of museology. The program emphasizes mentoring and applied learning through a combination of academic instruction, supervised internships, and participation in professional work settings. Emphasis is placed on collection care, management, and preservation.

Students who complete the Minor in Museum Studies will acquire skills and experiences that prepare them for early-career employment opportunities at museums and related facilities. The Minor provides training opportunities for individuals from underrepresented groups, including Native American tribal members, seeking careers in emerging community museums and cultural institutions. Additionally, we anticipate that the minor will inspire some students to continue their education and training at the graduate level here at UNM.

## **Impact on long-range planning**

Because all of the courses in the proposed Museum Studies Minor are currently offered on a regular basis in the Museum Studies curriculum, as part of the Undergraduate Museum Studies Certificate, there will be no significant impact on long-range planning.

## **Budget Analysis and Faculty Workload Implications**

Implementing the Museum Studies Minor should not result in any significant budgetary impact or increase to faculty workloads, as all of the courses required for the Minor are already being taught.

The required undergraduate courses for the Museum Studies Minor [MSST 407 Museum Practices (3), MSST 475 Museum Interpretation (3), MSST 476 Museum Collection Management (3), MSST 486 Practicum: Museum Methods (3)] are taught annually on a rotating basis as part of the Undergraduate Certificate in Museum Studies. Additional required credits (6) may be selected from currently available course offerings, including additional Practicum credits, the MSST 429 Museum Topics (1-6), and MSST 485 Seminar in Museum Methods.

While the Minor will increase the number of students enrolled in these courses, it is not anticipated that the increase will necessitate adding new sections.