Museum Studies Writing Requirement

Purpose
Each candidate for the degree of Master of Arts or Certificate in Museum Studies must demonstrate the ability to conduct research and write effectively. This requirement is completed with 1) a 12-20 page paper prepared especially for this purpose or 2) by submitting a research paper originally prepared for any class as a GW student. Approval (by the professor for whom you wrote the paper) is based on clarity of expression, coherence, originality, and thoroughness of research.

Procedure
The writing requirement is normally completed in the final semester before the student expects to graduate. The deadlines for submitting a final approved paper is March 22 in the Spring Semester and December 1 in the Fall Semester. In order to qualify for graduation, the Museum Studies Program must indicate on the student’s clearance that this requirement is met.

It is the student's responsibility to select a topic for a new paper or to select an existing paper and to arrange with an appropriate faculty member for 1) willingness to supervise the Writing Requirement 2) approval of the topic and 3) review of the finished product.

The student may choose to submit an original Museum Studies class paper deemed "excellent" (A/A+) by the MSTD permanent faculty. The paper's acceptability for the Writing Requirement may be indicated by the faculty member at the time of giving the grade. No revisions are necessary in this case.

If the paper does not meet this standard, the faculty reviewer will likely require revision of it. It is the student's responsibility to consult with the faculty reviewer early enough to establish a convenient timetable for review and one that accommodates any needed revisions.

When the paper is submitted to the faculty reviewer for evaluation, it should be accompanied by a completed "Report on the Museum Studies Writing Requirement" form (see attached).

Marie Malaro Award
On the "Report on the Museum Studies Writing Requirement" form, the student may elect to enter the annual Marie Malaro Excellence in Research and Writing Award, which is presented annually to papers demonstrating excellent research and writing. It must be a museum topic. All papers considered for this award must be submitted to the Museum Studies Office in final form no later than March 22. Winners are chosen by April 1st and present an abbreviated version of their work at a special symposium held traditionally the second week of April. There is a small cash prize associated with the award. All winning papers are published in our website.