

Justification for Masters of Archival Studies

In today's society, we are experiencing exponential growth in the amount of "digitally-born" information we generate and store. In addition, many paper-based documents are being converted into electronic formats which allow them to be easily searched. Consequently, the need for professionals with expertise in archiving data is increasing. According to the Society of American Archivists, "Archivists are increasingly in demand for modern information service positions, and the value of archival knowledge continues to gain recognition in an ever-broader range of organizational settings." The Master of Archival Studies is Clayton State University's response to the demand for archival professionals and will be offered starting Spring 2010. It is housed in the College of Information and Mathematical Sciences, and is designed to prepare professionals for careers in archives and records management. By emphasizing the use of information technology in the creation and preservation of information, the program constitutes a broader study in archival science than students would receive in other master's level programs in library and information science or public history.

Program Outcomes and Mapping

Students will:

- state the fundamental principles that guide archivists as they manage institutional and private records
- demonstrate the similarities and differences between Archival Studies and the related fields of Library & Information Studies, Public History, and Museum Management
- strengthen their foundation of archival knowledge acquiring knowledge from other relevant disciplines;
- acquire the knowledge of how contemporary information technology is used to create records
- acquire the skills necessary to select, preserve, and make available records that are created in traditional paper formats as well as records created using electronic technology in the Information Age
- demonstrate their professional and social responsibilities and the knowledge of the ethical and legal dimensions of archival work.
- gain the benefit from experiential learning settings that will better prepare them for finding and performing well in professional-level positions in the archival field