



Virginia Certificate in Museum Management

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the costs involved in this program?

Currently, there are two costs related to the Certificate Program other than the registration fees for the various workshops and conferences that you must attend to meet the requirements of the program. If you are a member an application fee of \$50 (as a non-member the application fee is \$95) is due when you fill out the Letter of Intent to Complete, and a VAM membership is required throughout your time in the certificate program (this can be a paid individual membership or a free individual membership that you get as part of a museum's membership; student members need to upgrade to be eligible).

VAM workshops are offered in virtual or in-person formats and credits can be fulfilled by attending the conference. As of February 16, 2024, the member rate for virtual workshops cost \$25 and in-person workshops cost \$55. The non-member rate for virtual workshop costs \$45 and in-person workshops cost \$75. Depending on how you register, it costs \$200 for a student to register for the conference.

What kind of guidance will be provided to students once they are a part of this program?

The VAM staff and the Certificate Committee will work with students to answer questions about the program, help determine what programs and workshops will help fulfill requirements for the program, and assist in future career planning.



How long do students have to complete the program?

Students have five (5) years to complete the program; based on our estimates, it should take an average of three (3) years to complete all the requirements necessary for a Certificate. If a student attends VAM workshops as well as outside programs, the Certificate can be completed faster. If you hit the five (5) year mark and haven't finished the program, old credits will simply be dropped, so you can re-earn those credits and finish.

Can students use workshops and conferences outside those of approved partners to count toward their Certificate?

Workshops offered by VAM and are approved automatically, as long as they fit the core curriculum requirement for which they are being used. Classes offered by other organizations will be reviewed by the Certificate Committee to determine whether the content of the program in question meets the standards of the Virginia Certificate for Museum Management. If you are interested in a non-partner workshop, the best option is to ask for approval to count the workshop before you attend.

How do students decide what workshops fulfill which core curriculum requirements?

Each advertised VAM workshop will list which core element it fulfills. If a student is using workshops of our approved partners or other organizations, they will need to pay attention to the list of sub-categories within each core element; any topic that matches one of these sub-categories can be used to fulfill that core element. If there is ever a question about the relevance of a particular workshop, the student may call VAM to verify that the workshop does indeed meet the requirement.

One important thing to keep in mind, however: each student must complete two different topics within each core element in order to fulfill the requirements of the certificate. For



example, a student cannot fulfill their Education/Outreach requirement with two (2) workshops on the Standards of Learning, or the Collections Management requirement with two (2) conservation workshops.

Can students use a project they are already completing for their current job as the Certificate's final project?

The final project for this Certificate is designed to cap a student's progress through this Certificate Program. It should be something conceived specifically for this purpose, and should demonstrate the student's understanding of at least two (2) different areas of museum management. Any ideas for final projects must be presented for approval, in writing, to the Certificate Committee. A final project can be something relevant to a student's current position, such as designing a new program, but it must be able to show the student's growth and the new knowledge gained in the Certificate Program.

Can students receive graduate credit for completing the Certificate?

At this time, there is no college credit offered for the Certificate courses or the completed certificate. However, several of our partners offer their own certificates that you can work on simultaneously, if college credit is of interest.