

ART HISTORY, MA

The Department of Art History offers a graduate program leading to a Master of Arts degree. The graduate program prepares students for either a career in the arts or for PhD-level work at other universities. Course offerings cover the full range of western art, including film studies and electronic arts. Non-western courses in Pre-Columbian, Asian, Islamic, and African art are also offered.

Admission Requirements

Application Deadlines

Application deadlines vary by program, please review the application deadline chart (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines/>) for specific programs. Other important dates and deadlines can be found by using the One Stop calendars (<https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines/>).

Admission

An applicant must meet Graduate School requirements (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/>) plus these departmental requirements to be considered for admission to the program:

1. A minimum of 15 credits in Art History.
2. Two letters of recommendation from persons familiar with applicant's academic or professional activities and potential.
3. A writing sample to the Department of Art History, for example, an undergraduate art historical term paper.
4. A reason statement to the Department of Art History, explaining one's reasons for applying to the program.
5. Strongly recommended, though not required: background in languages, history or classics. Applicants may be admitted with specific program-defined course deficiencies provided that the deficiencies amount to no more than two courses.

The student is expected to satisfy deficiency requirements within three enrolled semesters. No course credits earned in making up deficiencies may be counted as program credits required for the degree.

Credits and Courses

Thesis Track: MA in Art History with an Emphasis on Methods and Criticism

Minimum degree requirement is 30 graduate credits in Art History, of which a minimum of 21 credits must be 700- to 900-level courses, as follows:

Code	Title	Credits
ARTHIST 700	Proseminar in Art History ¹	3
ARTHIST 891	Art Museum Internship	3
6 credits of ARTHIST 990 Thesis Research		6
9 credits of other 700- to 900-level Art History courses (excluding ARTHIST 703 and ARTHIST 704)		9
9 credits of additional graduate-level Art History courses		9
Total Credits		30

¹ Must be taken in the student's first fall semester.

Of the total 30 credits, 12 credits must be distributed across three of the following four areas: Ancient-Medieval; Early Modern; Modern (1850-the Present including Film); and non-Western. At least 9 of these credits must be taken in courses numbered 700 or above.

The following courses may not be used to satisfy the distribution requirement, although they will count toward the overall number of credits needed to graduate:

Code	Title	Credits
ARTHIST 703	Introduction to Art Museum Studies I	3
ARTHIST 704	Introduction to Art Museum Studies II	3

Under special circumstances, 3 credits in 700- to 900-level work may be substituted for 3 of the 6 credits of thesis research. In addition, students may take a maximum of 6 credits of independent research (890, 891 and/or 999); however, these credits may not be taken in the first 6 credits of graduate work in the Department, and not until all deficiencies (if any) have been satisfied. Furthermore, they may not be counted toward the required 21 credits of 700- to 900-level courses. They will count, however, toward the overall number of credits needed to graduate. Upon petition to the director of graduate studies, a student may be permitted to take up to 6 credits in appropriate areas outside Art History (e.g., anthropology, literature, history, music history, philosophy, film).

Thesis

In addition to completing all the coursework required for the degree, the student must write a thesis on a subject selected in consultation with the advisor. This study must demonstrate the student's ability to organize material and their familiarity with relevant research methods and art-historical literature. The student must pass an oral defense of the thesis.

Curatorial Track: MA in Art History with an Emphasis on Museums and Curatorial Practice

Minimum degree requirement is 30 graduate credits in Art History, of which a minimum of 27 credits must be 700- to 900-level courses, as follows:

Code	Title	Credits
ARTHIST 700	Proseminar in Art History ¹	3
ARTHIST 891	Art Museum Internship	3
ARTHIST 703	Introduction to Art Museum Studies I	3
ARTHIST 704	Introduction to Art Museum Studies II	3
6 credits of ArHist 991 Thesis Exhibition		6
12 additional credits in 700- to 900-level courses		9
3 additional credits in graduate-level Art History courses		3
Total Credits		30

¹ Must be taken in the student's first fall semester.

Of the total 30 credits, 12 credits must be distributed across three of the following four areas: Ancient-Medieval; Early Modern; Modern (1850-the Present including Film); and non-Western. At least 9 of these credits must be taken in courses numbered 700 or above.

Under special circumstances, 3 credits in 700- to 900-level work may be substituted for 3 of the 6 credits of thesis research. In addition, students may take a maximum of 3 credits of independent research (890, 891 and/or 999); however, these credits may not be taken in the first 6 credits of graduate work in the Department, and not until all deficiencies (if any)

have been satisfied. Furthermore, they may not be counted toward the required 27 credits of 700- to 900-level courses. They will count, however, toward the overall number of credits needed to graduate. Upon petition to the graduate advisor, a student may be permitted to take up to 3 credits in appropriate areas outside Art History (e.g., anthropology, literature, history, music history, philosophy, film).

Exhibition

The student on this curatorial track must also organize an exhibition accompanied by a scholarly catalog on a subject selected in consultation with the advisor. This exhibition must demonstrate the student's ability to organize material and their familiarity with relevant research methods and art historical literature. The exhibition is considered the equivalent of a formal thesis and the accompanying written work must be submitted to the Graduate School in appropriate format.

Areas for Distribution Requirement

Code	Title	Credits
Courses by Distribution Area		
<i>Ancient-Medieval</i>		
ARTHIST 312G	Minoan and Mycenaean Art and Archaeology	3
ARTHIST 313G	Greek Art and Archaeology	3
ARTHIST 314G	Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East	3
ARTHIST 315G	Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt	3
ARTHIST 316G	Roman Art and Archaeology	3
ARTHIST 323G	Age of Apocalypse: Western European Art after the First Millennium	3
ARTHIST 324G	Early Christian and Byzantine Art and Architecture	3
ARTHIST 325G	Early Medieval Art in the West	3
ARTHIST 326G	Chivalry and Spirituality: French Gothic Art and Architecture	3
ARTHIST 327G	Caliphs, Emirs, & Kings: Art & Architecture of Medieval Spain	3
ARTHIST 328G	Frankish Art of the Crusader Period in the Levant	3
ARTHIST 329G	Late Medieval Art and Architecture	3
ARTHIST 412G	Cities and Sanctuaries of Ancient Greece	3
ARTHIST 413G	Greek Sculpture	3
ARTHIST 720	Colloquium in Medieval Art/Architecture:	3
<i>Early Modern</i>		
ARTHIST 333G	High Renaissance Art in Italy	3
ARTHIST 341G	Art of the Dutch Golden Age	3
ARTHIST 342G	Art and Society in Renaissance Florence	3
ARTHIST 353G	American Art: Colonial Period - 1870	3
ARTHIST 357G	Rococo to Revolution: European Art, 1750-1850	3
ARTHIST 431G	Renaissance Architecture in Italy	3
ARTHIST 447G	Topics in Early Modern Art:	3
ARTHIST 730	Colloquium in Renaissance/Baroque Art/Architecture:	3

1850 to the Present (including Film)

ARTHIST 307G	Film Directors:	3
ARTHIST 308G	Film Styles:	3
ARTHIST 349G	American Postmodernism 1960-2000	3
ARTHIST 354G	American Art: 1870 - Present	3
ARTHIST 355G	American Folk Art	3
ARTHIST 356G	American Architecture	3
ARTHIST 358G	Realism to Post-Impressionism: European Art, 1850-1900	3
ARTHIST 364G	Modernism and the Avant-Garde, 1900-1960	3
ARTHIST 365G	History of Photography	3
ARTHIST 366G	German Painting, 1800-1933	3
ARTHIST 368G	History of Modern Design	3
ARTHIST 369G	Introduction to Contemporary Art	3
ARTHIST 376G	History and Theory of New Media Art	3
ARTHIST 377G	Art and Performance	3
ARTHIST 462G	Frank Lloyd Wright	3
ARTHIST 463G	Cubism and its Inheritance	3
ARTHIST 465G	Dada and Surrealist Art	3
ARTHIST 469G	American Artists Revealed:	3
ARTHIST 470G	Topics in American Art:	3
ARTHIST 750	Colloquium in American Art:	3
ARTHIST 760	Colloquium in Modern Art/Architecture:	3
ARTHIST 761	Colloquium in Film History, Theory, Criticism:	3
<i>Non-Western</i>		
ARTHIST 343G	Art and Culture of Spain and Latin America, 1500-1750	3
ARTHIST 367G	Latin American Modernisms	3
ARTHIST 371G	African Art	3
ARTHIST 372G	Art of the Inca and their Ancestors	3
ARTHIST 373G	Art of Ancient Mexico and Central America	3
ARTHIST 375G	Art of the Aztec Empire	3
ARTHIST 380G	Chinese Painting	3
ARTHIST 382G	Chinese Art and Architecture	3
ARTHIST 383G	Japanese Art and Architecture	3
ARTHIST 384G	Art and Immortality in Ancient China	3
ARTHIST 386G	Art, Ritual, and Ethnicity of China	3
ARTHIST 387G	Buddhist Art and Architecture	3
ARTHIST 474G	Maya Art	3
ARTHIST 481G	Topics in Chinese Art:	1-3
ARTHIST 482G	Topics in Non-Western Art:	3
ARTHIST 740	Colloquium in Latin American Art:	3
ARTHIST 770	Colloquium in Non-Western Art:	3

Additional Requirements

Major Professor as Advisor

The student must have a major professor to advise and supervise the student's studies as specified in Graduate School regulations. A student who is not assigned to an advisor at time of admission should immediately contact the Graduate Advisor.

Language Requirement

Students must demonstrate a reading knowledge of one art historical language, e.g. French, German, Italian, Spanish or other language as appropriate. Students must take the departmental reading exam in the language of their choice at least once by the time they have completed 9 credits. If they do not pass the exam on the first attempt, they will be expected to enroll in an appropriate language course. Students may not enroll in thesis research (990) unless they have passed the language examination.

Thesis or Exhibition

The student must either write a thesis or organize an exhibition accompanied by a scholarly catalog on a subject selected in consultation with the advisor. This study or exhibition must demonstrate the student's ability to organize material and familiarity with research methods and art historical literature pertinent to the student's topic and area of interest. The exhibition is considered the equivalent of a formal thesis and the accompanying written work must be submitted to the Graduate School in appropriate format.

Time Limit

The student must complete all degree requirements within five years of initial enrollment. It is expected that a full-time student will normally complete all of the requirements for the degree within two years.

Art History MA Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from the Art History MA program will be able to:

- Use professional methods and vocabulary when describing and analyzing artworks in terms of material, form, function, iconography, theoretical perspectives, and cultural contexts.
- Use area-specific knowledge to examine the historical significance and cultural contexts of artworks.
- Critically analyze visual material, material cultures, and historical texts with the aid of primary and secondary sources in both written and oral forms.
- Discover, discuss, and resolve important research issues through the sorting of relevant data and evidence.
- Demonstrate reading proficiency in an art historical language other than English (e.g., French, German, Italian, Mandarin Chinese, or Spanish).
- Gain experience through a hands-on, authentic learning internship that involves working with collections and/or assisting with exhibitions in an art gallery, museum, or library setting.

Accelerated Program Option

This program is offered as part of an accelerated graduate program. For more information, see Accelerated Graduate Degrees (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/opportunities-resources/accelerated-graduate-degrees/>).