

ART HISTORY

<http://historyarthistory.gmu.edu/art-history/>

Name and description of the field:

The Art History degree investigates how works of art have been made historically, including the techniques and materials used to make them and the circumstances surrounding their production and interpretation. The processes studied include painting, sculpture, architecture, printmaking and photography, plus what have been called the "decorative arts" - jewelry and metalwork, textiles, and book illustration being examples. Courses in Art History are generally organized around historical periods such as the 19th or 20th century, geographical areas such as America or Europe, or around themes or issues in Art. Art History courses are often related to studies in history, literature, philosophy, religion, and the other arts including music, dance and theater.

What special skills or abilities are needed to succeed in this major?

Students in Art History will need to develop their ability to draw conclusions based on visual information. In addition, they should be able to integrate observations based on the analysis of formal elements (such as line, shape, and color) with historical context (such as the artist, the patron or art market, mass media, social forces or other arts). They should be able to express their thoughts clearly in oral and written form and enjoy writing. Students are expected to participate in on-line discussions and research projects..

What are recent graduates doing?

Recent department graduates continue advanced study and work in a number of careers. These include, teaching, gallery and museum work, graphic design, illustration, animation, TV production, broadcasting, photography, and art sales, art administration and non-profit management.

Art History students who wish to continue their education in graduate school may pursue the M.A. and/or Ph.D. in a variety of fields such as American studies, archeology, architectural history, art criticism, art history, classics, conservation of art objects, historic preservation, history, history of photography, medieval studies, museum studies and Renaissance studies, arts and non-profit administration.

Sample Job Titles of recent graduates:

art librarian	bookstore manager	private collector	art instructor
docent	public relations assistant	audio/visual specialist	professor
web designer	museum registrar	museum education coordinator	outreach conservator
graphic designer	collection	librarian	art dealer
	founder/director		

Career Library Resources – Go to <http://careers.gmu.edu/careerlibrary/wheretostart/arth.pdf> to see resources located in the Career Services Library in room 348, SUB I

Major, Career & Job Hunting Information Online (links to the academic department, associations and other useful sites) – Go to

<http://careers.gmu.edu/onlineresources/arth.htm> or <http://careers.gmu.edu/onlineresources/avt.htm> Both online resources links will have information pertinent to Art History majors.

Is it possible to minor in Art History?

Yes, students from a surprising variety of majors including Economics, International Relations, History, and English pursue a minor in Art History. The minor in Art History requires a total of 18 hours of the following:

ARTH at the 100 and/or 200 level (3-6 hrs.)

ARTH at the 300 and/or 400 level (12-15 hrs.)

Interdisciplinary minor: Ancient Mediterranean Art and Archeology (ARTH DEPT)

Objective: To offer students a minor that represents the sort of foundation work crucial to graduate study in traditional departments of classical or Mediterranean archeology. We have designed a program that encourages the acquisition of necessary practical skills and field experience, as well as scholarly background knowledge

Coordinator: Lawrence Butler, lbutler@gmu.edu

website: <http://chss.gmu.edu/academics/interdisc/ancient.html>

Course work: 18 Hours, Interdisciplinary.

Does Mason offer a graduate program in Art History?

Yes, Mason offers a 30-credit Master of Arts program in Art History that synthesizes art historical analysis, interpretation, and practical applications through elective coursework, new media instruction, and a comprehensive examination. Graduates with the M.A. will be prepared for museum work and will learn the skills needed for independent research required in further postgraduate or Ph.D. settings. More information can be found at: <http://historyarthistory.gmu.edu/art-history/masters/>

Whom should students contact for further information?

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