

Art History, MA

Requirements

The Master of Arts program in art history requires a minimum of 30 s.h. of graduate-level coursework and is offered without a thesis. Students are expected to acquire a broad knowledge of art history and to become familiar with major periods and monuments of world art. They also become proficient scholars, receiving training in research methods and theory necessary for subsequent scholarship at the PhD level.

Students must maintain a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.50. Only one semester of academic probation is allowed. All MA candidates, including transfer students, must complete at least 24 s.h. in residence at the University of Iowa.

Students must earn a grade of B or higher in semester-long courses (3000-level or above) in five of the following distribution fields: African, Asian, ancient Mediterranean, medieval, Renaissance and Baroque, 18th- and 19th-century European, American, and modern/contemporary. These courses must be taken after completion of the BA degree.

Students must complete a qualifying paper that demonstrates their ability to conduct scholarly research and convey ideas in writing appropriately for the discipline and the student's specialization field.

The College of Education offers an MA program in art education; see Teaching and Learning in the catalog.

Required Courses

Students must satisfactorily complete ARTH:4999 Capstone Seminar in Art History during their first fall semester of enrollment and must register for an art history seminar in their first, second, third, and fourth semesters of enrollment.

They also must satisfactorily complete ARTH:6020 Art History Colloquium every semester that they are enrolled for 9 s.h. or more or are serving as teaching or research assistants. Students who are not employed as teaching or research assistants or are registered for less than 9 s.h. are strongly encouraged to attend the colloquium.

Students must attend at least six public lectures by visiting scholars in art history over the course of their enrollment as MA graduate students. Proof of attendance is provided by short written responses (150–250 words) turned in to the director of graduate studies within two weeks of the lecture. Students should register for an art history seminar each semester during their first four semesters.

Courses outside the curriculum of the School of Art and Art History's art history division do not carry art history credit. Cross-referenced courses not taught by art history faculty members also do not carry art history credit.

Directed Studies

Directed Studies (ARTH:6040) is designed for graduate students who already have taken one or more advanced courses in a specific art history field. It provides students with an opportunity to work one-to-one with a professor to continue specific research interests developed in lecture courses or seminars, or on topics that eventually may be the subject of a thesis or dissertation. ARTH:6040 cannot be substituted for a lecture course already offered in the

program. Students must discuss their decision to take this course with the professor involved and obtain the professor's approval. The topic must be within the professor's range of expertise.

Students meet with their professor once a week. The hours of work and written assignments required for the course must be equal to a comparable regularly scheduled course. This course is not available through Distance and Online Education.

Language Requirement

Students must demonstrate proficiency in French or German by the end of their third semester. Students may demonstrate proficiency by:

- two years of university-level coursework;
- earning a grade of B or higher in a 3000-level advanced language course;
- achieving at least an 80% proficiency score on the level 5 milestone of the relevant Rosetta Stone language program; or
- scoring 500 or above on the University of Iowa World Languages Placement Test.

In exceptional circumstances, a student could make a direct petition to the faculty upon receiving a recommendation from their advisor. Language courses do not carry degree credit.

MA Committee

The MA committee consists of a student's advisor and two additional tenured or tenure-track faculty members in art history.

MA Qualifying Paper

Prior to graduation, each candidate must complete a qualifying paper on a topic that stems from a term paper written for an art history graduate seminar or a course numbered 3000 or above. The paper should be between 5,000 and 7,500 words in length (20 to 30 pages excluding bibliography and illustrations). A student chooses an advisor who specializes in the student's field of concentration. In cases where a student wants to focus on a topic that involves more than one field, the art history faculty strongly recommends that the student work closely with faculty members in both fields.

Final Examination

The final examination constitutes an oral defense of the qualifying paper. The final examination meeting with the MA committee normally takes place toward the end of a student's last semester of coursework.