

Art History, M.A.

Requirements

The Master of Arts program in art history requires a minimum of 30 s.h. of graduate-level coursework and is offered without 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 Ph.D. level.

Students must maintain a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.50. Only one semester of academic probation is allowed. All M.A. 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 numbered 3000 or above in five of the following 10 distribution fields: African (including Oceanic), architecture, Asian, ancient (3000 B.C.E. to 300 C.E.), medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, 18th- and 19th-century European, American (including pre-Columbian, Native American, and African American), and modern/contemporary. These courses must be taken after the B.A. degree is granted.

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

The College of Education offers an M.A. 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.

Courses outside the curriculum of the School of Art and Art History's art history division do not carry art history credit. Cross-listed 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. Directed Studies cannot be substituted for a lecture course already offered in the program. Students must discuss their decision to take Directed Studies with the professor involved and obtain the professor's approval. The Directed Studies topic must be within the professor's range of expertise.

Students meet with their Directed Studies professor once a week. The hours of work and written assignments required for

the course must be equal to a comparable regularly scheduled course. Directed Studies 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. They may demonstrate proficiency by:

- completing two years of university-level coursework in the same language; or
- earning a grade of B or higher in a 3000-level advanced language course; or
- achieving at least an 80 percent proficiency score on the level five milestone of the relevant Rosetta Stone language program; or
- in exceptional circumstances, making a direct petition to the faculty after receiving the recommendation of their advisor.

Credit earned in language courses does not count toward the degree.

M.A. Committee

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

M.A. 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 3000-level course. The paper should be between 5,000 and 7,500 words in length (20 to 30 pages exclusive of 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 M.A. committee normally takes place toward the end of a student's last semester of coursework.