

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SCHOOL OF ART + ART HISTORY + DESIGN
DIVISION OF ART HISTORY

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

The Master of Arts in Art History degree may be taken in either a thesis or a nonthesis (practicum) track. The **thesis track** emphasizes training in academic scholarship and offers study in breadth through coursework, electives in which students pursue their particular interests or area of specialization, and research in the preparation of a thesis. It is particularly appropriate for students who wish to pursue a career in art-historical education or who consider continuing work toward a Ph.D. degree. The **nonthesis track** emphasizes breadth through coursework and provides practical training experience through a supervised practicum. It is particularly appropriate for students directed toward certain institutional, critical, or commercial applications of art history or toward education in fields other than art history.

Admission Requirements

Before beginning graduate work, students should ordinarily have completed the requirements for an undergraduate degree, majoring in the history of art. (At the University of Washington, this includes 55 quarter-credits in art history covering a broad range of art history in a variety of cultural contexts, both Western and non-Western; a reasonable knowledge of one foreign language is also expected.) We invite applications from students who have completed their B.A. degrees in other fields but who may wish to pursue an advanced degree in art history; such students should have a strong art history background in addition to their coursework in other fields. Applicants must also meet the Graduate School general admission requirements.

Application Procedure

Detailed instructions for application to the M.A. program in Art History may be found in the Art History section of the School of Art + Art History + Design web site, <http://art.washington.edu>.

Language Requirement

All degree candidates are required to demonstrate knowledge of one foreign language, to be determined in consultation with their advisor. Language requirements may be satisfied by passing departmental proficiency examinations in the relevant languages or by completing the third quarter of the second year of the language as a graduate student at UW. **Candidates who expect to pursue a PhD degree are strongly urged to acquire proficiency** in a second language appropriate to the student's area of study as determined by the faculty. For Western languages a graduate student must achieve a minimum grade of 3.2 in these courses. For Asian languages the requirement may be fulfilled by passing the third quarter of the third year of classes in the relevant language with a minimum grade of 3.0. Students are expected to satisfy the language requirement during the first quarter of residence in this program; any student who does not do so may be asked to limit his or her art history coursework and concentrate on language training until this requirement is satisfied. All language requirements shall be satisfied before the student begins work on the thesis or practicum. As a general rule, TA/teaching assistant appointments will not be awarded to students who have not passed a language exam.

Credit Hour and Credit Distribution Requirements

The program for the Master of Arts in art history requires a minimum of 55 credits in the thesis track or 65 credits in the nonthesis track. Of these credits, a minimum of 45 credits in the thesis track or 55 credits in the nonthesis track must be numerically graded 5-credit art history courses numbered **500** and above, exclusive of thesis/practicum credits. A maximum of 10 credits in related departments, in numerically graded **upper-division** courses, may be approved for credit in place of art history courses. No more than 12 credits of ART H 600 may be counted toward the minimum credit requirement for either the thesis-track or nonthesis Master of Arts degree; with faculty approval ART H 597 may be substituted for up to 5 credits of ART H 600. A minimum of 5 numerically graded credits must be taken in four of five major areas: 1) Indigenous; 2) Asian; 3) Ancient, Classical, and Medieval; 4) Italian and Northern Renaissance, Baroque, and Rococo; 5) Western, late 18th c. to the present. A minimum of 15 credits must be taken in 500-level seminars, including at least one seminar each in a Western and a non-Western area. **(Note: Art History topics courses numbered in the 520s do not count as seminars.)** In addition, ART H 500, Methods of Art History must be taken during the time of the student's enrollment period. **ART H 501 (TA seminar, 5 credits) may be counted only once toward the degree.** Students in the thesis track must take at least 10 credits in ART H 700; students in the nonthesis track must take at least 10 practicum credits in ART H 598. ART H 700 and 598 are treated as continuing courses until satisfactory completion of the final examination and are available only for ungraded credit.

Scholarship Requirement

To be eligible for a degree in the Graduate School, a student must have an average of B (3.0) in numerically graded courses numbered 400 and above **and must comply with other Graduate School performance guidelines.**

Residence Requirement and Time Limitation

Thirty of the credits required for the M.A. must be taken at the University of Washington. All work for the M.A. must be completed within six years; beyond that period, students must petition for an extension. This includes quarters spent on leave and applicable work transferred from other institutions.

Supervisory Committees

The Director of Graduate Studies (Graduate Program Coordinator) is responsible for monitoring students' satisfactory progress toward the degree, including completion of language and other requirements. When it is appropriate, the student consults with the Director of Graduate Studies and the faculty member of the field in which the student wishes to do a thesis/practicum, and **in consultation with the committee chair** chooses a Supervisory Committee consisting of three or four faculty members, two of whom must be **current members of the Art History faculty**, including the chair. Adjunct or Emeritus faculty may serve on committees if the committee also includes two regular members of the Art History faculty. **One or more members** of the committee may be selected from a field other than art history if required by the subject. The Supervisory Committee will be available for consultation with the student and will be responsible for final evaluation of the thesis/practicum. The Graduate School does not require notification of the membership of this committee. The committee chair shall keep written records concerning any formal agreements of stipulations regarding the student's program of study and thesis/practicum.

Thesis or Practicum

Before beginning work on a master's thesis or practicum, the student must receive the Supervisory Committee's approval of a written proposal. The **thesis** may be an extension of a seminar paper and it must demonstrate the student's ability to conduct rigorous research, indicate familiarity with bibliographical and reference materials, and show a capacity for the synthesis and critical evaluation of the material under consideration. The **practicum** must evidence the student's practical or theoretical knowledge of some aspects of art in historical or contemporary situations. It may take any of a variety of forms, either within or outside the academic offerings of the University. For example, a practicum may consist of an internship in any of a number of institutional settings, such as a public art museum, or of the publication of critical, educational, or other writings. The practicum must be comprised of activities carried out after the student's admission to the program. **A complete draft of the thesis or practicum report approved by the Supervisory Committee chair must be delivered to each member of the committee at least 30 days before the date of the Final Examination.**

Final Examination

The final examination is an oral defense of the candidate's thesis, or of a written report in which the candidate describes and evaluates the experience of a practicum, held following submission of the thesis or practicum report to the Supervisory Committee members and conducted by the Supervisory Committee. The Supervisory Committee must certify the results of the final examination. At the final examination, the graduate student and at least **one Art History faculty** members of his or her committee (**or a substitute from the Art History faculty, if necessary**) should be physically present when any members participate through audio or electronic conferencing.

Degree Application

Students must apply online to the Graduate School office for a Master's degree in the quarter in which they expect to graduate; deadlines can be found in <http://www.grad.washington.edu>. The filing of the **online** application (warrant) is the responsibility solely of the student, who must be registered for the quarter in which the degree is expected. Master's degree applications are valid for one quarter only; if requirements for the degree are not completed during this quarter the student must file a new application. The thesis must be submitted electronically to the Graduate School office by the last day of final examinations of the quarter in which degree requirements are completed. *Students will need to apply online in MyGrad for their degree updates, forms, and to schedule their defense date. The application for graduation must be completed at least three weeks prior to the defense. The Master's Supervisory Committee Approval Form and the warrant, generated by the online application, need to be submitted with ORIGINAL ink signatures of all committee members; no faxes, scans, stamps, or emails are permitted by the Graduate School. For further instructions, see the Graduate School website (<http://www.grad.washington.edu/mygrad/student.htm>)*

*Incorporates all amendments by the Art History faculty through **December 2014** as well as current Graduate School requirements.*

Graduate School Committee information:

<http://www.grad.washington.edu/policies/memoranda/memo13.shtml>