

Art History concerns itself with human history through the study of painting, sculpture, architecture, and the graphic and decorative arts. Art History considers these arts as creative processes—as expressions of human ideas, feelings, and conditions of life. The study of Art History allows students to immerse themselves in cultural and aesthetic issues.

Through the study of Art History, students gain awareness of the values and social conditions embodied in works of art, familiarity with great works of art and architecture produced by world civilizations, and an ability to analyze and understand quality of art from diverse cultures and periods.

Within the broad field of Art History, there are many areas of specialization, whether by culture, time period, or medium.

Skills

The study of Art History develops skills ranging from specific knowledge of the artistic expression of civilizations to analysis of art works, their quality, purpose, and meaning. Well-developed writing and communication skills, along with visual sensitivity, enable graduates to contribute to and succeed in many professions. A sampling of representative skills and abilities follows:

Visual and Data Analysis	Communication	Human Relations	Research/Education
Defining quality	Writing and speaking effectively	Developing sensitivity to cultural viewpoints	Working with primary sources
Analyzing the artistic qualities of everyday objects	Presenting and defending theories/ideas	Understanding how the making of art has changed across time	Gathering, analyzing, and organizing information
Weighing values	Conveying complex information	Interpreting a culture's values and beliefs	Examining evidence
Recognizing the school/period/artist of a work of art	Describing impressions about art	Explaining the present by referring to the past	Evaluating research results
Comparing art works/comparative analysis	Clarifying others' thoughts and ideas	Participating in groups	Determining origins of art works
Thinking critically	Speaking to groups		

Career Opportunities and Job Titles

The skills and abilities developed through a major in Art History serve as the building blocks for a wide range of occupations and career paths. It is important to realize that the activities represented by these job titles could each be found in business, government, educational institutions, museums, non-profit agencies, or arts-related businesses. A curator, for example, might be employed by a corporate archive, at a county museum, or at a University library. Similarly, an arts writer could be working at a foundation, for a local arts council, for a national magazine, or for a federal agency.

The employment outlook for graduates is competitive, but jobs are available in art publishing, art journalism, libraries, public art councils, art galleries, and with companies specializing in furniture and architectural restoration. There are some entry-level jobs in museum work, but most jobs in this field require advanced degrees.

A Career Guide for Art History Majors

The job titles that follow are examples of some of the ways in which Art History majors have applied their skills and abilities. In general, an advanced degree is required for those occupations marked with a • on the following list:

Communications	Arts Management/ Administration	Education/Research	Technical
Grants Specialist	•Museum Director	Education Coordinator	•Conservator/restorer
Public Relations Specialist	•Gallery Director	Research Assistant	Arts Handler
Art Critic	Volunteer coordinator	Cultural Events Planner	Exhibition Specialist
•Book/Journal Editor	Arts Council Director	•Professor	Appraiser
Layout Editor	Development Director	•Arts therapist	Arts Consultant
Arts Programmer (TV/radio)	Corporate History Preservation Officer	•Art Librarian	•Attorney Design Consultant
Arts Writer/Reporter	Preservation Agency Officer	•Curator •Archivist	•Historical Preservation Coordinator
Exhibit Designer	•Registrar of Historic Places	•Archaeologist	

Some Employers of Art History Majors

- Museums
- City, state, and federal government agencies
- Interior design firms
- Colleges/universities
- Restoration firms
- Publishing firms
- Archives
- Federal/state parks
- Fundraising firms
- Insurance companies
- Research organizations
- Corporations
- Community organizations
- Educational/cultural institutions
- Historical societies
- Magazines and newspapers
- Antique dealers
- Auction houses
- Art galleries

First Jobs Held by Recent UT BA/BFA Graduates

- Assistant Development Officer
- Artist's Assistant
- Curator
- Fellow in Museum Education
- English Teacher, Japan
- Furniture Maker
- Elementary School Art Teacher
- Community Developer
- Research Asst, (Med. School)
- High School Art Teacher
- Gallery Assistant
- Publicity Assistant
- Media Producer
- Exhibition Coordinator

Common Graduate School Options

Art History: Graduate degrees include the M.A. and the Ph.D. Specific areas of study cover all chronological periods from prehistory to contemporary art, and all geographic areas including Africa and Asia. Art history is increasingly interdisciplinary, considering art in the larger political and social context of its culture.

Art Therapy: Graduate programs in art therapy prepare students to use art as a therapeutic tool in working with all clients—children, adolescents, adults. Admission to these graduate programs usually requires the equivalent of a double major in art and psychology, or a major in one with considerable coursework in the other.

Conservation: Conservators work with paintings, sculpture, and works on paper, *etc.*, to maintain them in the best possible condition, most closely approximating their original state. They need extensive training in chemistry as well as in both studio art and art history. Graduate programs, though highly competitive, can virtually guarantee employment to their students.

Architecture: Graduate programs are intended for the student who wishes to pursue a career as a practicing architect. A student must cover the fundamentals of the field with courses in design, architectural history, theory, and building technology.

Historic Preservation describes the activities that promote the protection and continued use of the built environment. The interdisciplinary nature of the field is generally recognized by graduate preservation programs and permits a great variety of emphases among them. Programs vary in length: a few require only one year, although two years has become commonplace at the masters level.

Archaeology is concerned with the recovery and interpretation of the material record of our past. Most of this record is not readily available and has to be extricated from fragmentary, ruined, and accumulated deposits. Field training is essential; many graduate programs offer courses and practicums in excavation.

With proper planning, Art History is an excellent background for such professional programs as Law, Arts Management, MBA, *etc.*

FACS Resources for Art History Majors

- CAA (College Art Association) Careers
- Current Jobs in Art
- National Directory of Arts Internships
- Art in America 2003 Guide to Galleries, Museums, Artists
- Career Opportunities in Art
- Great Jobs for Art Majors
- Introduction to Museum Work
- Museums: A Place to Work
- Museum Jobs A-Z: What They Are, How to Prepare, and How to Find Them
- Opportunities in Museum Careers
- Graduate Programs in the Arts and Architecture
- MA & PhD Programs in Art, Art History, and Related Areas

Online Resources for Art History Majors

Career Information, Job Listings, Grants, & Fellowships

AccessUT

<https://accessut.utexas.edu/students>
UT's online job and internship database which posts professional opportunities for all majors.

College Central Network

<http://www.collegecentral.com/utfacs/>
Fine Arts Career Services database of art-related opportunities. Fine Arts students can post a resume and create an online portfolio.

American Association of Museums

<http://www.aam-us.org/>
Museum Careers is a new online resource designed to help job seekers and employers alike.

Art Career Network

<http://www.artcareer.net/>
Jobs from museums, art galleries, educational institutions, and multi-disciplinary organizations as well as other art-related businesses.

Art Deadline

<http://artdeadline.com/>
A subscription-based source of income and exhibition opportunities. FACS has a subscription. Contact us for the user name and password.

Art History Resources on the Web

<http://witcombe.sbc.edu/ARTHLinks.html>

Art Job Online

<http://www.artjob.com/>
Search available art jobs: full- & part-time employment, internships, grants, public art projects, residencies of organization, and more! FACS subscribes. Contact us for the user name and password.

Artslynx

<http://www.artslynx.org/>
With a neat and well-organized series of connecting icons, Artslynx has master folders dealing with jobs, visual arts, and arts administration.

Artists Register

<http://artistsregister.com/index.shtml>
A web site that serves to connect artists and their work with private collectors, gallery owners, interior designers, corporate art buyers, public art administrators, and art enthusiasts in general!

Artist's Resource Center

http://www.smfa.edu/Student_Life/Professional_Development/artSource/Index.asp
Sponsored by the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston this site has links to internships, community organizations, galleries and museums, college teaching, electronic media, traditional media, freelance work, grants, fellowships, and residencies, exhibitions and competitions, and public art commissions.

Association for Art History

<http://www.indiana.edu/~aah/>
Job listings in academia and museums as well as fellowships.

Art Staffing

<http://artstaffing.com/>
Thomas & Associates, Inc. places permanent and interim staff in museums, art businesses, and nonprofit organizations nationwide.

Career Alternatives for Art Historians

<http://www.nd.edu/~crosenbe/jobs.html>

College Art Association

<http://www.collegeart.org/>
An important group for aspiring art historians who plan to teach at the college level. Contact us for the login and password to the job postings in their Career Center.

Current Jobs in Visual Arts

<http://www.graduatejobs.com/login.html>
A national employment bulletin for the visual art professions. Contact us for the user name and password.

Global Art Information Directory 2004

<http://www.globalartinfo.com/event/1229.htm>
The 2004 directory is available in FACS and lists thousands of grants, competitions, and residencies.

Grants and Awards in the Visual Arts

<http://www.lib.umd.edu/ART/guides/grants.html>

A guide from the University of Maryland Library that contains sources of information on grants, foundations, internships, and scholarships in the visual arts.

Museum Employment Resource Center

<http://www.museum-employment.com/>

Museum Jobs

<http://www.museumjobs.com/>

Museum Resource Board

<http://www.museumwork.com/>

New York Foundation for the Arts

<http://www.nyfa.org/default.asp>

New York Foundation for the Arts' weekly newsletter of national news in the arts, which includes opportunities for artists, jobs, and events.

Resources In Art History for Graduate Students

<http://www.efn.org/~acd/resources.html>

An online newsletter lists grants, fellowships, internships and study abroad opportunities for graduate students in art history and closely related areas such as humanities and visual art studies.

Visual Nation

<http://www.visualnation.com/>

Links to arts jobs sites, careers in art sites, and museums and galleries sites.

Professional Associations/Organizations**American Association of Museums**

<http://www.aam-us.org/>

Art Museum Network

<http://www.amn.org/>

Over 200 of the world's largest and most prestigious art museums have joined forces to provide free access to information about their collections, exhibitions, and services.

Association for Art History

<http://www.indiana.edu/~aah/>

Austin Museum Partnership

<http://www.austinmuseums.org/>

The Austin Museum Partnership is a consortium of twenty-six Austin area museums organized in 1998 to promote collaborations for the mutual benefit of the public and the museums.

College Art Association

<http://www.collegeart.org/>

An important group for aspiring artists and art historians, specifically those who plan to teach at the college level.

Conservation Online

<http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/>

Resources for Conservation Professionals.

In the Galleries Austin

<http://www.inthegalleriesaustin.com/>

Twenty-four galleries and museums working together to promote the visual arts in Austin.

Texas Association of Museums

<http://www.io.com/~tam/>

The TAM represents 260 museums and contains a job bank that features positions in Texas museums.

*The information in this guide was compiled from resources available online and in DFA 1.103
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