

ART HISTORY

What can I do with this major?

AREAS

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Administration
Curatorial
Preservation and conservation
Restoration
Registrarial
Collections management
Exhibit design/Preparation
Virtual exhibitions management
Archive management
Education
Publications
Development/Fundraising
Docent coordination
Public relations
Reproductions and retailing
Planner/Coordinator
Museum database and metadata management
Gallery Digitalization
Multimedia Content Creation

EMPLOYERS

Art museums:
 University, public, private
Archives
Historical societies
Natural history museums
Living history museums
Galleries
Independent exhibition planning organizations
Digital heritage labs
Online Museums and Virtual Exhibition Platforms
Cultural Institutions

STRATEGIES

Gain relevant experience through internships or volunteer positions in museums or galleries.
Visit museums around the country and the world to gain exposure to art.
Learn a foreign language and plan to study abroad.
Supplement curriculum with courses in history, religion, anthropology, and classical civilizations.
Most art historians specialize in a period or region.
Acquire strong skills in research, fundraising, public speaking, writing, and attention to detail.
Plan to earn a graduate degree in art history, museum studies, or other related discipline depending on specific interests. Each specialty has varying qualifications and required training.
Develop interpersonal skills, including the ability to work well on teams.
Read published resources provided by the American Association of Museums (AAM).
Gain familiarity with digital collections platforms and museum databases.

ART SALES

Appraisal: art and estate
Sales
Antiques dealing
Antiquarian book dealer
Art authentication
Public relations
Website management
Photography

Self-employed
Art dealers
Galleries:
 Profit and nonprofit
Museums
Auction houses
Specialty stores
Interior design firms
Insurance agencies
Commerical art manufacturers

Learn to communicate effectively with a wide range of people. Take additional courses in interpersonal communication and public speaking.
Pursue a business minor to increase knowledge of business principles. An understanding of public relations is also helpful.
Prepare to work independently and be self-motivated.
Entrepreneurial spirit, including self-discipline and perseverance, are keys to success.
Obtain sales experience through internships or summer and part-time jobs.
Volunteer in museums, membership drives, local galleries, auction houses, and community outreach programs.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

ART SALES CONTINUED

Serve as a student assistant in a university gallery.
Research certificate programs in appraisal studies to prepare for that field.
Consider earning a minor in a foreign language.

EDUCATION

Teaching
Research
Administration
Library/Information sciences
Visual resources curating
Student affairs (e.g., student activities, leadership development, admissions, orientation, career services, residence life, multi-cultural affairs, study abroad, international student services)
Academic affairs (e.g., academic support services, advising, educational advancement programs, honors programs)
Community education
Educational program coordination

Public and private schools
Colleges and universities
Art and design schools
Art libraries
Museums

Develop excellent speaking, writing, and research skills.
Learn how to develop curriculum and workshops and how to use multimedia.
Become an expert in a particular subject.
Acquire a background in foreign languages such as German or French.
Obtain degree and certification in art education for public school teaching.
Ph.D. is required for teaching and research in colleges and universities. Teaching art history at this level is extremely competitive.
Earn a master's degree in information science for librarianships or college student personnel/higher education administration for other positions in colleges and universities.
Maintain a high grade point average and secure strong faculty recommendations.
Seek campus leadership positions such as peer mentor, orientation leader, or resident assistant.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<u>MEDIA</u> Publishing Editing Freelance writing Art criticism Set design Costuming Website designer Social Media Interactive Media Digital Displays	Newspapers Art magazines and journals Textbook or commercial publishing houses News departments of local, public, and commercial radio and TV stations Syndicated radio services Internet sites Movie studios Production companies Historial Societies Digital Heritage Labs	Consider obtaining a minor or double major in journalism or broadcasting/electronic media, English, or theater depending upon interests. Develop excellent writing and editing skills along with knowledge of the history and culture of art. Learn web design skills to prepare for online work. This area of journalism is growing while print is declining. Become comfortable working in a deadline-oriented atmosphere. Work with campus or local newspapers, TV, or radio stations. Create a portfolio of work samples, especially those that have been published. Seek opportunities for recognition and networking through writing contests and freelance writing submissions. Complete internships, even if unpaid, in movie studios, social media, or other relevant organizations.
<u>NONPROFIT</u> Administration Management Public relations Development Research Grant writing Direct service	Local and national nonprofit agencies (e.g., Arts Education Partnership, National Arts Education Association, or Americans for the Arts) Foundations (e.g., International Child Art Foundation, Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts) Trade or professional associations Special interest groups Libraries Museums: University, public, private Historic sites (e.g., The Biltmore, Mount Vernon) Historical societies	Gain experience through volunteering or completing an internship. Supplement curriculum with courses in business, psychology, sociology, or social work. Obtain leadership roles in relevant campus and community organizations. Develop strong communication and research skills. Learn how to write grants. Research organizations' values to find a good fit with yours. It is critical that you are knowledgeable about and committed to the work you're going to do. Investigate term of service or service corps positions as a way to gain entry into the field. Earn a graduate degree for more job opportunities and advancement.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<u>GOVERNMENT</u> Public affairs Writing/Editing Audiovisual producing Museum work Curating Development	State arts agencies Local, state, and national councils for the arts Historical commissions Museums/galleries (e.g., Smithsonian Institution, National Gallery of Art) Film boards Libraries and archives Endowments/grant making agencies Cultural affairs agencies	Maintain a strong grade point average as many government programs are very competitive. Complete an internship with the federal government. There are a large number of specialized agencies within the federal government. Do extensive research to find the area that best fits your interests. Earn a graduate degree for advancement. Become familiar with the government application process. Utilize applicable websites and seek assistance from your college career center. Develop a network of contacts through informational interviews and referrals.
<u>BUSINESS</u> Management Sales Public relations Market research Creative design Art insurance adjuster Art economist	Product and service organizations Retail stores Hotels Restaurants Wholesalers Manufacturers (e.g., commercial art) Banks and financial institutions Insurance companies Real estate agencies Consulting firms Other business corporations	Develop strong analytical, verbal, and writing skills. Acquire a business minor or add business as a double major. Gain experience in an area of interest through internships or other employment. Obtain leadership roles in campus organizations. Demonstrate excellent interpersonal skills. Hone computer skills and learn software packages for databases, spreadsheets, and presentations. Be prepared to start in entry level positions, such as management trainee programs.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- A bachelor's degree in art history is valuable for entry-level positions, but an advanced degree is usually necessary to attain competitive, upper-level positions in museums and historical sites.
- Explore more specific careers related to art history such as art appraisal or art authentication. Careers also exist with auction houses and the storage and transportation of art work, art investment, corporate curation, art law, and law enforcement.
- Develop career goals and then gain the necessary education, skills, and experiences to achieve them.
- Gain as much relevant experience as possible through volunteer positions and internships.
- Be prepared to relocate to the larger markets of metropolitan areas where more opportunities exist.
- Join art-related professional and student organizations.
- Develop skills in business management, computers, marketing, foreign language, and other related areas to increase marketability.
- Gain experience in fundraising and grant writing. Often research and nonprofit organizations must be funded in this manner.
- Seek exposure to art by visiting museums around the country and world. Learn about world history, cultures, and languages.
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in areas of interest to learn more about opportunities and strategies for these areas. Learn to network.