

# ART HISTORY, BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

The B.A. in Art History is a liberal arts program composed of an academic course of study exposing the student to the scholarship, theoretical perspectives and research methods of not only the history of art, but related disciplines in the humanities. Courses focus on cultures, historical periods and regions. The program also includes possibilities for directed research projects as well as museum internships. This curriculum provides students the best possible background for future graduate work in art history.

## Learning outcomes

Upon completing this program, students will know and know how to do the following:

- Students will demonstrate a command of art historical terminology and the ability to identify key works of art in relationship to historical contexts.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to conduct rigorous research and write papers that incorporate visual analysis and current scholarship in the interpretation of artworks.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to read critically and apply art historical research methods used in research papers.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to interpret works of art in relationship to the historical, cultural and/or geographical contexts in which they were made.

## Special requirements

Art history majors must earn a minimum grade of C in each ARTH course to be applied to the curriculum requirements.

## Degree requirements for Art History, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

Course	Title	Hours
<b>General education</b> ( <a href="http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/">http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/</a> )		
Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.		30
<b>Major requirements</b>		
• Major core requirements		
ARTH 103	Survey of Art I	3
ARTH 104	Survey of Art II	3
ARTH 292	Writing for Art History	4
ARTH 293	Professional Practices for Art History	2
ARTH 302	Introduction to Museums	3
ARTH 390	Art Historical Methods	4
ARTH 490	Senior Seminar in Art History	4
• Major electives		
Cluster A (select two courses from the list below)		6
Cluster B (select three courses from the list below)		9
Unrestricted ARTH electives (select any two additional ARTH courses)		6
<b>Ancillary requirements</b>		

FREN 202	Intermediate French II	3
or GRMN 202	Intermediate German II	
or ITAL 202	Intermediate Italian II	
or SPAN 202	Intermediate Spanish II	
Fine arts studio (CRAF, SCPT, PAPR or PHTO)		3
HIST 3XX (any 300-level HIST course)		12
Humanities 3XX (AFAM, ANTH, RELS, GSWS, ENGL, PHIL, WRLD)		9
<b>Open electives</b>		
Select any course. <sup>1</sup>		19
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>120</b>

1

Includes language (101, 102 and 201, if needed)

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

### Art history course selections

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Cluster A</b>		
ARTH 207	Global Art History	3
ARTH 260	Islamic Art Survey	3
ARTH 300	Prehistoric and Ancient Art and Architecture	3
ARTH 304	Art of Ancient African Cultures and Kingdoms	3
ARTH 305	Classical Art and Architecture	3
ARTH 310	Medieval Art and Architecture	3
ARTH 315	Renaissance Art and Architecture	3
ARTH 320	Baroque and Rococo Art and Architecture	3
ARTH 321	Islamic Art in a Global Context 1600 to 1800 CE	3
ARTH 324	18th-century Art in Europe	3
ARTH 335	Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture	3
ARTH 338	Colonial Art and Architecture of Latin America	3
ARTH 351	Oceanic Art and Architecture	3
ARTH 358	African Art and Architecture	3
ARTH 452	Studies in Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture	3
ARTH 454	Studies in African Art	3
<b>Cluster B</b>		
ARTH 270	History of the Motion Picture I	3
ARTH 271	History of the Motion Picture II	3
ARTH 303	History of Art Museums	3
ARTH 325	19th-century Art in Europe	3
ARTH 333	Modern Architecture	3
ARTH 339	Modern and Contemporary Art and Architecture of Latin America	3
ARTH 342	African-American Art	3
ARTH 344	American Art History	3
ARTH 347	Studies in Asian Art	3
ARTH 348	Art of the African Diaspora	3

ARTH 349	Body Adornment, Masks and Masking in Africa	3
ARTH 357	Women, Art and Society	3
ARTH 359	Studies in Aesthetics, Theory and Criticism of Art	3
ARTH 365	Modern Art	3
ARTH 366	Contemporary Art	3
ARTH 367	German Expressionism	3
ARTH 368	Pop Art	3
ARTH 370	History of Animated Film	3
ARTH 372	History of Photography	3
ARTH 374	Studies in Film	3
ARTH 439	Studies in 20th-century Art	3
ARTH 440	Modern and Contemporary Art and Architecture of Africa	3
ARTH 444	Studies in the Art of the United States	3
ARTH 449	Studies in Asian Art	3
ARTH 465	Islamic Art in a Global Context 1800 to 1900 CE	3
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
ARTH 291	Special Topics <sup>2</sup>	3
ARTH 369	Studies in Museum Methods	3
ARTH 391	Special Topics <sup>2</sup>	3
ARTH 493	Museum Internship	3-6
ARTH 489	Topics in Advanced Art History <sup>2</sup>	3
ARTH 497	Directed Research Project	3

2

Students must seek departmental approval to apply ARTH 291, ARTH 391 or ARTH 489 toward the appropriate required elective category.

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

**Freshman year**

<b>Fall semester</b>		<b>Hours</b>
ARTH 103	Survey of Art I	3
FREN 101	Beginning French I (or elective if language requirement met)	3
or		
GRMN 101	or Beginning German I	
	or Beginning Italian I	
or		
ITAL 101	or Beginning Spanish I	
or		
SPAN 101		
UNIV 111	Focused Inquiry I (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Play course		
video for		
Focused		
Inquiry I		
HIST 3XX (any 300-level course)		3
General education course		3
<b>Term Hours:</b>		<b>15</b>

**Spring semester**

ARTH 104	Survey of Art II	3
FREN 102	Beginning French II (or elective if language requirement met)	3
or		
GRMN 102	or Beginning German II	
	or Beginning Italian II	
or		
ITAL 102	or Beginning Spanish II	
or		
SPAN 102		
UNIV 112	Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Play course		
video for		
Focused		
Inquiry II		
HIST 3XX (any 300-level course)		3
General education course		3

**Term Hours: 15****Sophomore year****Fall semester**

FREN 201	Intermediate French I (or elective if language requirement met)	3
or		
GRMN 201	or Intermediate German I	
	or Intermediate Italian I	
or		
ITAL 201	or Intermediate Spanish I	
or		
SPAN 201		
UNIV 200	Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
ARTH major electives <sup>1</sup>		3
General education course		3
General education course		3

**Term Hours: 15****Spring semester**

ARTH 292	Writing for Art History	4
ARTH 293	Professional Practices for Art History	2
FREN 202	Intermediate French II (or elective if language requirement met)	3
or		
GRMN 202	or Intermediate German II	
	or Intermediate Italian II	
or		
ITAL 202	or Intermediate Spanish II	
or		
SPAN 202		
HIST 3XX (any 300-level course)		3
General education course		3

**Term Hours: 15****Junior year****Fall semester**

ARTH 390	Art Historical Methods	4
ARTH major electives <sup>1</sup>		3
HIST 3XX (any 300-level course)		3
Fine arts studio (CRAF, SCPT, PAPP or PHTO)		3

Humanities 3XX (300-level AFAM, ANTH, RELS, GSWS, ENGL, PHIL or WRLD)	3
<b>Term Hours:</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Spring semester</b>	
ARTH 302 Introduction to Museums	3
ARTH major electives <sup>1</sup>	3
General education course	3
Humanities 3XX (300-level AFAM, ANTH, RELS, GSWS, ENGL, PHIL or WRLD)	3
Open elective	3
<b>Term Hours:</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Senior year</b>	
<b>Fall semester</b>	
ARTH 490 Senior Seminar in Art History (capstone)	4
ARTH major elective <sup>1</sup>	6
Humanities 3XX (300-level AFAM, ANTH, RELS, GSWS, ENGL, PHIL or WRLD)	3
Open electives	2
<b>Term Hours:</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Spring semester</b>	
ARTH major electives <sup>1</sup>	6
General education course	3
Open electives	5
<b>Term Hours:</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Total Hours:</b>	<b>120</b>

1

See degree requirements for course distribution.

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

## Accelerated B.A. and M.A.

The accelerated B.A. and M.A. program allows academically talented students to earn both the B.A. and M.A. in Art History in a minimum of five years by completing approved graduate courses during the senior year of their undergraduate program. The accelerated program may be undertaken in either concentration. Students in the program may count up to 12 hours of graduate courses toward both the B.A. and M.A. degrees. Thus, the two degrees may be earned with a minimum of 138 credits rather than the 150 credits necessary if the two degrees are pursued separately.

This option offers students a faster and more cost-effective path to professional success by making them more competitive for jobs in the field immediately following graduation and for admission to doctoral programs in art history. Students holding these degrees will attain the skills considered critical to success in the field and continued advanced study in art history, including the ability to apply critical and analytical concepts, frameworks and methods; the ability to contextualize scholarship in relationship to existing art historical/museological knowledge, discourse and/or debate; the ability to translate art historical scholarship written in a language or languages relevant to their research; and the ability to conduct scholarly inquiry that makes a scholarly professional contribution.

## Entrance to the accelerated program

Interested undergraduate students should consult with their adviser as early as possible to receive specific information about the accelerated program, determine academic eligibility and submit (no later than two semesters prior to graduating with a baccalaureate degree, that is, before the end of the spring semester of their junior year) an Accelerated Program Declaration Form to be approved by the graduate program director. Limited spaces may be available in the accelerated program. Academically qualified students may not receive approval if capacity has been reached.

Minimum qualifications for entrance to this accelerated program include completion of 54 undergraduate credit hours, including a minimum of 21 credits of art history course work (may include AP and transfer courses); an overall GPA of 3.0; and a GPA of 3.5 in art history course work. Applicants should have completed or be enrolled in ARTH 390. Additionally, students must provide the names of two art history faculty who can provide recommendations as well as a statement of interest and a writing sample that demonstrates an aptitude for research. Students who are interested in the accelerated program should consult with the faculty adviser to the art history master's program before they have completed 84 credits. Successful applicants would enter the program in the fall semester of their senior year.

Once enrolled in the accelerated program, students must meet the standards of performance applicable to graduate students as described in the "Satisfactory academic progress (<http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/satisfactory-academic-progress/>)" section of the Graduate Bulletin, including maintaining a 3.0 GPA. Guidance to students admitted to the accelerated program is provided by both the undergraduate art history adviser and the faculty adviser to the graduate program.

## Admission to the graduate program

Entrance to the accelerated program enables the student to take the approved shared courses that will apply to the undergraduate and graduate degrees. However, entry into an accelerated program via an approved Accelerated Program Declaration Form does not constitute application or admission into the graduate program. Admission to the graduate program requires a separate step that occurs through a formal application to the master's program, which is submitted through Graduate Admissions no later than a semester prior to graduation with the baccalaureate degree, that is, before the end of the fall semester of the senior year. In order to continue pursuing the master's degree after the baccalaureate degree is conferred, accelerated students must follow the admission to graduate study requirements outlined in the VCU Bulletin

## Degree requirements

The Bachelor of Arts in Art History degree will be awarded upon completion of a minimum of 120 credits and the satisfactory completion of all undergraduate degree requirements as stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

A maximum of 12 graduate credits may be taken prior to completion of the baccalaureate degree. These graduate credits will substitute for required open elective credits for the undergraduate degree. These courses are shared credits with the graduate program, meaning that they will be applied to both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements.

The graduate art history courses that may be taken as an undergraduate, once a student is admitted to the program, are listed below.

Course	Title	Hours
ARTH 690	Historiography and Methodology of Art History	3
Museum studies seminar (select one)		3
ARTH 681	Museums and Communities	
ARTH 682	The Museum as Educational Institution	
ARTH 683	Museum Collections	
ARTH 684	Curating Museum Exhibitions	
Historical studies seminar (select two)		6
ARTH 722	Seminar in 19th-century Art	
ARTH 723	Seminar in 20th-century Art	
ARTH 742	Seminar in Trans-millennial Art and Ideas	
ARTH 743	Seminar in Art and Representation	

## Recommended course sequence/plan of study

What follows is the recommended plan of study for students interested in the accelerated program beginning in the fall of the junior year prior to admission to the accelerated program in the senior year.

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Junior year</b>		
Fall semester		
ARTH major electives		6
Fine arts studio (CRAF, SCPT, PAPER or PHTO)		3
HIST 3XX (any 300-level course)		3
Humanities 3XX (300-level AFAM, ANTH, RELS, GSWS, ENGL, PHIL or WRLD)		3
Term Hours:		15
Spring semester		
ARTH 390	Art Historical Methods	3
ARTH major electives		6
General education course		3
Humanities 3XX (300-level AFAM, ANTH, RELS, GSWS, ENGL, PHIL or WRLD)		
Term Hours:		15
<b>Senior year</b>		
Fall semester		
ARTH 490	Senior Seminar in Art History	3
ARTH 690	Historiography and Methodology of Art History	3
ARTH 722	Seminar in 19th-century Art	3
or ARTH 723	Seminar in 20th-century Art	
or ARTH 742	Seminar in Trans-millennial Art and Ideas	
or ARTH 743	Seminar in Art and Representation	
ARTH major elective		3
Humanities 3XX (300-level AFAM, ANTH, RELS, GSWS, ENGL, PHIL or WRLD)		3
Term Hours:		15
Spring semester		
ARTH 681	Museums and Communities	3
or ARTH 682	The Museum as Educational Institution	

or ARTH 683	Museum Collections	
or ARTH 684	Curating Museum Exhibitions	
ARTH 722	Seminar in 19th-century Art	3
or ARTH 723	Seminar in 20th-century Art	
or ARTH 742	Seminar in Trans-millennial Art and Ideas	
or ARTH 743	Seminar in Art and Representation	
ARTH major electives		6
General education course		3
Term hours:		15

### Art historical concentration

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Fifth year</b>		
Fall semester		
ARTH 683	Museum Collections	3
ARTH 695	Writing Seminar I	3
ARTH 7XX historical studies seminar		3
Term hours		9
Spring semester		
ARTH 743	Seminar in Art and Representation	3
ARTH 771	Writing Seminar II	3
ARTH 7XX historical studies seminar		3
Term hours		9

### Museum studies concentration

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Fifth year</b>		
Fall semester		
ARTH 683	Museum Collections	3
ARTH 693	Graduate Museum Internship	3-6
ARTH 695	Writing Seminar I	3
Term hours		9
Spring semester		
ARTH 743	Seminar in Art and Representation	3
ARTH 771	Writing Seminar II	3
ARTX 6XX museum studies seminar		3
Term hours		9