

Art History & Visual Studies

College of Fine Arts

Master of Fine Arts

The Master of Arts in Art History & Visual Studies prepares students with the course work, language skills, and research experience needed for further graduate study or work in arts organizations or educational settings. The curriculum is structured to provide both breadth and depth of inquiry through a variety of approaches to art history and, more broadly, visual studies. We recommend that courses be broadly selected to take full advantage of the multiple approaches, expertise, and insights of the faculty.

Admission Requirements

Experience suggests that applicants from a wide variety of educational backgrounds may earn a M.A. degree in Art History & Visual Studies. It is recommended that those without an undergraduate art history major consult with the art history & visual studies graduate advisor before applying. Depending on one's prior preparation, some students may be required to take selected preparatory courses that will not count toward the graduate degree requirements.

Application Procedures

The Graduate School, which is the administrative unit for all graduate students, and the Art History & Visual Studies graduate program, which is responsible for the academic curriculum, require different application materials. All application materials must be submitted through the online application, which is located at https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/fl_ApplicantConnectLogin.asp?id=ukgrad.

Application materials for admission to the Graduate School include:

- Application form
- Copies of transcripts from all higher education institutions previously attended, which should be uploaded on the appropriate location of the online application. Domestic students are to self-report GPAs for each institution attended. (Tip: Convert transcripts on colored paper to white with black ink so as not to exceed the megabyte limitation on the online form.)
- GRE scores that you self-report in the appropriate location on the online application. (At the point of acceptance into the program, official GRE scores must be requested and sent directly from the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to the University of Kentucky; the Institution Code for the GRE for UK Graduate School is R1837).
- TOEFL scores and/or IELTS scores if an international student.
- Application fee.

Application materials for the Art History & Visual Studies graduate program are also to be submitted online on the graduate admissions application and include:

- Brief résumé.
- Personal statement that explains your interest in art history graduate study, experience, and plans.
- Sample of research, such as an undergraduate research paper. (Tip: If the research sample is greater than 2.5MB, please send a hardcopy directly to the Graduate Advisor in Art History & Visual Studies, School of Art & Visual Studies, 236 Bolivar Street, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0090.)
- Contact information in the form of email addresses for two recommenders who will be notified to submit their recommendations electronically to the online system.

Application Deadlines

January 1 - for all applicants, including those requesting an assistantship. Art History & Visual Studies traditionally has had two teaching assistantships and occasional research assistantships to award. Students who want to apply should send a separate letter in hardcopy form that indicates their interest in being considered for an assistantship to the Graduate Advisor in Art History & Visual Studies, School of Art & Visual Studies, 236 Bolivar Street, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0090.

Degree Requirements

Plan A - Thesis Option

Candidates who plan to continue study at the doctoral level should select Plan A. This option emphasizes art historical research, problem solving, and communication skills. Specific requirements include:

1. Minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate course work.*
2. Foreign language reading competency in one foreign language (German often recommended).**
3. Satisfactory completion and oral defense of a thesis.

Plan B - Non-Thesis Option

Plan B emphasizes course work to deepen the candidate's foundation in art historical knowledge, theory, and methods. Candidates who plan careers in visual arts fields that do not require a Ph.D. - professional placements in galleries, museums, art organizations, arts administration, etc. - may want to select this option. Specific requirements include:

1. Minimum of 36 credit hours of graduate course work.*
2. Foreign language reading competency in one foreign language (German often recommended).**
3. Satisfactory completion of final comprehensive exam.

* Nine of the minimum 30 required credit hours may be taken in related areas such as anthropology, film studies, historic preservation, history, literature, philosophy, studio art, or women's studies.

**The foreign language competency requirement may be satisfied by any of the means established by the Graduate School.

Graduate Courses

A-E 515	Introduction To Art Therapy.	(3)
A-E 525	The Elderly and the Arts	(3)
A-E 538	Advanced Arts And Crafts In The Elementary School	(3)
A-E 545	Topical Studies In Art Education (Subtitle Required).	(3)
A-E 576	Art In Middle Schools	(3)
A-E 577	Art In Secondary Schools	(3)
A-E 578	Art In Elementary Schools	(3)
A-E 579	Arts And Humanities In Art Education	(3)
A-E 645	Topical Research In Art Education (Subtitle Required)	(3)
A-E 665	Issues In Art Education	(3)
A-E 670	School And Community Art	(3)
A-E 675	Aesthetics And Design	(3)
A-E 680	History Of Art Education	(3)
A-E 685	Action Research In Art Education	(3)
A-E 695	Independent Work: Art Education	(1-3)
A-E 748	Master's Thesis Research	(0)
A-H 501	Museum Studies I: Introduction	(3)
A-H 502	Museum Studies Ii: Internship	(3)

A-H 504	Practical Issues In Art History (Subtitle Required)	(3)
A-H 524	Theory And Methods (Subtitle Required)	(3)
A-H 525	Studies In Genres And Media (Subtitle Required)	(3)
A-H 526	Art And The Artist In Society (Subtitle Required)	(3)
A-H 527	Interdisciplinary Approaches (Subtitle Required)	(3)
A-H 528	Topical Seminar In Art History And Visual Studies (Subtitle Required)	(3)
A-H 529	Topical Seminar In Architectural Or Design History (Subtitle Required)	(3)
A-H 555	Methods In Art History And Visual Studies	(3)
A-H 592	Aesthetics (Same As Phi 592)	(3)
A-H 598	Coordinate Study In Art History And Visual Studies	(3)
A-H 604	Practical Problems In Art History (Subtitle Required)	(3)
A-H 624	Theory And Methods: (Subtitle Required)	(3)
A-H 625	Problems In Genres And Media (Subtitle Required)	(3)
A-H 626	The Artist In Society (Subtitle Required)	(3)
A-H 627	Interdisciplinary Problems (Subtitle Required)	(3)
A-H 628	Art History And Visual Studies Topical Seminar (Subtitle Required)	(3)
A-H 629	Art History Topical Seminar In Architectural Or Design History (Subtitle Required)	(3)
A-H 738	Master's Portfolio Preparation	(1-3)
A-H 748	Master's Thesis Research	(0)
A-H 768	Thesis Formulation And Preparation In Art History	(3)
A-H 780	Independent Work: Art History	(1-3)
A-S 510	Painting III	(3)
A-S 511	Painting IV	(3)
A-S 520	Printmedia: Topics (Subtitle Required)	(3)
A-S 521	Printmedia: Contemporary Practices	(3)
A-S 530	Advanced Drawing	(3)
A-S 540	Graphic Design: Publication Design	(3)
A-S 541	Graphic Design: Advanced Design	(3)
A-S 546	Intermedia Studio: (Subtitle Required)	(3)
A-S 550	Fiber III	(3)
A-S 551	Fiber IV	(3)
A-S 560	Advanced Hot Metals: Fabrication	(3)
A-S 561	Advanced Hot Metals: Casting	(3)
A-S 570	Ceramics III	(3)
A-S 571	Ceramics IV	(3)
A-S 580	Photography Projects I	(3)
A-S 581	Photography Projects II	(3)
A-S 584	Color Photography II	(3)
A-S 586	Nonsilver Photography II	(3)
A-S 596	Workshop	(1-6)
A-S 610	Painting V	(3)
A-S 611	Painting VI	(3)
A-S 620	Printmaking V	(3)
A-S 621	Printmaking VI	(3)
A-S 630	Graduate Drawing	(3)
A-S 650	Fiber V	(3)
A-S 651	Fiber VI	(3)
A-S 660	Sculpture V	(3)
A-S 661	Sculpture VI	(3)
A-S 670	Ceramics V	(3)

A-S 671	Ceramics VI	(3)
A-S 680	Photography V	(3)
A-S 681	Photography VI	(3)
A-S 710	Problems In Painting	(3)
A-S 720	Problems In Printmaking	(3)
A-S 730	Problems In Drawing	(3)
A-S 740	Problems In Fiber	(3)
A-S 750	Problems In Sculpture	(3)
A-S 767	M.F.A. Studio Thesis Project	(1-6)
A-S 770	Problems In Ceramics	(3)
A-S 777	Problems In Intermedia	(3)
A-S 779	Problems In Photography	(3)
A-S 780	Problems In Design	(3)
A-S 793	Graduate Studio Seminar	(3)
A-S 795	Independent Research	(1-3)
Art 748	Master's Thesis Research	(0)
Art 768	Residence Credit For Master's Degree	(1-6)