

COLLEGE OF THE ARTS



ART HISTORY PROGRAM

Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree

DEGREE INFORMATION

Program Admission Deadlines:

Fall: January 15
Fall admission only.

Minimum Total Hours: 38
Program Level: Masters
CIP Code: 50.0703
Dept Code: ART
Program (Major/College): ATH FA
Approved: 1985

CONTACT INFORMATION

College: The Arts
Department: School of Art and Art History

Contact Information: www.grad.usf.edu

Other Resources: www.usf4you

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The School of Art and Art History offers high quality M.A. studies in art history from the Middle Ages to the present. The focus of all art history courses and programs is on the intellectual and cultural history of art. Course work is supplemented by practical internships in galleries and museums as well as study-abroad programs. Proficiency in a foreign language relevant to the student's area of specialization is required. Students consult with their advisors to determine the foreign language most appropriate to their scholarly interests.

Accreditation:

Accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of College and Schools; National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

Major Research Areas:

M.A. Art History students are guided by the art history faculty in selecting their area of research after completing a year of graduate study. Because the focus of the Art History M.A. Program is on the cultural and intellectual history of art, graduate thesis work is expected to address an area of art from a contemporary perspective that is complimentary. This program features an endowed chair in modern and contemporary art history.

ADMISSION INFORMATION

Admission is competitive. Student must at least meet University requirements (see Graduate Admissions) as well as requirements listed below.

Program Admission Requirements

- Departmental Requirements plus a research paper dealing directly with Art History or a related discipline (literature, political history, psychology, philosophy or classical studies).
- Three letters of recommendation from people who can professionally assess the applicant's ability to do scholarly and academic work.
- A short essay of one to two pages explaining the applicant's research interests and goals for graduate study in art history.
- A personal interview by the Art History faculty may be requested.

Undergraduate Deficiencies in Art History

- Students pursuing graduate studies in Art History, who do not have an undergraduate degree in Art History will be expected to complete four undergraduate Art History survey courses plus two courses in critical studies.
- Exceptions can be granted only with consent of the Art History faculty.

Language Requirements

Reading knowledge of the foreign language most relevant for study and research in the student's area of specialization must be acquired before the end of the second semester of enrollment in the program. Please see the Academic Advisor for exceptions to this rule.

The student may take appropriate courses in the Division of Language or Classics Program. Whenever the courses are available, the student should be encouraged to take one of the special one semester foreign language courses designed for graduate students.

When these courses are not available, the student may take two semesters of a beginning foreign language course. These courses may not be taken pass/fail or audit. In order to fulfill the foreign language requirement, the student must receive a letter grade of "B" or better in both courses. Courses taken to fulfill the foreign language requirement will not count toward hours necessary for graduation and the grades in these courses will not be computed in the student's graduate GPA.

Students may elect to take the GSFLT (Graduate School Foreign Language Test). The student must achieve a score of 450 or above on the test in order to fulfill the foreign language requirement.

Students may take a proficiency exam in which they translate, from a foreign language into English, materials relevant to their particular disciplines. The form of these proficiency exams should be devised by the appropriate language professors from either of these two units.

DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Total Minimum Hours **38**

Qualifying Paper Option Course Requirements:

ARH 6798 Seminar in Art History (4)	
Students take eight critical studies seminars in art history	32
Electives (determined by individual consultation with Graduate Coordinator)	8
ARH 6055 Art History (Writing the Qualifying Paper)	2
Total Credit Hours	42

Thesis Option Course requirements:

ARH 6798 Seminar in Art History (4)	
Students take six critical studies seminars in art history	32
Electives (determined by individual consultation with Graduate Coordinator)	8
ARH 6971 Thesis (Thesis Writing)	6
Total Credit Hours	38

To learn about a range of art-historical methods, graduate students are required to take the critical studies seminars in a variety of historical periods and taught by different faculty. A student should, if possible, have at least one graduate class in these three areas:

- 1) Ancient/Medieval
- 2) Early Modern (15th-18th centuries)
- 3) Modern (19-21st centuries).

Museum experience is encouraged for all students, but course credit for museum internships is limited to those seeking a Certificate in Museum Studies.

Thesis and Qualifying paper options

Students either write a qualifying paper or thesis to complete the requirements of the M.A. program. Students should consult with the Director of the Graduate Program and the faculty to determine which option is the best for them; the final decision rests with the faculty. For either option, a B+ average or above is required in courses taken to fulfill Program graduate credits, for students to move on to this final phase of their graduate studies.

The M.A. in Art History is a two-year program for students who attend full time, but the thesis option often takes longer to complete.

Qualifying paper option

Requires 8 seminars in art history (32 hours), with 8 additional hours of electives, plus 2 hours for preparing the qualifying paper (in the fourth and final semester).

The qualifying paper should demonstrate the student's ability to do significant art-historical research, to persuade by effective use of evidence and argument, and to write fluently and clearly. The qualifying paper will usually be a substantially revised seminar paper and should be about 15-20 typed pages in length, excluding endnotes, bibliography, illustrations or other materials. Students choosing this option should form a qualifying paper committee by the end of the second semester of their first year. The Committee is composed of a major professor and a second faculty member. Members of the Committee are faculty in the School of Art and Art History, of which one must be tenured or tenure-earning. The major professor will usually be the professor who oversaw the writing of the original seminar paper. Students pursuing this option download the relevant form at <http://www.arts.usf.edu/absolutenm/articlefiles/20-GradComApptFrm.pdf>. Students are responsible for collecting committee members' signatures. The M.A. Program Director must authorize all committee assignments with his/her signature.

When submitting drafts of the qualifying paper to committee members, students must allow faculty members two weeks to read any given version. Remember that first drafts usually have to be extensively revised, often several times, before the qualifying paper is accepted. Faculty are not normally available during the summer to read qualifying paper drafts.

The qualifying paper committee must approve the qualifying paper before the student can graduate. Qualifying papers must be submitted two weeks before the last day of classes of the semester in which the student wishes to graduate. The major professor, in consultation with the other faculty member, notifies the Academic Advisor of the School of Art and Art History of approval of the paper before the end of the semester. If a paper is not approved, the student may revise and resubmit it a second time. It is the student's responsibility to stay abreast of Graduate School deadlines and registration requirements in the final semester, which are available online at <http://www.grad.usf.edu>.

Thesis option

Requires six seminars in art history (24 hours), with 8 additional hours of electives, plus 6 hours of thesis writing (4 hours in the third semester and 2 hours in the fourth and final semester). Students writing the thesis should work with faculty during the second semester to begin developing potential topics. By the end of the first year, students who wish to write the thesis should decide on a thesis topic with a major professor from the art history faculty. The topic is usually related to research done in a seminar. During the following summer students prepare the thesis proposal. The proposal should define a significant research problem and explain how the topic has the potential to contribute to scholarship in the field; it must include a research plan and a critical review of the scholarly literature on the subject area. Thesis proposals will be presented to faculty and fellow graduate students in a public forum at the beginning of the third semester. Each presentation is followed by discussion, which provides an opportunity for students to receive suggestions and recommendations from faculty and peers. If the proposal is declined, the student will be eligible to pursue a Qualifying Paper.

If the art history faculty approves the thesis topic, the student should form a thesis committee by the end of the semester in which they have successfully proposed a thesis topic, and have thereby achieved thesis candidacy.

The committee is composed of at least two members and the major professor. The major professor and at least one other committee member must be chosen from tenured or tenure-earning art history faculty, or otherwise as approved by the Director of the M.A. program. Students forming the thesis committee download the relevant form at <http://www.arts.usf.edu/absolutenm/articlefiles/20-GradComApptFrm.pdf>. Students are responsible for collecting committee members' signatures. The M.A. Program Director must authorize all committee assignments with his/her signature.

While moderate in length and considerably more limited in scope than a doctoral dissertation, the M.A. thesis must demonstrate the student's ability to do original, independent research of publishable quality. The thesis should be approximately 35-40 typed pages of text – the usual length of a journal article -- excluding notes, bibliography, illustrations or other materials. When submitting drafts of the thesis to committee members, students must allow faculty members two weeks to read any given version. Remember that first drafts will have to be extensively revised several times before the thesis is accepted. Faculty are not normally available during the summer to read thesis drafts. The thesis committee must approve the final thesis before the student may schedule a date for the M.A. thesis defense. The examining committee will consist of the thesis committee and at least two additional questioners who are chosen by the student in consultation with the thesis committee. Students should keep in mind that the questioners must also be allowed two weeks to read the draft of the thesis after it is accepted for the defense by the thesis committee. The oral defense is open to the public. No defenses are scheduled during the summer. Immediately after the orals, the examining committee meets to determine whether the student has passed the oral examination and whether the thesis is acceptable in its current form.

NOTE: It is usually necessary to make some changes in the thesis after the oral defense. Allow at least one week between the oral exam and the Graduate School deadline so that you will be able to make the changes.

Ideally, the student will complete the thesis and submit it in the fourth semester. It is the student's responsibility to stay abreast of Graduate School deadlines and registration requirements in the final semester. Check with the USF Graduate School for specific deadlines and requirements for the M.A. thesis and graduation. These are available online at <http://www.grad.usf.edu/newsite/thesis.asp>. All theses must be submitted electronically.

Transfer of Credit

There is no automatic transfer of special student credit or graduate credit earned at other institutions or from other graduate program in the university towards M.A. degree requirements. The School of Art and Art History has designated a six hour limit on all credit taken as special student status. Any transfer of credit or special student hours to be used toward M.A. degree requirements are only granted after a faculty review at the time the student has been accepted into the M.A. program.

COURSES

See <http://www.ugs.usf.edu/sab/sabs.cfm>