

# History of Art

History of Art offers vivid perspectives on the course of human history around the globe through the study of works of painting, sculpture, architecture, the decorative arts, and the graphic media. Material artifacts are examined as expressions of cultural beliefs and social practices and are shown not only to have embodied values but also to have shaped perceptions of the world and history. Students, as they gain familiarity with major works of art and architecture produced by world civilizations, learn to analyze visual form and to engage in sophisticated methods of cultural historical analysis. Within the broad field of art history, there are many possible areas of

specialization, whether by culture, time period, or medium.

A concentration in History of Art, with its emphasis on analysis, the ability to write about art, and awareness of diverse cultures, has served University of Michigan graduates as a foundation for careers in education, business, communication, or the arts. History of Art also provides excellent preparation for graduate work or a professional school program. Listed below are some characteristic skills developed by History of Art majors as well as representative occupations of program graduates.

## SKILLS & ABILITIES

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Through study in History of Art, concentrators develop abilities ranging from specific knowledge of the artistic expression of civilizations to analysis of art works, their quality, purpose, and meaning. Well honed writing and communication skills, along with a visual sensitivity, enable graduates to contribute to and succeed in many

professions. For example, the ability to put feelings and impressions about art into words is needed by such diverse professionals as a librarian, a writer, or an arts therapist. The following is a selected list of skills and abilities acquired through the study of the history of art.

### Visual and Data Analysis

Defining quality  
Thinking critically  
Weighing values  
Recognizing the school/  
period/artist of a work  
of art  
Comparing art works  
Analyzing the artistic  
qualities of everyday  
objects

### Communication

Writing effectively  
Speaking effectively  
Conveying complex information  
Describing impressions  
about art  
Presenting theories/ideas  
Speaking to groups  
Clarifying others' thoughts  
and ideas

### Human Relations

Developing sensitivity to  
cultural viewpoints  
Understanding how the  
making of art has  
changed across time  
Interpreting a culture's  
values and beliefs  
Explaining the present by  
referring to the past  
Participating in groups

### Research/Education

Working with primary  
sources  
Gathering and analyzing  
information  
Examining evidence  
Organizing information/  
materials  
Determining origins of  
art works  
Evaluating research  
results

## OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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The skills and abilities developed through a major in History of Art serve as the building blocks for a wide range of occupations and career paths by providing a broad liberal arts education. The selected list that follows was compiled from follow-up information about University of Michigan graduates and from national data.

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 agen-

cies, or arts-related businesses. A curator, for example, might be employed in a corporate archives, 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 in a federal agency.

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

<b>Communication</b>	<b>Management/ Administration</b>	<b>Education/Research</b>	<b>Technical</b>
Grants specialist	• Archivist	• Educational coordinator	• Conservator/restorer
Public relations specialist	• Museum director	Research associate	Fine arts handler
Art critic	Volunteer coordinator	City cultural events planner	Exhibition specialist
Book/Journal editor	Operations supervisor	Legislative analyst	Appraiser
Graphic artist/layout editor	Dealer	• Professor	Arts consultant
Translator	Arts council director	• Arts therapist	• Attorney
Arts writer/reporter	Fundraising director	Data analyst	Database manager
Photographer	• Records manager	• Librarian	Design consultant
Documentary editor	Development officer	• Curator	• Historical preservation coordinator
Arts programmer (TV/radio)	Corporate history preservation officer	• Archaeologist	Travel/Tour consultant
Exhibit designer	Preservation Agency officer		Web designer
	Registrar of Historic Places		• Online archivist

## CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

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The concentration requires a minimum of 27 credit hours. Prerequisites for the concentration are met with 100-level and 200-level courses. At least four courses must be at the 300-level or higher, and three courses must meet History of Art distribution requirements. Students are otherwise free to attend whatever courses they wish to complete

their concentration. A 15-credit hour minor and an honors program are also available through the department

Students are encouraged to consult the LS&A Bulletin or with departmental advisors for complete information on curriculum requirements.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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For information about choosing a major and choosing a career, about graduate/professional school, internships, or job descriptions; and for library resources:

The Career Center  
3200 Student Activities Building  
764-7460  
[www.careercenter.umich.edu](http://www.careercenter.umich.edu)

For information about choosing a major and about concentration and degree requirements:

History of Art Department  
110 Tappan Hall  
764-5400  
[www.umich.edu/~hartspc/histart/](http://www.umich.edu/~hartspc/histart/)

LS&A Academic Advising Center  
1255 Angell Hall  
764-0332