

Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of General Studies in History of Art

Why study the history of art?

The study of the visual arts in their historical contexts enriches our understanding of human creativity and the human condition. It provides students with visual and cultural literacy and critical thinking, research, problem solving, and communication skills that are relevant for a variety of careers. Art history majors may find work in arts institutions such as museums, galleries, and auction houses. Many also go on to careers in other professions such as education, business, law, media, or government.

Undergraduate Admission

Admission to KU

All students applying for admission must send high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Prospective first-year students should be aware that KU has qualified admission requirements that all new first-year students must meet to be admitted. Consult the Office of Admissions (<http://admissions.ku.edu/>) for application deadlines and specific admission requirements.

Visit the International Support Services (<http://www.iss.ku.edu/>) for information about international admissions.

Students considering transferring to KU may see how their college-level course work will transfer on the Office of the University Registrar (<https://registrar.ku.edu/credittransfer/>) website.

History of Art Programs

Bachelor's degrees with majors in the history of art are offered in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (B.A. and B.G.S.) and in the School of the Arts (B.F.A.). See Bachelor of Fine Arts in History of Art (<https://catalog.ku.edu/arts/visual-art/bfa-art-history/>) in the School of the Arts Department of Visual Art section of the catalog for B.F.A. requirements.

Requirements for the B.A. or B.G.S. Major

Code	Title	Hours
1. Foundation Courses:		
HA 150 or HA 160	History of Western Art: Ancient Through Medieval History of Western Art : Ancient Through Medieval, Honors	3
HA 151 or HA 161	History of Western Art: Renaissance to Contemporary History of Western Art: Renaissance to Contemporary, Honors	3
HA 166	The Visual Arts of East Asia (and)	3
1 studio course in Visual Art; options include:		3
ART 101	Drawing I	
ART 103	Art Concepts and Practice	
ART 120	Fundamentals of Painting	
ART 121	Fundamentals of Printmaking	

ART 122	Fundamentals of Sculpture
ART 123	Fundamentals of Expanded Media
ART 131	Fundamentals of Ceramics
ART 132	Fundamentals of Metalsmithing/Jewelry
ART 133	Fundamentals of Fibers
PHTO 101	Fundamentals of Photography

Breadth Courses: Six courses total; a course or topic may fulfill only one requirement, either for geographical or chronological breadth.

2. Breadth Courses, Geographical Regions: complete one course 9 in three out of four geographical regions.

A. Americas, Africa, Middle East	
HA 353	Modern and Contemporary African Art
HA 360/780	African Art and Gender
HA 370/570	Art of the United States
HA 390/590	Special Study in African Art: _____
HA 396	Special Study in American Art: _____
HA 529/328	Archaeology and Art of Ancient Egypt and the Near East
HA 536	Islamic Art and Architecture in Africa
HA 677	African Design
B. Europe	
HA 311	The Art and Architecture of the British Isles
HA 322	European Architecture 300-1300
HA 325/525	Aegean Archaeology and Art
HA 326/526	Greek Archaeology and Art
HA 327/537	Roman Archaeology and Art
HA 330	Italian Renaissance Art
HA 333/533	Rococo to Realism: Painting in Europe c. 1750-1848
HA 334/534	Impressionism and Post-Impressionism: 1848-1900
HA 335/535	Renaissance Architecture in Italy
HA 372	Baroque Art in Europe
HA 376/576	Art in the Age of Rubens, Rembrandt and Vermeer: Northern Baroque
HA 393/593	Special Study in Medieval Art: _____
HA 394	Special Study in Renaissance Art: _____
HA 395/595	Special Study in Baroque Art: _____
HA 506	Early Medieval and Romanesque Art
HA 507	Gothic Art
HA 510	Medieval Manuscripts and Early Printed Books
HA 528	The Spatial Arts of Urban Italy
HA 538	Pompeii and Herculaneum
HA 564	European Art, 1900-1945
C. East Asia	
HA 340/540	Special Study in Asian Art Before 1900: _____
HA 344/544	Manga: Histories and Theories
HA 347/547	Ceramics of East Asia
HA 354/554	Japanese Prints
HA 361/561	Buddhist Art of Korea
HA 362/562	Ceramics of Korea
HA 363	Modern Korean Art and Culture

HA 367	Art and Culture of Japan
HA 368	Art and Culture of China
or HA 468	Art and Culture of China, Honors
HA 385/585	The Art of Buddhism
HA 386/586	Japanese Painting
HA 388/588	Modern and Contemporary Visual Arts of Japan
HA 391/591	Special Study in Asian Art: _____
HA 545	Early Chinese Art
HA 546	Chinese Sculpture
HA 587	Japanese Sculpture

D. Cross-regional

HA 337/567	Contemporary Art
HA 371	Modern Sculpture
HA 380/580	History of Photography
HA 566	Art From 1945 to the 1980s: Modernism to Post-Modernism

3. Breadth Courses, Chronological Periods: complete one course in three out of four chronological periods. 9

A. Pre-1400

HA 322	European Architecture 300-1300
HA 325/525	Aegean Archaeology and Art
HA 326/526	Greek Archaeology and Art
HA 327/537	Roman Archaeology and Art
HA 361/561	Buddhist Art of Korea
HA 392/592	Special Study in Ancient Art: _____
HA 393/593	Special Study in Medieval Art: _____
HA 506	Early Medieval and Romanesque Art
HA 507	Gothic Art
HA 510	Medieval Manuscripts and Early Printed Books
HA 529/328	Archaeology and Art of Ancient Egypt and the Near East
HA 538	Pompeii and Herculaneum
HA 545	Early Chinese Art

B. 1400-1850

HA 330	Italian Renaissance Art
HA 333/533	Rococo to Realism: Painting in Europe c. 1750-1848
HA 335/535	Renaissance Architecture in Italy
HA 347/547	Ceramics of East Asia
HA 354/554	Japanese Prints
HA 372	Baroque Art in Europe
HA 376/576	Art in the Age of Rubens, Rembrandt and Vermeer: Northern Baroque
HA 394	Special Study in Renaissance Art: _____
HA 395/595	Special Study in Baroque Art: _____

C. Post-1850

HA 334/534	Impressionism and Post-Impressionism: 1848-1900
HA 337/567	Contemporary Art
HA 343/543	Special Study in 20th/21st-Century Art: _____
HA 344/544	Manga: Histories and Theories
HA 353	Modern and Contemporary African Art
HA 363	Modern Korean Art and Culture

HA 371	Modern Sculpture
HA 380/580	History of Photography
HA 388/588	Modern and Contemporary Visual Arts of Japan
HA 390/590	Special Study in African Art: _____
HA 536	Islamic Art and Architecture in Africa
HA 564	European Art, 1900-1945
HA 566	Art From 1945 to the 1980s: Modernism to Post-Modernism

D. Cross-period

HA 311	The Art and Architecture of the British Isles
HA 362/562	Ceramics of Korea
HA 367	Art and Culture of Japan
HA 368	Art and Culture of China
or HA 468	Art and Culture of China, Honors
HA 370/570	Art of the United States
HA 385/585	The Art of Buddhism
HA 386/586	Japanese Painting
HA 528	The Spatial Arts of Urban Italy
HA 546	Chinese Sculpture
HA 587	Japanese Sculpture

**4. Complete an art history capstone course, either HA 550 3
Capstone in Art History, HA 698 Honors Essay. (The art history capstone course may also fulfill one of the breadth requirements above, in which case an elective course should be taken for the final 3 required hours of art history.)****Capstone Course**

HA 550	Capstone in Art History: _____
HA 698	Honors Essay in Art History

5. Art history elective (0-3 hours; see number 4 above).**Total Hours 33**

Note: HA 100/HA 300 is a 1-semester survey of Western art history intended for non-majors and does not count toward the 30 required hours in art history. A student who takes HA 100 or HA 300 and then decides to major in art history must then also take either HA 150 or HA 151 (or both). A student who already has credit in either HA 150 or HA 151, however, should not take HA 100 or HA 300.

Major Hours & Major GPA

While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

Major Hours in Residence

Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

Major Junior/Senior Hours

Satisfied by a minimum of 12 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

Major Junior/Senior Graduation GPA

Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F's and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (<https://sis.ku.edu/gpa-calculator/>).

A sample 4-year plan for the BA degree in History of Art can be found here: History of Art (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/history-art/ba-bgs/ba-history-art/>), or by using the left-side navigation.

A sample 4-year plan for the BGS degree in History of Art can be found here: History of Art (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/history-art/ba-bgs/BGS-in-History-of-Art/>), or by using the left-side navigation.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate visual literacy.
- Conduct art-historical research.
- Compose/communicate an art-historical argument.
- Demonstrate relational thinking.
- Demonstrate digital literacy.

Departmental Honors

The department invites art history undergraduate majors to apply for graduation with departmental honors. They must meet the following criteria:

1. An overall grade-point average of at least 3.25 and an art history grade-point average of 3.5 at the time of declaring intention to seek honors.
2. In consultation with the departmental honors coordinator and with approval from a supervising professor, declared intention of seeking honors no later than the time of enrollment for the final undergraduate semester.
3. Enrollment in HA 698 Honors Essay and full participation in a concurrent art history graduate seminar (numbered 700 or above) for which the student must write a substantial, original research paper to be submitted to the supervising professor as an honors essay.
4. Approval of the honors essay by the supervising professor and 2 other faculty members who, as a committee, certify to the departmental honors coordinator that the student has successfully completed the requirements to earn honors.