

Art History and Archaeology

Phone: 314-935-5270
Website: <https://arthistory.wustl.edu/>

Degree Requirements

Applicants for admission to the graduate program are normally expected to have completed 18 units of undergraduate study in art history. However, the department welcomes applications from students with less background in art history who show strong preparation in such fields as classics, history, philosophy, literature, anthropology, and Asian studies.

Master of Arts in Art History and Archaeology

Requirements for the AM degree

Requirements for this program normally involve 12 courses taken over the course of four semesters, including the required graduate seminar (Methods in Art History) as well as a capstone course in the fourth semester in which the candidate revises two seminar papers for presentation to the faculty as qualifying papers. In addition, students must pass a reading proficiency exam in a modern foreign language (or exempt this requirement through graded courses in the language). For students in Asian art, this language should be an Asian language. Students in ancient art may be required to demonstrate reading knowledge in an ancient language. Students continuing through the PhD are strongly advised to demonstrate reading proficiency in a second modern foreign language before the start of their fifth semester in their graduate program.

PhD in Art History and Archaeology

Requirements for the PhD degree

Students completing their AM degree at Washington University and continuing as PhD students will have two or three more semesters of course work, normally in the form of three seminars plus the Comprehensive Exam Preparation courses (three courses) and the Dissertation Prospectus course. To be admitted to PhD candidacy, a student must also demonstrate reading proficiency in a second modern foreign language, pass the Comprehensive Exam, and successfully defend the Dissertation Prospectus. Students in ancient art and Asian art may have additional language requirements.

Thus, by the end of the seventh semester of graduate study at Washington University, students will normally have achieved the following, at a minimum:

- Completed all required courses;
- Demonstrated reading proficiency in no fewer than two modern foreign languages;
- Passed the Comprehensive Exam in the major area;
- Passed the Comprehensive Exam in the minor area (or have exempted this requirement through related course work);
- Determined a three-person Research Advisory Committee for the dissertation; and
- Successfully defended the Dissertation Prospectus.

Students admitted to the PhD program who have an approved master's degree from another university will normally take courses at Washington University for four or five semesters, including the Comprehensive Exam Preparation courses and the Dissertation Prospectus course. Thus, these students will normally complete all of the requirements for PhD candidacy listed above by the end of the fifth semester of graduate study at Washington University.