Art History (BA)

An art history major will help you to develop competence in visual literacy, analytical skills, communication skills, and cultural and historical awareness. Art history is a marketable major, and graduates make competitive candidates in museums, galleries, archives, and cultural institutions as well as business, education, law, private and nonprofit organizations, professional writing, and publishing.

Art history students explore global history, culture, and society through art and architecture from antiquity to the present day. Trained to celebrate cultural differences and the broad spectrum of human creativity and expression, art history students are natural ambassadors of pluralism and tolerance. As an art history student, you'll develop skills in appreciating visual and material culture to help you become a true global citizen—ideally equipped to understand how historical events and concerns relate to important contemporary and international phenomena.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Identify themes, forms and structures of works of art, architecture and visual/material culture, using appropriate art historical terms.
- Connect features of works of art, architecture and visual/material culture to their appropriate historical and cultural contexts.
- Evaluate scholarly interpretations of works of art, architecture and visual/material culture.
- Present arguments related to works of art, architecture and visual/material culture in scholarly writing.

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

Majors in art history are required to complete the language requirement as described under the university's bachelor of arts requirements (https://catalog.uoregon.edu/archive/2025-2026/admissiontograduation/bachelorrequirements/).

Because some languages are required for advanced research and graduate study in art history as well as other humanistic disciplines, majors are urged to choose one of them to satisfy the BA requirement. For example, Greek and Latin are the most commonly used languages in art-historical study about the Ancient Mediterranean; Chinese and Japanese are essential for most areas of East Asian art history; French, German, and Italian are the most commonly used languages in European art-historical research; and Portuguese and Spanish are the most commonly used languages in Latin American art-historical research. Substitution of other languages may be appropriate to a field of interest. Students are urged to consult with their advisors when selecting a language for study.

Code	Title	Credits
General Requirements		
Studio art (e.g., drawing, sculpture, or design) [1]		4
ARH 411	Art History Critical Methods	4
Choose three of the following survey courses:		12
ARH 150	Introduction to Visual Culture	
ARH 204	Ancient Mediterranean Art	
ARH 205	Medieval Renaissance European Art	
ARH 206	History of Western Art III	
ARH 208	History of Chinese Art	
ARH 209	History of Japanese Art	
ARH 210		
ARH 211	Survey of Latin American Arts	
ARH 314	History of World Architecture I	
ARH 315	History of World Architecture II	
Eight upper-division lecture and seminar courses [2]		32
Additional ARH course [3]		4
Total Credits		**56**

1 ART 115, 116, 199, 233, 333, 381, any courses from ARTC, ARTD, ARTF, ARTM, ARTO, ARTP, ARTR, and ARTS subject code courses. A course must be 3 credits or more to count toward the requirement.

2 Choose any 300- and 400-level courses with the exception of History of World Architecture I (ARH 314) and History of World Architecture II (ARH 315). Four of the eight courses must be at the 400 level. Of the eight required upper-division courses, two courses must be taken in any three of the following four chronological breadth areas: ancient, medieval, early modern, modern-contemporary. The remaining two courses are electives and may be taken in any area. At least four of the eight required upper-division courses must be taken in residence at the University of Oregon.

3 Any lower- or upper-division ARH course.

Majors must take art history courses for letter grades and pass them with a C– or better.

Honors Program

Majors in the history of art and architecture department may enroll in the department's honors essay program if they have

1. completed two lower-division and four upper-division art history courses (one of which must be taken in residence at the University of Oregon)
2. completed Art History Critical Methods (ARH 411) with a grade of A– or better
3. an average GPA of 3.50 or higher in art history courses
4. submitted the departmental honors enrollment form (available online) to the director of undergraduate studies, indicating the support of a faculty advisor

Students are urged to present a first draft of the essay to the faculty advisor six weeks before the end of the term, and a final draft must be submitted two weeks before the end of the same term.

The honors essay must demonstrate the student's ability to formulate a significant research problem. The essay should have approximately 20–25 pages of text, not including notes, bibliography, and illustrations. A copy of the honors essay is deposited in departmental files.

Honors candidates who maintain a 3.50 GPA in all courses required for the art history major are awarded departmental honors upon the approval of their essay by the faculty advisor.

Four-Year Degree Plan

The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. Students should consult their advisor to determine the best path for them.

Bachelor of Arts in Art History

Course	Title	Credits	Milestones
First Year			
Fall			
WR 121Z	Composition I	4	
First term of 1st-year second-language sequence		4	
Lower-division art history course (subject code ARH)		4	
Core-education course in social science (first subject)		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
WR 123 or WR 122Z	College Composition III (recommended for art history majors) or Composition II	4	
Second term of 1st-year second-language sequence		4	
Core-education course in social science (first subject)		4	
Core-education course in science (first subject)		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
Third term of 1st-year second-language sequence		4	
Lower-division ARH course		4	
Core-education course in social science (second subject)		4	
Core-education course in science (first subject)		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Second Year			
Fall			
First term of 2nd-year second-language sequence		4	
Lower-division ARH course		4	
Core-education course in social science (on any subject)		4	
Core-education course in science (second subject)		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
Second term of 2nd-year second-language sequence		4	
Lower-division or upper-division ARH course		4	
Core-education course in arts and letters (first subject)		4	
Core-education course in science (on any subject)		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
Third term of 2nd-year second-language sequence		4	Complete language requiremer
300-level ARH course (except ARH 314 or 315)		4	
Core-education course in arts and letters (first subject)		4	
Core-education course in arts and letters (on any subject)		4	
Apply for art history major at beginning of term; begin taking upper-division ARH courses; consider applying for Gloria Tovar Lee Scholarship			
	Credits	**16**	
Third Year			
Fall			
Art studio course		4	Complete art history studio requiremer
ARH 411	Art History Critical Methods	4	
Upper-division elective course		4	
Elective course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
400-level ARH course		4	
Upper-division elective courses		8	
Elective course		4	
	Credits	**16**	
Spring			
Upper-division elective course		4	
400-level ARH course		4	
Upper-division elective course		4	
Elective course		4	
This term, consider applying for book prizes and/or Gloria Tovar Lee Scholarship; consider applying to honors program			
	Credits	**16**	
Fourth Year			
Fall			
Upper-division ARH course (except ARH 314 or ARH 315)		4	
400-level ARH course		4	
Upper-division elective course		4	
Elective course		4	
This term, consider applying for travel-research awards; also consider applying for book prizes (spring deadline)			
	Credits	**16**	
Winter			
Upper-division ARH course		4	Complete upper-division requirement
400-level ARH course		4	Complete 400-level requiremer
Upper-division elective course		4	
Elective course		4	
	Credits	**16**	

Spring

Upper-division ARH course	Complete 180 minimum credits and 62 upper-division credits; complete honors essay (if relevant)	4
Credits		**4**
Total Credits		**180**