

# BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN ART HISTORY

The Art History program at GW's Corcoran School of the Arts and Design is situated in the heart of Washington, DC, providing students with culturally rich opportunities to study the arts inside and outside the classroom. The program's proximity to many museums and galleries means that some of the most important art institutions in the world, such as the National Gallery of Art, often serve as the backbone of a program of study. As art history majors, students learn to apply visual and historical analyses to artworks, as well as to incorporate relevant theoretical and methodological approaches to research. The program's curriculum spans ancient to contemporary art, with significant emphasis on research and writing. Graduates of the program have gone on to work at the National Gallery of Art, The Phillips Collection, Smithsonian Institute, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, and CulturalDC.

Visit the program website (<https://corcoran.gwu.edu/art-history-undergraduate/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

For information about the admission process, including deadlines, visit the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website (<https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/>). Applications can be submitted via the Common Application (<https://go.gwu.edu/commonapp/>).

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
The George Washington University  
800 21st St NW Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20052

For questions visit [undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us](https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us) (<http://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us/>).

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Undergraduate Programs (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext>).

Program-specific curriculum:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
At least one course from six of the seven categories below and one additional course from any category for a total of 21 credits.		
Classical, ancient Near East, and medieval worlds		
CAH 3101	Ancient Art of the Bronze Age and Greece	

CAH 3102	Ancient Art of the Roman Empire
CAH 3103	Art and Archaeology of Egypt and the Near East
CAH 3104	Art and Archaeology of the Aegean Bronze Age
CAH 3105	Topics in Ancient Art and Archaeology
CAH 3106	Art and Archaeology of Israel and Neighboring Lands
CAH 3111	Early Christian and Byzantine Art and Architecture
CAH 3112	Proseminar in Romanesque and Gothic Art and Architecture
CAH 4109	Topics in Ancient Art and Archaeology
CAH 4119	Seminar in Medieval Art and Architecture
Islamic spheres	
CAH 2113	Survey of Early Islamic Art and Architecture from the Seventh to Fourteenth Centuries
CAH 2114	Survey of Islamic Art and Architecture from the Fourteenth Century to the Present
CAH 3113	Islamic Art and Architecture
CAH 3114	Art of the Book in the Medieval Muslim World
or CAH 3114W	Art of the Book in the Medieval Muslim World
CAH 4165	Topics in Islamic Art and Architecture
Renaissance and global Baroque	
CAH 3120	Italian Art and Architecture of the Thirteenth through Fifteenth Centuries
CAH 3121	Italian Art and Architecture of the Sixteenth Century
CAH 3122	Topics in Early Northern Renaissance Art and Architecture
or CAH 3122W	Topics in Early Northern Renaissance Art and Architecture
CAH 3123	Topics in Northern Renaissance Art and Architecture
CAH 3123W	Topics in Northern Renaissance Art and Architecture
CAH 3131	Italian Art and Architecture of the Seventeenth Century

CAH 3132	Topics in Northern European Art and Architecture of the Seventeenth Century	CAH 3150	Theories and History of Graphic Design
CAH 3134	Topics in Spanish and Portuguese Art through the Sixteenth Century	CAH 3150W	Theories and History of Graphic Design
or CAH 3134W	Topics in Spanish and Portuguese Art Through the Sixteenth Century	CAH 3153	American Art of the Twentieth Century
CAH 3135	Topics in Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Spanish and Portuguese Art	CAH 3165	Later Twentieth-Century Art
CAH 4129	Seminar in Renaissance Art and Architecture	or CAH 3165W	Later Twentieth-Century Art
CAH 4139	Seminar in Baroque Art and Architecture	CAH 3530	Art and Architecture of Washington, D.C.
Eighteenth and nineteenth centuries		CAH 4149	Seminar in Modern European Art and Architecture
CAH 2145	History of European Decorative Arts	CAH 4150	Seminar in Modern Art
CAH 2154	American Architecture I	or CAH 4150W	Seminar in Modern Art
CAH 2161	History of Decorative Arts: American Heritage	CAH 4150W	Seminar in Modern Art
CAH 3140	European Art of the Eighteenth Century	CAH 4157	Seminar in Photography
CAH 3141	European Art of the Early Nineteenth Century	CAH 4159	Seminar in American Art and Architecture
or CAH 3141W	European Art of the Early Nineteenth Century	or CAH 4159W	Seminar in American Art and Architecture
CAH 3142	European Art of the Late Nineteenth Century	CAH 4169	Seminar in Contemporary Art
or CAH 3142W	European Art of the Late Nineteenth Century	CAH 4179	Topics in Design History and Theory
CAH 3152	American Art in the Era of National Expansion	Asia and the Indian Ocean	
Modern and contemporary		CAH 2190	East Asian Art
CAH 2071	Introduction to the Arts in America	CAH 2191	South Asian Art
CAH 2155	American Architecture II	CAH 2192	Art of Southeast Asia
CAH 2162	History of Photography	CAH 3181	Special Topics in Asian Art
or CAH 2162W	History of Photography	CAH 3182	Special Topics in South Asian Art
CAH 3060	History of Design	or CAH 3182W	Special Topics in South Asian Art
CAH 3065	Digital Media Culture	CAH 4181	Topics in Asian Art
CAH 3143	Early Twentieth-Century Art	CAH 4182	Topics in South Asian Art
or CAH 3143W	Early Twentieth-Century Art	Central and South America	
CAH 3146	Modern Architecture in Europe and America	CAH 3107	Ancient Mexican Civilizations
or CAH 3146W	Modern Architecture in Europe and America	CAH 3116	Aztec Empire
		CAH 3117	Special Topics in Precolumbian Art and Archaeology
		CAH 3160	Topics in Latin American Art and Architecture
		<b>Junior and senior seminars</b>	
		At least two of the following seminars for a total of 6 credits:	

CAH 4109	Topics in Ancient Art and Archaeology
CAH 4119	Seminar in Medieval Art and Architecture
CAH 4129	Seminar in Renaissance Art and Architecture
CAH 4139	Seminar in Baroque Art and Architecture
CAH 4149	Seminar in Modern European Art and Architecture
CAH 4159	Seminar in American Art and Architecture
or CAH 4159W	Seminar in American Art and Architecture
CAH 4165	Topics in Islamic Art and Architecture
CAH 4169	Seminar in Contemporary Art
CAH 4179	Topics in Design History and Theory
CAH 4182	Topics in South Asian Art
CAH 4189	Seminar: Topics in Art History
<b>Fine arts</b>	
One Fine Arts (FA) course at any level for a total of 3 credits.	
<b>Electives</b>	
Any two courses from the categories above and/or from the following list for a total of 6 credits. With prior approval from the Director of Undergraduate Studies up to 6 of these credits may be from relevant coursework in another department.	
CAH 1000	Dean's Seminar
CAH 1031	Survey of Art and Architecture I
CAH 1032	Survey of Art and Architecture II
CAH 1070	The American Cinema
CAH 1090	Art History I: Art Now, Contemporary Perspectives in the Visual Arts
CAH 1091	Art History II: Historical Perspectives in the Visual Arts
CAH 1099	Variable Topics
CAH 1135	History of Spanish Art From the Golden Age to Goya
CAH 1136	History of Spanish Art From Goya to the Present
CAH 2001	Special Topics
or CAH 2001W	Special Topics

CAH 3099	Variable Topics
CAH 3170	Materials, Methods, and Techniques in Art History
CAH 4197	Senior Thesis
CAH 4198	Independent Study
CAH 4199	Internship in Art History

## GENERAL EDUCATION

In addition to the University General Education Requirement (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/>), undergraduate students in Columbian College must complete a further, College-specific general education curriculum—Perspective, Analysis, Communication (G-PAC) (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/gpac/>) as well as the course CCAS 1001 First-Year Experience. Together with the University General Education Requirement, G-PAC engages students in active intellectual inquiry across the liberal arts. Students achieve a set of learning outcomes that enhance their analytical skills, develop their communication competencies, and invite them to participate as responsible citizens who are attentive to issues of culture, diversity, and privilege.

Coursework (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/#generaleducationtext>) **for the University General Education Requirement is distributed as follows:**

- One course in critical thinking in the humanities.
- Two courses in critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, or scientific reasoning in the social sciences.
- One course that has an approved oral communication component.
- One course in quantitative reasoning (must be in mathematics or statistics).
- One course in scientific reasoning (must be in natural and/or physical laboratory sciences).
- UW 1020 (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/search/?P=UW%201020>) University Writing (4 credits).
- After successful completion of UW 1020, 6 credits distributed over at least two writing in the discipline (WID) courses taken in separate semesters. WID courses are designated by a "W" appended to the course number.

**Coursework for the CCAS G-PAC requirement is distributed as follows:**

- Arts—one approved arts course that involves the study or creation of artwork based on an understanding or interpretation of artistic traditions or knowledge of art in a contemporary context.

- Global or cross-cultural perspective—one approved course that analyzes the ways in which institutions, practices, and problems transcend national and regional boundaries.
- Local or civic engagement—one approved course that develops the values, ethics, disciplines, and commitment to pursue responsible public action.
- Natural or physical science—one additional approved laboratory course that employs the process of scientific inquiry (in addition to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).
- Humanities—one additional approved humanities course that involves critical thinking skills (in addition to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).
- CCAS 1001 First-Year Experience
- Dual Bachelor of Arts with a major in art history and Master of Arts in the field of art history (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/corcoran/art-history/combined-ba-ma-art-history/>)

**Certain courses are approved to fulfill GPAC requirements in more than one category.**

Courses taken in fulfillment of G-PAC requirements may also be counted toward majors or minors. Transfer courses taken prior to, but not after, admission to George Washington University may count toward the University General Education Requirement and G-PAC, if those transfer courses are equivalent to GW courses that have been approved by the University and the College.

Lists of approved courses in the above categories are included on each undergraduate major's (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#majorstext>) page in this Bulletin.

## SPECIAL HONORS

To be eligible to write a Senior Thesis and for Honors in Art History, students must have attained, by the end of the junior year, a grade-point average of at least 3.5 in the major and 3.3 overall. By the end of the junior year, students should consult the Director of Undergraduate Studies regarding eligibility and selection of an area of research and the appropriate faculty members to supervise the project. We recommend that students strongly consider taking the full two semesters to complete the thesis. If writing the thesis in one semester, students should consider basing their project on pre-existing research from a previous course. The student registers for CAH 4197 Senior Thesis, which may count toward an elective in fulfillment of the major. The student works closely with a Thesis Advisor on the thesis, gaining additional feedback from one or two Readers at the draft stage. A faculty committee judges whether the Senior Thesis qualifies for Honors.

## COMBINED PROGRAMS

### Combined program

- Bachelor of Arts with a dual major in art history and in fine arts (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/corcoran/dual-ba-art-history-fine-arts/>)