Art and Art History

The School of Humanities

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Degrees Offered: B.A., B.F.A.

Department of Art and Art History majors are students who declare a major in either the studio arts (printmaking, painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, or film production) or art history (history of art or film and media studies). Students are asked to select the track in the studio arts or art history, keeping the degree requirements listed below in mind. Each student also will be assigned to scheduled times during the year to discuss their selection of courses and any other matters of concern in the student’s academic life (study and travel abroad, scholarships and internships, career goals or options, etc.).

Degree Requirements for B.A. in Art and Art History

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 18–20).

Single Major Track in Studio Art.
12 courses required:
• 1 basic drawing (ARTS 225)
• 1 printmaking (ARTS 311), photography (ARTS 205), or film (ARTS 327)
• 1 basic painting (ARTS 301 or 302)
• 1 creative three-dimensional design (ARTS 102 or 291) or sculpture (ARTS 365)
• 6 courses in the studio arts
• 2 courses in art history (open selections—qualified by course prerequisites and consultation with the studio art faculty adviser)

Double Major Track in Studio Art.
10 courses required:
• 1 basic drawing (ARTS 225)
• 1 printmaking (ARTS 311), photography (ARTS 205), or film (ARTS 327)
• 1 basic painting (ARTS 301 or 302)
• 1 creative three-dimensional design (ARTS 102 or 291) or sculpture (ARTS 365)
• 4 courses in the studio arts
• 2 courses in art history (open selections—qualified by course prerequisites and consultation with the studio art faculty adviser)

Transfer Credit. No more than 2 courses may be transferred out of 10 for a single studio major, or 8 for the double major. The 2 transfer credit courses must be studio practice courses required for all double majors. Advanced placement credit may not be used by art majors or double art majors to fulfill department requirements.

Single Major Track in Art History.
12 courses required:
1. Ten courses in art history. Additional requirements and guidelines have been established:
   a. Student majors must take HART 101 Introduction to the History of Western Art I: Prehistoric–Gothic, HART 102 Introduction to the History of Western Art II: Renaissance–Present, and 1 course in non-Western art history
   b. 1 course must be a seminar.
   c. For purposes of distribution, students must take at least 1 course focusing in a period before 1750, and at least 1 course focusing in a period after 1750.
   d. 1 course outside the department may be taken for credit toward the major when approved in advance by the art history adviser.
   e. 1 intern class may be taken for credit toward the major.
   f. All student majors are strongly encouraged to take HART 390 Theoretical Perspectives on Visual Arts and to study a foreign language.
2. Two courses in the studio arts (open selection—qualified by course prerequisites and consultation with art history faculty adviser)

An honors program also is available in art history. Requirements are somewhat different for this program, including HART 407–408 Senior Thesis. Interested students should consult with the art history faculty adviser.

Double Major Track in Art History.
10 courses required:
1. Eight courses in art history. Additional requirements and guidelines have been established:
   a. Student majors must take HART 101 Introduction to the History of Western Art I: Prehistoric–Gothic, HART 102 Introduction to the History of Western Art II: Renaissance–Present.
   b. Each student will be encouraged to take a variety of courses to include diversity in cultures and chronology as well as foreign languages.
   c. 1 intern class may be taken for credit toward the major.
2. Two courses in the studio arts (open selection—qualified by course prerequisites and consultation with art history faculty adviser)
Degree Requirements for B.F.A.

Students with a B.A. degree in art from Rice or an equivalent degree from another university may enter the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) program, which consists of a fifth year of intensive study in the creative arts. Students with a B.A. in a major other than art may, in exceptional cases, be admitted. Information about application forms, deadlines, and admission standards is available from the chair of the department.

For the B.F.A. degree, students must complete a total of 30 semester hours in approved courses, or the equivalent in approved major electives, at the 300 level or above. In addition to the usual departmental upper-level courses, special fifth-year courses are offered for B.F.A. candidates only.

Degree Requirements for M.A. in Art History

Owing to a high number of vacant positions in the art history section, the master’s program has been placed on hold for several years until those positions have been filled. Resumption of the graduate program is anticipated as soon as the faculty are in place.

Exhibitions and Arts Programs at Rice

Exhibitions and related activities organized by Rice University Art Gallery (Kimberly Davenport, director) enrich the teaching program of the Department of Art and Art History as well as the larger university and Houston community. The Rice Media Center mounts several photography exhibitions each year and sponsors the “Rice Cinema” film series, a public film program. Feature films include classic and contemporary titles, independent and experimental films, documentaries, international, foreign, and alternative cinema programs. The film series, which is intimately connected with the curriculum both in film and media studies and in film and photography production, includes frequent guest lecturers, panel discussions, and media events. The department also houses a Visual Resources Center, which currently holds approximately 300,000 slides and digital images related to the arts for teaching and research.

See ARTS and HART in the Courses of Instruction section.