

Art History Academic Program

Major, Minor, and Honors in Art History

Program information can also be found on the Art History webpage at <https://www.swarthmore.edu/art-history/academic-program> or by scanning the QR code below:



Requirements for Admission to the Major

- Overall average of C or better in all courses taken during the two semesters preceding the time of application.
- Completion of at least two courses in art history at Swarthmore with grades of B or better. For a double major, the grade minimum is also B.

Requirements for Completion of the Major

Art history majors, course and honors are required to take the following courses and fulfill the comprehensive requirement (see details below):

- One introductory survey course of student's choosing*
- One studio art course
- One 2-credit honors seminar (seminar must be taken before senior capstone, preferably in junior year)
- ARTH100: Senior Capstone (offered each spring; the research paper from this course meets the senior comprehensive requirement)
- Four additional credits of student's choosing

*Introductory survey course fulfilled by:

ARTH 002 Cave Painting to the Sistine Ceiling

ARTH 013 The Art and Architecture of Ancient Greece and Rome

ARTH 016 Renaissance and Baroque Art

ARTH 003 Asian Art: Past And Present

ARTH 005 Modern Art in Europe and the United States

ARTH 019 Contemporary Art

ARTH 048 20th Century Latin American Art

ARTH 072 Global History Of Architecture: Prehistory-1750

ARTH 073 Global History of Architecture: 1800-Present

ARTH 074 Histories of Photography

ARTH079: Indigenous Arts of the Americas

Among the nine credits required for the major, students must take courses with at least three different art history faculty members during their time at Swarthmore. (Senior Capstone does not count toward the three-faculty rule, and students may count no more than one study abroad or Tri-Co/Penn course toward that requirement.) A maximum of two introductory survey courses will count toward the major.

THE SENIOR COMPREHENSIVE REQUIREMENT

During senior year, course majors will complete a comprehensive project as part of the Senior Capstone (ARTH100). Honors majors may also satisfy the senior comprehensive requirement through a two-credit thesis (ARTH097). Two-credit thesis writers are not required to take the Senior Capstone.

CR/NC

Except in semesters when CR/NC is required (such as a student's first semester or the spring 2020 semester), students may not take courses toward major requirements as CR/NC.

TRANSFER CREDITS FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND STUDY ABROAD

A maximum of two transfer credits will count toward the major, either from study abroad or other U.S. institutions. Students (majors and non-majors) requesting transfer credit in art history must take at least one art history course at Swarthmore either before or after the course for which they are requesting transfer credit. Students transferring into Swarthmore from another institution should consult with the art history chair regarding their specific situation.

OVERLAPPING CREDITS

A maximum of two credits may double count for both the ARTH major and a student's second major. For major and minor credit overlap, the standard overlap rule applies. Because departmental policies vary, please consult with your non-ARTH advisor for questions about counting overlapping credits in your second major.

AP CREDIT

One credit for receiving a 5 in AP Art History will be given upon completion of an art history course in the department. For art history majors, this credit can count only for one of the four elective credits (and not for the required introductory survey course).

Art History Minor

The course minor in art history will consist of five credits in art history: Four of the five credits must be taken at Swarthmore. Art history minors must take courses with at least two different art history faculty members during their time at Swarthmore. Art majors can complete an art history minor with the completion of four art history credits in

addition to those required by their studio art major. Courses toward the minor may not be taken CR/NC (excepting those taken in semesters when CR/NC is required, such as a student's first semester).

Art Department Majors and the 20-Course Rule

It is a College requirement that 20 of the 32 credits required for graduation must be *outside* the major. This means that students can take no more than 12 courses in the major unless they graduate with more than 32 credits, in which case the surplus can also be in the major.

For art history majors, the one required credit of studio art coursework counts as within the major, but additional credits of studio art count as outside. Thus, an art history major graduating with 32 credits could take no more than three additional art history credits beyond the eight art history credits that are required for the major. But an art history major could take as many more studio credits as desired.

Off-Campus Study

The Art History Program strongly encourages those with an interest in art and its history to consider incorporating study abroad into their Swarthmore program either during a summer or a regular academic term. Important examples of art and architecture are found throughout the world, and the encounter with works still embedded in their original context is vital to an understanding of their historical and contemporary significance. Past experience has shown, however, that art courses in most study abroad programs fall considerably below the academic standards of comparable courses at Swarthmore. Students who are interested in bettering their chances of gaining a full Swarthmore credit for a course taken abroad are strongly advised to meet with the art history chair or the studio art chair before leaving the

campus to review course syllabi and determine course credit value. Please note: To receive transfer credits in art history, you must have taken at least one art history course at Swarthmore (either before or after going abroad).

Honors in Art History

Requirements for admission to honors do not differ from those for admission to the course major. Once admitted to the honors major, students will be expected to maintain an average of B+ or better in all courses in art history.

HONORS MAJOR

An honors major in art history requires three two-credit ARTH preparations. The normal prerequisite for any art history seminar is two credits of previous art history coursework. Each honors seminar or alternative honors preparation will be evaluated by an outside examiner. (For details on honors preparations and exam formats, see the Honors Handbook.)

An honors major in art history must also fulfill the requirements for a nine-credit course major. Honors majors may find that they must take more than nine credits to complete all requirements, so they are reminded to be attentive to the rule that students must take 20 credits outside their major to graduate.

HONORS MINOR

The course minor in art history will consist of five credits in art history: four of the five credits must be taken at Swarthmore. Courses must be taken with at least two different Swarthmore art history faculty members. Art majors can complete an art history minor with the completion of four art history credits in addition to those required by

their studio art major. Courses toward the minor may not be taken CR/NC (excepting those taken in semesters when CR/NC is required, such as a student's first semester).