

# ART HISTORY PHD

## Degree Requirements

The following requirements are in addition to, or further elaborate upon, those requirements outlined in The Graduate School Policy Guide (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/academic-policies-procedures/>).

### Master's

There is no terminal MA in the Department of Art History. The MA is awarded to all students who successfully complete the 1st and 2nd year requirements in good standing and apply for the degree with The Graduate School. All students entering the program, whether with or without a master's degree from another institution, are required to complete the qualifying paper at the end of their second year to verify their readiness to complete major and minor doctoral field requirements.

### PhD

Students are expected to take courses with a wide range of faculty members. Students must take 8 courses the primary field, and 4 courses in 3 major fields other than the student's own major field. Two of these courses must be in a geographic area that is different from the student's primary field. 300-level courses approved by The Graduate School may be taken with permission of the graduate advisor and instructor.

#### Total Required Graded Courses: 18

Course	Title
<b>First Year</b>	
ART_HIST 401-1	Methods and Historiography of Art History (Proseminar)
ART_HIST 405-0	Art Historical Research (Summer Seminar Abroad)
Other courses in primary field and to fulfill breadth requirements (8 units)	
<b>Second Year</b>	
ART_HIST 402-0	Studies in Writing (Writing Seminar)
Other courses in primary field and to fulfill breadth requirements; or independent studies as approved by advisor (8 credits)	
<b>Third Year</b>	
ART_HIST 406-0	Dissertation Proposal Writing (Prospectus)
ART_HIST 499-0	Independent Study (in preparation for the Qualifying Exam, over the 3rd year, students register for 1 credit with each field examiner, and typically also register for 1-2 addition credits with the dissertation advisor)
Other courses in primary field and to fulfill breadth requirements (as necessary)	
<b>Fourth Year</b>	
See PhD Degree Requirements below	

#### Other PhD Degree Requirements

- **Examinations, Language:** Students must demonstrate proficiency in two foreign languages before being advanced to candidacy. One of these must be completed by spring quarter in the 1st year; the second by the end of the 3rd year. Typically, one of these languages is either French or German. The second language is selected by the student and advisor in relations to the student's plan of study. In some circumstances, additional language competency may be required. Please see the Department of Art History Graduate Handbook (<https://www.arthistory.northwestern.edu/graduate/resources/>) for more information.
- **Review, Holistic 2nd Year Review:** In early fall of the 2nd year, no later than October 15, students meet with committee consisting of the advisor and a second faculty member. In advance of the meeting, the student will update the Academic Progress section on GSTS and

submit to the committee a seminar paper from their 1st year that they feel represents their best art history work to date as well as self-evaluation of their first year performance. These materials, along with seminar reports from the student's 1st year, are discussed, along with a proposed topic for the PhD qualifying paper. More information about this review can be found in the Department of Art History Graduate Handbook. (<https://www.arthistory.northwestern.edu/graduate/resources/>)

- **Paper, Qualifying:** At the end of the winter quarter of the 2nd year, at a date set by the instructor of ART\_HIST 402-0 Studies in Writing (Writing Seminar), students are required to submit a PhD qualifying paper. This paper must demonstrate an advanced level of art historical research, rigorous analysis, convincing argumentation, clear organization, and mastery of the discipline's (or subfield's) conventions of citation and illustration.
- **Examinations, Oral Qualifying:** In the winter quarter of the 3rd year, all students take a three-hour oral PhD qualifying exam. The exam is administered by a three-person committee chosen by the student in consultation with the advisor and is based on field bibliographies generated in consultation with the advisor and appropriate committee members by the fall quarter of the 3rd year.
- **Paper, Dissertation Prospectus:** After passing the oral PhD qualifying exam, students write an 8-10 page dissertation prospectus (plus bibliography) in the spring of the 3rd year. This is written in close consultation with the advisor and refined in ART\_HIST 406-0 Dissertation Proposal Writing (Prospectus Seminar). It is meant to present a clear vision of the student's project, the objects/issues on which it focuses, and the contribution it stands to make to the field.
- **Paper, 5th Year Chapter:** Before the end of the spring quarter of the 5th year, a candidate is expected to have completed an acceptable draft of at least one chapter of the dissertation. Candidates should submit a copy to their primary advisors and committee members. The chapter need not be "defended" in a meeting with the committee, nor is it awarded a pass/not pass grade, but is vetted by the committee who provide feedback to the candidate within a reasonable amount of time, no more than one month after submission.
- **PhD Dissertation:** Dissertation supervised by at least three-person faculty committee and defended at an oral defense with the committee.
- **Other:** Students are regularly assigned teaching and research roles in the department. Written evaluations of seminars and teaching are submitted by the faculty after every quarter, distributed to the students, and reviewed collectively by the faculty. Students with worrying reports meet with the advisor and DGS or Chair to discuss paths to improvement. On the basis of consistently observed and formally noted difficulties and problems, students in serious difficulty at end of the 1st or 2nd year may not be permitted to continue in the program. Students must select an advisor by the last day of exam week in spring quarter of their 1st year, their exam committee by the second week of the fall quarter of their 3rd year, and their dissertation committee by the end of winter quarter in their 3rd year.