

B.A./M.A. in Art History

Only currently enrolled, University of Colorado-Boulder students, may be considered for admission to the program. Transfer students must complete at least 24 credit hours as a degree-seeking student before applying to the program. Students enrolled in this BA/MA program cannot pursue a double major. Students must have a minimum overall undergraduate **GPA of 3.3** and have completed all MAPS deficiencies.

The application deadline is **the second Monday in February**, in the **Spring** semester of the applicant's junior year. Admission to the program occurs during the second semester of the junior year. Admitted students will secure the sponsorship and advisory commitment of an art history faculty member at the rank of assistant professor or higher. They will also submit a one-page prospectus detailing a possible research topic for an MA thesis.

Students start taking graduate-level courses during the first semester of their senior year and **in the second semester of their senior year they go through a mid-program review**. In the first semester of the fifth year, they fulfill their Theories of Art History requirement and will also take two ARTH graduate seminars. At the beginning of the second semester of their fifth year, they will take their comprehensive exams in the major and minor area, constitute their thesis committee, and get approval of their thesis prospectus. During the second semester of the fifth year, students will complete and submit their theses (in fulfillment of all graduate college requirements) by the end of the fifth year. Once the principal advisor has accepted the thesis, the final requirement will be an oral examination focusing on its subject matter.

This program is a demanding, accelerated program aimed primarily at our best undergraduates who are planning to pursue a Ph.D. at another institution. The typical student will be a student writing an honors thesis who will use that project as the basis for developing the M.A. thesis. It is expected that the BA/MA program be completed within five years. Both degrees, Bachelor's and Master's, are awarded simultaneously upon meeting all degree requirements. Six credits (two courses) may be shared between the two programs. [For more information.](#)

Degree Requirements

Students will complete and submit their M.A. theses (in fulfillment of all graduate college requirements) by the end of the fifth year. Once the principal advisor has accepted the thesis, the final requirement will be an oral examination focusing on its methodology and subject matter. The two degrees will be awarded simultaneously upon meeting all degree requirements.

Typical Course Schedule

The following template ensures that students will complete all degree requirements for the B.A./M.A. in five years. Students may decide on a somewhat difference sequence of courses in consultation with their academic advisor.

	First Semester	Second Semester
1 st Year	ARTH 1300 ARTS 1010	ARTH 1400 ARTS 1020
2 nd Year	ARTH 3xxx, ARTH 3xxx	ARTH 3xxx, ARTH 4xxx
3 rd Year	ARTH 3009 (Critical Thinking in Art History; elective for BA)	ARTH 4919 Out of department course at 3000-level or above (general elective for BA; required for MA)
	ARTH 4xxx, ARTH 4xxx	Formal application to BAMA program
4 th Year	ARTH 6929 (elective for BA; required for MA)	ARTH 5929 (Visiting Scholars if offered; another grad seminar if not)
		ARTH 5/6xxx (grad seminar) Language requirement Completed
	[Research for thesis is strongly encouraged during summer]	
5 th Year	ARTH 5/6xxx ARTH 5/6xxx ARTH 5/6xxx	Comprehensive exam during first week Thesis prospectus approved during second week (“Pre-thesis Review”)
		ARTH 5/6xxx Thesis hours [6 credits]
		Thesis submission and oral defense

Other degree requirements

1. There will be a formal application process with letters of recommendation, statement of intent, transcripts, and so on, as required for the two-year M.A. program.
2. Students must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.3 and a GPA of 3.6 or above in the major of art history at the time of application. These requirements may be waived at the discretion of the Art History faculty by a general vote of that faculty.
3. By the end of the fourth year (senior year), students must complete the language requirement of at least three progressive semesters at the college level or above, or by passing an approved language examination. To do the latter, students must arrange a reading exam with one of the art history faculty on an individual basis.
4. This program is open only to students enrolled in the B.A. art history degree program at the University of Colorado at Boulder.
5. In all other details, the graduate portion of the B.A./M.A. program is identical to the two-year M.A. art history program, as stipulated in the M.A. Guidelines.

For further information, link to this document.

Following University rules, six credits (two courses) may be shared between the two programs. In all other respects, students who successfully complete the B.A./M.A. program will have fulfilled all art history requirements for each degree, as follows.

For the B.A. in Art History, students are required to complete:

- Foundations 6 credits (ARTS 1010 and ARTS 1020)
- World Art 6 credits (ARTH 1300 and ARTH 1400)
- ARTH 4919 capstone seminar
- 3 3000-level ARTH courses
- 3 4000-level ARTH courses
- 2 ARTH or ARTS electives
- coursework must be distributed in three areas: Ancient/non-Western; Medieval/Early Modern; Modern/Contemporary; and at least one course must be non-Western

For the M.A. in Art History, students are required to complete:

- 30 credit hours (8 courses plus 6 credits in thesis hours)
- coursework must be distributed in four areas: Medieval, Early Modern (Renaissance & Baroque), Americas, Asia, Modern, Contemporary, Critical Theory/Museology
- one course must be out of the department at 3000-level or above
- First Year review
- Comprehensive Exams in their major and minor fields
- Pre-thesis review (of thesis abstract);
- Thesis and oral defense

For the B.A./M.A., students are required to complete the same requirements. The two courses that count for both degrees are:

1. one course out of the department at 3000-level or above

This counts as a general elective for the B.A. degree, a degree requirement for the M.A.

2. ARTH 6929 Theories of Art History

This counts as an elective in the major for the B.A. degree, a required course for the M.A.