WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN … 

ART HISTORY

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW AND EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

What can I do with a major in art history? The possibilities are numerous; as an undergraduate with a degree in art history, you are equipped with a significant amount of highly valuable skills, including creativity, keen attention to visual detail, aesthetic appreciation, adaptability, communication (oral and written), critical thinking, research skills, as well as interpretation and organizational skills. Exactly how these translate into the world of work can be quite unique and individualized. A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required and further advancement often requires a graduate degree. Art history majors build a vast amount of skills that are appealing to many industries in and outside of the world of art. These skills include “an ability to analyze and “read” images as carriers of implicit and explicit meaning...this is a skill which is becoming progressively more significant as we move towards a more and more visually oriented world” (Rosenberg, 2013). As an undergraduate, gaining experience through internships, part-time work, or volunteering in a field of interest is crucial.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:

According to the UNM Art History website (2013), “The art history program emphasizes the study of visual art as a means of understanding the intellectual and cultural history of humanity. The program provides a firm grounding in both western and non-western art history within the context of a liberal arts education. Undergraduate work covers the broad range of art history.” UNM offers a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts with a major in Art History.

INDUSTRY OPTIONS / TARGET EMPLOYERS / SAMPLE JOB TITLES FOR ART HISTORY MAJORS:

Appraisers/ Archivist/ Art administrator/ Art council director/ Art dealers/ Art galleries/ Art librarian/ Art therapist / Arts programmer (TV/radio)/ Arts reporter/ Arts writer/ Auction houses/ Antique dealers/ Arts management/ Book or Journal Editor/ Colleges/ Community organizations/ Corporations/ Cultural events planner/ Educational institutions/ Exhibit designer/ Exhibition specialist/ Federal parks/ Fundraising organizations/ Gallery director/ Government agencies/ Grant writer/ Grant specialist/ Historical societies/ Interior design firms/ Layout editor/ Magazines/ Museum curator/ Newspapers/ Public relations specialist/ Publishing firms/ Registrar of historic places/ Research organizations/ Restoration firms/ State parks/ Universities/ Volunteer coordinator

Consult UNM's Lobo Career Connection for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the UNM Office of Career Services for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OPTIONS FOR ART HISTORY MAJORS:

Archaeology, Architecture, Art history, Art therapy, Arts management, Conservation, Counseling, Curatorial practice, Education, Historic preservation, Law, MBA.

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:

• Gain related professional experience through involvement in internships, student employment, Co-ops, and/or volunteer opportunities.
• Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
• Shadow professionals in the field to gain a better understanding of the options available and to build relationships with professional mentors.
• Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events.
• Develop excellent writing skills for better marketability.
• Attend career related campus events such as career fairs, company information sessions, and or career workshops.
• Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
• Job leads can be found on your department’s website, list-serv, newsletters, and social media sites.
STATE & NATIONAL WAGES:
Adapted from CareerOneStop (2013)

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<th>Location</th>
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*NOTE: CURATORS require a graduate degree.

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:
American Association of Museums  
http://www.aam-us.org/
Art Careers  
http://www.artcareer.net/
Art History.net  
http://www.arthistory.net/
Am. Institute for Conserv. of Historic & Artistic Works  
College Art Association  
http://www.collegeart.org/
Arts Opportunities  
http://www.artsopportunities.org/
Museum Resources  
http://www.museum-employment.com/musesour.html
Fine Art Appraisal-10 Tips on How to Become an Art Appraiser  

OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:
http://online.onetcenter.org  
http://www.bls.gov/oco/

REFERENCES


University of New Mexico, Department of Art & Art History (2013). Retrieved from http://art.unm.edu/academics/art_history.html