

ART (CREATIVE) AND ART HISTORY (MA)



Master of Arts in Art (Creative) and Art History

Unit: College of Arts and Sciences (<http://louisville.edu/artsandsciences/intro/>) (GA)

Department: Art and Design (<https://louisville.edu/art/>)

Program Webpage (<https://louisville.edu/art/graduate/>)

Academic Plan Code(s): See Concentration Requirements tab.

Program Information

The Department of Art and Design, endowed as the Hite Institute of Art and Design, offers a Master of Arts (MA) in Art with concentrations in Art History and Critical & Curatorial Studies. The program requires 31 credit hours of graduate study, divided between the Core Curriculum and coursework in either the Art History or Critical & Curatorial Studies concentration.

Art History Concentration

The MA in Art with a concentration in Art History provides advanced expertise in the history of art. This course of study equips students with the coursework, language skills, and research experience necessary for further graduate study or for careers in museums or educational settings. Students in this concentration may choose from in-depth courses in topics such as Renaissance and Baroque Art in Italy, Spain, and Northern Europe; Mexican Art; 19th- and 20th-century Architecture; American Art; Film; Modern and Contemporary Western Art and Theory; and Asian and Non-Western Art and Architecture.

Critical & Curatorial Studies Concentration

The MA in Art with a concentration in Critical & Curatorial Studies integrates critical theory, contemporary art history, exhibition history, and practical exhibition experience. This concentration prepares students for careers in the rapidly expanding fields of contemporary exhibition development and art writing.

Program Resources

Students in the MA program benefit from the Hite Institute of Art and Design's extensive resources, including multiple galleries on campus and in downtown Louisville, partnerships with local museums and galleries, and an active speaker and colloquia schedule featuring internationally renowned curators, gallery directors, and artists.

Degree Summary

Code	Title	Hours
	Program Core and Electives	16
	Concentration Coursework	15
	Minimum Total Hours	31

Soaring Scholar Accelerated BA/MA in Art History and Critical and Curatorial Studies

Undergraduate students interested in the program's accelerated options should visit the catalog page for the BA in Art (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/majors/art-ba/>) for more information.

Admission Requirements

Applicants to the MA program must submit the following credentials to the Graduate School (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/admission/apply/>):

- A formal Application for Graduate Admission, including a nonrefundable application processing fee.
- Official transcripts of all college work.
- Two letters of recommendation specific to the program, addressing the applicant's academic and/or artistic achievements and potential.
- A statement of purpose (approximately 500 words) outlining the applicant's educational and professional goals in their chosen field (Art History or Curatorial Studies).
- A writing sample, typically an advanced-level Art History paper.

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Core Coursework		16
ARTH 600	Graduate Seminar (or CCS 600 - first semester)	
ARTH 642	Theories & Methods in the Visual Arts (to be taken in first semester)	
Art History Elective (500 or 600 level)		
Elective - Outside the Department of Art & Design (500 or 600 level) (with approval of advisor)		
Elective - Outside the concentration (500 or 600 level) ¹		
ARTH 645	Thesis Guidance (or CCS 645)	
Concentration		15

Students complete one of the following (see Concentration Requirements tab for specific coursework):

Concentration in Art History
Concentration in Critical & Curatorial Studies

Minimum Total Hours	31
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¹ 'Outside the concentration' means outside the area of focus, e.g.: students in the Art History concentration must take a course in Studio Art or Curatorial Studies; students in the Curatorial Studies concentration must take a course in Studio Art or Art History.

Concentration Requirements

All students must complete one of the following 15 credit hour concentrations, in addition to the 16 credit hour program core (see Degree Requirements tab).

Concentration in Art History

Academic Plan Code(s): ARTCMA_HIS

Upon admission to the program, students in the Art History concentration are expected to demonstrate competence in the history of art, equivalent to an undergraduate major.

Reading knowledge of one foreign language is required for the completion of the Art History concentration. This requirement should be fulfilled during the first year in the program, but must be met before enrolling for Thesis Guidance (ARTH 645/ARTH 646). Proficiency can be demonstrated in one of two ways:

1. Taking an examination administered by the department, scheduled in the fall and spring semesters; or
2. Completing the intermediate level of the language at the University of Louisville with a grade of B or better.

Code	Title	Hours
ARTH Pre 1750 - 3 credit hours, select one course from the following: 3		
ARTH 542	Special Topics - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
ARTH 651	Topics in Ancient Art	
ARTH 552	Ancient Painting	
ARTH 553	Ancient Cities	
ARTH 561/661	Studies in Medieval Art	
ARTH 571/671	Special Topics in Renaissance Art	
ARTH 581/681	Studies in Baroque Art	
ARTH After 1750 - 3 credit hours, select one course from the following: 3		
ARTH 521	Special Topics in Modern Art	
ARTH 525/625	Representations of Trauma in the Visual Arts	
ARTH 526/626	Special Topics in Contemporary Art	
ARTH 542	Special Topics - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
ARTH 593/693	Special Topics in Modern Architecture	
ARTH 595	Special Topics in American Art	
& ARTH 695	Special Topics in American Art	
ARTH 597	Special Topics in Photographic History	
ARTH 621	Special Topics in Modern Art	
ARTH 623	History of Performance Art	
ARTH 699	Topics in Urban History	
ARTH NonWestern - 3 credit hours, select one course from the following: 3		
ARTH 531/631	Special Topics in Asian Art	
ARTH 542	Special Topics - WR (https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/general-education-requirements/)	
ARTH 544	Pan-African Art: Form and Content	
ARTH 549	Contemporary Trends in African-American Art	
ARTH Elective		3
ARTH Elective		3

ARTH 643/644 Independent Study (one optional independent optional study course is permitted)

Language (fulfillment of the language requirement is required during the first year in the program)

Thesis

Minimum Total Hours 15

A minimum of 15 credit hours in the concentration, exclusive of Thesis Guidance, must be at the 600-level, of which at least nine (9) credit hours must be in Art History.

The concentration in Art History will conclude with a written thesis.

The thesis is a research paper that demonstrates critical knowledge of relevant sources, skill in analysis and interpretation, and the ability to present findings in a well-organized, coherent manner. The thesis must be defended in an oral examination.

Concentration in Critical & Curatorial Studies

Academic Plan Code(s): ARTMA_CCS

Upon admission to the program, students in the Critical & Curatorial Studies concentration are expected to demonstrate competence in art history, studio art, or arts management, equivalent to an undergraduate major, as well as an interest in museum theory and practice.

Code	Title	Hours
CCS 647	Introduction to Critical and Curatorial Studies I	3
CCS 648	Critical and Curatorial Studies II	3
CCS 649	Curatorial Internship	3
ARTH (500 or 600 level)		3
Select one of the following 600-level Public Administration courses: 3		
URBS 651	Foundations of Public Administration	
URBS 652	Program Evaluation	
URBS 666	Nonprofit Management	
URBS 668	Grantsmanship and Fundraising	
Written Thesis with Exhibition or Curatorial Project		

Minimum Total Hours 15

A minimum of 15 credit hours in the concentration, exclusive of Thesis Guidance, must be at the 600-level

The concentration in Critical & Curatorial Studies culminates in a thesis exhibition or curatorial project. This project may be produced in collaboration with the university's galleries, the Speed Art Museum, or other appropriate institutions authorized by the department. The exhibition or project should take place in the final year of study.

To fulfill this requirement, the candidate must:

1. Submit a project proposal, approved by their graduate advisor;
2. Produce or implement the proposed thesis practicum; and
3. Document the exhibition or project.

The documentation should include materials such as press releases, announcements, wall texts, brochures, catalogs, and digital or photographic records of the exhibition or project, along with other relevant documentary materials.

In addition to the practicum and documentation, the thesis will include a written component that connects the project to critical theory and current curatorial practice. This written portion will detail the planning, implementation, and documentation of the project and must comply with the regulations governing the format and presentation of the written master's thesis.