ART HISTORY
+ College of Arts and Sciences

DEGREE(S)

+ Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in art history
+ Minor in art history

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Through Saint Louis University's undergraduate program in art history, students learn the essential skills of critical analysis, research and communication through examination of the social context in which art was historically — and continues to be — created. The art history faculty members offer a broad field of study that ranges from the earliest civilizations, the Western canon of art and the art of world cultures to the beginnings of modernity and the most current movements in contemporary art.

Art history is an interdisciplinary field. We incorporate essential skills from a variety of humanities disciplines such as history, philosophy, theology and economics, and we analyze artworks and the societies that have affected the disciplines.

Our students are not limited to the classroom. They take advantage of the active arts community at the University and in the surrounding St. Louis area. Museums such as the Cupples House and the Museum of Contemporary Religious Art are located on the Saint Louis University campus and offer students a hands-on chance to experience the artists and periods they discover in the classroom. The recently renovated Saint Louis Art Museum and numerous other galleries are all within a 10-mile radius of campus.

Many of our majors choose to explore new perspectives in art through internships. Our program offers students internship opportunities in the St. Louis area and across the country, including many prominent galleries and museums. As interns, students work within the professional art community. Outside the classroom, art history majors experience firsthand what a career in the arts can hold — preparing exhibitions, curating collections and even planning and presenting lectures and tours for the public.

ABOUT THE FACULTY

The five full-time faculty members in art history have specializations ranging from Middle Eastern and African American art, to art of the Medieval Church, pop and contemporary art, and other areas of specialization. Whatever a student's interests, the art history faculty encourage and support individualized experiences, from internships to travel/study experiences, to independent research.

CURRICULUM

A Bachelor of Arts degree in art history from Saint Louis University provides students an in-depth study of the art world. By designing our curriculum to cover a wide-range of art, students have the opportunity to delve deeper into their specific periods of interest.

Each student receives a strong, balanced foundation in the study of global traditions in art history through a series of core courses. Our faculty have fashioned this curriculum to develop essential art historical methodologies such as critical analysis, social history and semiotics, among others.

To earn a B.A. in art history, students must complete 36 credit hours of required coursework. Eighteen of the 36 credit hours must be from the 3000/4000-level courses.

Students can also minor in art history. The minor curriculum provides a general introduction to Western art history, complementing a major in a different field through its emphasis on understanding our visually based world.

To earn a minor in art history, students must complete 18 credit hours of coursework, with nine credit hours coming from the 3000/4000 level.

OFFICE OF ADMISSION, ONE NORTH GRAND BLVD., ST. LOUIS, MO 63103
(800) SLU-FOR-U • (314) 977-2500 • admitme@slu.edu • www.slu.edu • beabilliken.com

Contact
Deborah Douglas
314-977-3501
douglasd@slu.edu

Graduate Programs
For a full listing of graduate programs, visit graduate.slu.edu.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly and carefully reviewed. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary criterion in reviewing a freshman applicant's file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student's ability to meet the University’s academic requirements and to qualify the student for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be approaching graduation from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer: Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant's file, the office of admission holistically examines the student's academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student's ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAM?

+ In the Jesuit tradition, art history faculty at SLU educate the whole person about humanistic values as expressed through the history of art.
+ At SLU, art history courses offer intimate class sizes with individualized attention from our faculty.
+ SLU art history students engage with our arts and cultural institutions locally and nationally through class visits, field trips, internships and employment.

Benefits of this program also include several internship and career opportunities. Art history students have great opportunities, both on and off campus, for a variety of internships, both in the St. Louis region and nationally. On campus, the Samuel Cupples House and the Saint Louis University Museum of Art hire interns regularly. The Missouri Historical Society and the Saint Louis Art Museum are just two of many local institutions that work with students. SLU students have also held internships in Washington, D.C., at the National Gallery of Art and at the Smithsonian. Additionally, research opportunities exist at major libraries and archives.

Many SLU graduates in art history have continued their studies in internationally recognized graduate programs. Others work in art-related institutions such as galleries, auction houses and museums, as well as in marketing, advertising, law, journalism and other fields that require understanding of our visually based culture and the ability to express intelligent, well-researched opinions. All have developed skills in critical thinking and communication that aid them in pursuing the career of their choice.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:
+ Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
+ Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.

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