

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Department of Art History

Graduate Program



Master's Degree Option A: Thesis

Option A is designed primarily for the student who wishes to pursue a specialized problem in greater depth than would be possible in normal course structure.

Credits and Courses

Minimum degree requirement is 27 graduate credits in Art History, of which a minimum of 15 credits must be at the 700/900 level. The 15 credits include ArtHist 700 (Proseminar in Art History) but exclude ArtHist 703 and 704 (Introduction to Museum Studies I and II). Six of the 15 credits should be taken in thesis research (ArtHist 990).

Under special circumstances, 3 credits in 700/900 level work may be substituted for 3 of the 6 credits of thesis research. In addition, students may take a maximum of 6 credits of independent research (890, 891 and/or 999); however, these credits may not be taken in the first 6 credits of graduate work in the Department, and not until all deficiencies (if any) have been satisfied. Furthermore, they may not be counted toward the 15-credit requirement at the 700/900 level. They will, however, count toward the overall number of credits needed to graduate. All students must take the Proseminar in Art History (ArtHist 700) in their first fall semester.

Of the total 27 credits, each student is required to take 3 credits in at least four of the following five areas: Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance-Baroque, Modern (1750 to the Present including Film), and Non-Western. At least 6 of these credits must be taken in courses numbered 700 or above. The following courses may not be used to satisfy the distribution requirement although they will count toward the overall number of credits needed to graduate: 302, 303, 351, 353, 355, 459.

Upon petition to the graduate advisor, a student may be permitted to take up to 6 credits in appropriate areas outside Art History (e.g., anthropology, literature, history, music history, philosophy, film).

Language Requirement

Students must demonstrate a reading knowledge of one art historical language, e.g. French, German, Italian, Spanish or other language as appropriate. Students must take the departmental reading exam in the language of their choice at least once by the time they have completed 9 credits. If they do not pass the exam on the first attempt, they will be expected to enroll in an appropriate language course. Students may not enroll in thesis research (990) unless they have passed the language examination.

Thesis or Exhibition

The student must either write a thesis or organize an exhibition accompanied by a scholarly catalog on a subject selected in consultation with the advisor. This study or exhibition must demonstrate the student's ability to organize material and familiarity with research methods and art historical literature pertinent to the student's topic and area of interest. The exhibition is considered the equivalent of a formal thesis and the accompanying written work must be submitted to the Graduate School in appropriate format.

Comprehensive Examination

The student must pass a final comprehensive examination, which will take the form of an oral defense of the thesis.

Time Limit

The student must complete all degree requirements within five years of initial enrollment. It is expected that a full-time student will normally complete all of the requirements for the degree within two years.