

Art History & Museum Studies



The St. Ambrose Art History & Museum Studies Program fosters an energetic exploration of art, architecture, material culture, and museology through the study of primary visual and literary sources, with an emphasis on historical understanding, critical thinking, written and oral communication, and professional development.

Here, you'll find lively classes with charismatic professors who care about students' academic and professional success. We encourage our students to explore the ties between art history, museum studies, and complementary areas. Our discipline accommodates a variety of interdisciplinary interests, and all of our art history majors pursue second majors or minors, like marketing, criminal justice, history, art, psychology, English, international studies, graphic design, etc. Not surprisingly, our students and graduates have a wide range of career goals. We sincerely enjoy helping students find ways to make their interest in art history and/or museum studies relevant in today's job market.

Ambrose Advantages

Hands-on career development. The Art History & Museum Studies Program takes a proactive approach to professional and career development. When you enter our program, your advisor will help you plan the best combination of majors, minors, and internships to progress toward your unique career goals.

All AH/MUSE students are guided through the resume-writing process in a classroom setting, and they learn interviewing skills and study career options in an upper-level course. These skills provide a foundation for students as they pursue their internship experiences. We help students find ways to make their unique educational experiences relevant in today's job market, and we encourage and facilitate volunteer, internship, and paid work experiences at local museums and institutions.

Minor in Museum Studies. Our minor in Museum Studies (MUSE) focuses on the skills needed to obtain jobs in the museum industry and supports careers in historical societies, history museums, art museums, children's museums, science museums, auction houses, libraries, and archives. Very few colleges in the Midwest offer Museum Studies at the undergraduate level, and the minor takes advantage of a boom in the museum industry, which is projected to last into the 2020s. The minor is open to all students, regardless of major.

100% acceptance into graduate programs. The Art History & Museum Studies Program's high academic standards have resulted in our art history majors earning a 100% acceptance rate into graduate programs. We take a hands-on approach in preparing



our majors for graduate school, and we assist students in finding advanced degree programs that suit their diverse career goals and interests. Our alumni have been accepted into graduate school programs in museum studies, business, archival studies, art history, history, art therapy, library science, and fine arts.

St. Ambrose University also offers a unique integrated BA in Art History / MA in Museum Studies degree with Western Illinois University's Master's program in Museum Studies in the Quad Cities. Should you choose to apply for the SAU-WIU BA/MA program, you could complete both degrees in the Quad Cities within only 5 years (4 years undergrad + only 1 year of grad school).

Leonardo to Luke Skywalker. In our program, you'll have the opportunity to take both traditional and non-traditional classes.

Our more unique traditional course offerings include classes on Russian Art History and Museum Studies; we also offer standard survey classes, covering all periods from Ancient through Modern art history.

Our students also enjoy non-traditional topics classes like the History of Comics and Mythic Image, which offer the opportunity to study topics ranging from Odysseus to Luke Skywalker, and from graphic novels to the illustration of fairy tales.

The League of Art History Enthusiasts. We have an active student club that organizes art history themed parties, trips to museums and galleries (including an annual road trip to Chicago), and dinner and movie nights.

Internship Opportunities

Our internship program is unique within the discipline, and the Program actively helps students find internships at museums, galleries, historical societies, and federal agencies. Art History and Museum Studies students complete up to nine credits of internship (300+ experiential learning hours); students can do their internship hours at a variety of sites, or at a single site, depending on their career goals.

AH/MUSE students have interned at nearly every museum and cultural or historic institution in the Quad Cities, including the Figge Art Museum, the Putnam Museum, the Rock Island County Historical Society, the Arsenal Museum, the John Deere Archives, the German American Heritage Center, the Family Museum, the Catich Gallery, the St. Ambrose University Archives, and many more! These internships give our students the practical experience they need to be competitive in today's job market. Since the AH/MUSE Program began requiring internships as a part of the curriculum, our students have an estimated 97% job placement rating after graduation.

Career Opportunities

If you love art history and museums but aren't sure how you'd like to use it in a career, check out our Possible Careers tab on the Art History web page. You can also check out what our Art History grads have done on that same page. Both can be accessed from www.sau.edu/art-history.

Our faculty enjoy having majors with diverse interests, and we take an active role in helping students pursue career opportunities. Our students' career goals include **curator**, **art theft investigator**, **gallery owner/manager**, **art appraiser**, **art therapist**, **art historian**, **librarian**, **art lawyer**, etc.

Career Outlook

The career outlook for the wide variety of professions related to art history is very positive:

- > According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the annual median wage for a post-secondary teacher (including art history professors) in the arts and humanities was \$72,470, with a 13% projected growth rate in the industry through 2024.
- > The employment outlook for archivists, curators and museum workers is projected to grow 7% through 2024, and the median salary for archivists, curators, museum technicians, conservators and museum workers ranged from \$46,710 to \$59,870 in 2015.
- > Fundraisers (including museum fundraisers) earned a median salary of \$52,970 in 2015 with a projected 9% growth rate in the industry through 2024. Fundraising managers earned a median salary of \$104,140 in 2015 with a 7% growth rate through 2024.
- > The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects job growth of 3% for appraisers (including art appraisers), claims adjusters, examiners and investigators through 2024. The median salary for these professions was \$63,060 in 2015.
- > Librarians earned a median salary of \$56,880 in 2015.
- > The average annual salary for recreational therapists (including art therapists) was \$45,890 in 2015 with a 12% project growth rate through 2024. Art therapists with graduate degrees will earn significantly more than the median salary.
- > The average annual salary for lawyers (including those specializing in art law) was \$115,820 in 2015.
- > According to ArtNet.com, the global art market was worth upwards of \$63 billion in 2015, with the U.S. controlling a majority market share of 43%. The average salary for art dealers (and auction house specialists) is \$58,210.

Get in Touch With Us Today

We invite you to visit St. Ambrose, where you are welcome to sit in on an art history or museum studies class and talk to students and our faculty to learn first-hand what makes our program so unique. Our quality academic programs provide one of the best private education values in the Midwest. Check it out for yourself: contact our Admissions Office, 563-333-6300 or admit@sau.edu, or go online to www.sau.edu.

St. Ambrose University offers a Bachelor of Arts in Art History degree. Minors are also offered in Art History and Museum Studies. For complete curriculum information and course descriptions, consult the Course Catalog at www.sau.edu/catalog.