

explore majors with OAAS!

The Office for Academic Advising Support
773-325-7431



Major: History of Art & Architecture, BA

History of Art & Architecture (HAA) is an interdisciplinary major that understands the world around us through works of visual art, from the ancient world to the present and across a wide geographical range. It considers the history of images and image-making, but also what images can tell us about both the context in which they were created as well as in the context of an ever-changing world.

What skills do students develop in this program?

Our discipline is reading and writing intensive, develops strong speaking and presentation skills, requires strong research and critical analysis skills, and emphasizes the ability to think visually and closely analyze images.

What kind of student is a good fit for HAA?

An interest in the visual world is of course essential, but beyond that, the HAA major attracts students who have a broad range of interests as the field draws on history, religious studies, philosophy, psychology, optics, chemistry, etc. There are many lenses through which one can understand visual arts.

Are there any popular classes in the program that you would suggest or recommended classes for a student who is just starting to explore the major?

Our four introductory-level courses are all designed to get a student's feet wet in the discipline. Each one does so from the perspectives of cultures of specific continents:

- HAA 101: Introduction to African Art
- HAA 115: Introduction to Asian Art
- HAA 130: Introduction to European Art
- HAA 145: Introduction to Arts of the Americas

What are examples of internships and/or research opportunities that students in this major are currently working on or have access to as majors in this program?

Our department has a faculty member who is specifically devoted to supporting students in finding internships across Chicagoland and teaches our summer internship program. Our students have recently held internships at: the Adler Planetarium, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago Collections Consortium, Chicago History Museum, Chinese American Museum of Chicago, DePaul Art Museum, Driehaus Museum, Field Museum of Natural History, Heritage Museum of Asian Art, Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, In the Best Light LLC, Milwaukee Art Museum, National Hellenic Museum, and Swedish American Museum.

What are students doing after graduation?

Our students wind up in a wide range of professions. Many go on to work in the museum profession, art galleries, art-related institutions, and auction houses. But we also have a number of graduates who have continued in the legal profession, medicine, library sciences, and a wide variety of other interests.

Other interesting facts about the HAA major?

In addition to our major and minor in HAA, we participate in several interdisciplinary minors that highlight the connection of the visual world with other spheres of experience. Our minor in Museum Studies combines coursework in HAA, Anthropology, and History. Our minor in Business of Visual Arts draws on both HAA and the Driehaus College of Business. The Architecture and Urbanism minor is a joint program between HAA and Geography. One of our professors is also developing a joint course with faculty in Neuroscience and another team-taught course with faculty in political science.