

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The CU Denver Art History program—a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Fine Arts—incorporates a broad range of visual cultures, spanning ancient to contemporary art and across diverse media. Courses enhance students' skills in research, visual analysis, and ability to understand art in its social and cultural contexts. Moreover, undergraduates learn to define how historical art provides a foundation for current artists and media images.

The Art History program emphasizes skills that translate across professional fields. These skills include critical thinking; a sensitivity to details, trends, and patterns; and the ability to communicate complex concepts effectively through writing and public speaking. We offer a rigorous curriculum that attracts high-caliber students who are dedicated, interested, and self-motivated. Our program encourages student participation and requires public speaking. Undergraduates learn how to offer constructive criticism to their fellow classmates and how to incorporate similar feedback into their own work.

Most classes are small (fewer than 30 students), and our faculty are active scholars in the field, pursuing ground-breaking research and publishing and presenting their ideas. The curriculum includes a built-in studio (art-making) component which is rare among art history programs. Further, options for art history electives stretch beyond the boundaries of the University, including Internships, Study Abroad, and potentially courses at other institutions, such as Metro State University.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Freshmen with fewer than 30 credits and/or CAM students who are Undeclared are assigned to the Academic Success and Advising Center (ASAC). All other College of Arts & Media (CAM) students with more than 30 credits who have declared CAM majors are assigned to the CAM Office of Advising and Student Services.

Students can connect with the internal CAM admissions team to learn more about the program, additional admission requirements, spaces, equipment and technology.

Students with a declared CAM major that have more than 30 credits are encouraged to meet with a CAM advisor every semester prior to registration.

Freshmen with fewer than 30 credits and/or CAM students that are Undeclared students are assigned to the Center for Undergraduate Exploration and Advising. These students are required to meet with an advisor every semester prior to registration.

CAM Recruitment and Enrollment

CAMinfo@ucdenver.edu

Visit the CAM website [here](#)

Arts Building, Suite 177
303-315-7400 (option 1)

CAM Office of Advising and Student Services

CAMadvising@ucdenver.edu

Visit the CAM website [here](#)

Arts Building, Suite 177
303-315-7400 (option 1)

Center for Undergraduate Exploration and Advising (CUEA)

CUEA@ucdenver.edu

Visit the CUEA website [here](#)

Student Commons 1113
303-315-1940

GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

All CU Denver CAM students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 semester hours.
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA).
3. Complete a minimum of 45 upper division (3000/4000 level) credits.
4. Complete all college and major requirements.
5. Residency: complete a minimum of 30 CU Denver hours in good standing at CU Denver.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

Art History is a rigorous program with high standards. Along with survey courses, students complete two seminar courses and multiple electives in art history. The art history course work covers a wide range of topics, from Pre-Columbian art to digital media. Our program incorporates studio (art-making) courses, including a course in digital art. This studio element allows students to make connections with artists at the University and in the local arts community.

The curriculum also includes a BA thesis course, designed to support students in composing a strong writing sample (approximately 30 pages)—critical for most graduate school applications. Completing the thesis involves an in-depth research experience, rigorous training that will serve students well in graduate school and that also translates into the organizational skills needed in many professional settings. Theses, which may focus on local art or artists, encourage exploration of topics not previously studied in-depth.

Students are responsible for meeting with a CAM advisor to confirm degree progress. Students completing the Fine Arts BFA Degree with an emphasis in Photography are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Complete 34 semester hours of **CU Denver Core Curriculum coursework**.
2. Complete a minimum of 77 semester hours of **major-area coursework** with a grade of C (2.0) or better in each course.
3. Complete a 3-credit College of Arts & Media graduation requirement.

Courses	Credits	Notes
* Course prerequisites change regularly. Students are responsible for consulting advisors and the class schedule in the student portal for prerequisite information. *		
Required CU Denver Core Curriculum Coursework	34	CU Denver Core Curriculum
Required College of Arts & Media graduation requirement Non-Major Arts (Theatre, Film, or Music)	3	
Studio Arts and English Writing Courses	12	
FINE ____ 2-Dimensional Studio Art Elective	3	
FINE ____ 3-Dimensional Studio Art Elective	3	
FINE ____ Studio Art Elective	3	
ENGL 2070 Grammar, Rhetoric and Style <i>OR</i> ENGL 3084 Multimedia Composition <i>OR</i> ENGL 4180 Argumentation and Logic <i>OR</i> ENGL 4280 Proposal and Grant Writing	3	*Prerequisite: ENGL 2030.
Art History Required Emphasis Courses	9	
FINE 2600 Art History Survey I	3	
FINE 2610 Art History Survey II	3	
FINE ____ Pre-20 th Century Art History Elective	3	*Prerequisites: FINE 2600 + 2610.
Upper Division Art History Electives	18	
FINE ____ Upper Division Art History Elective	3	*Prerequisites: FINE 2600 + 2610.
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Capstone Courses	3	
FINE 4951 BA Thesis	3	
General Electives	41	
General Electives (as needed)	41	
TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS	120	

SAMPLE ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY

The following academic plan is a *sample* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. The plan below is intended for first-time, First-Year students. This guide assumes that the foreign language graduation requirement has been completed with high school courses or proficiency exam. This sample schedule can be adjusted to accommodate AP, IB, and/or CLEP credits, as well as courses taken during the summer sessions. In addition, students should tailor this plan based on transfer credit, course availability, and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as minors or double-majors. **Students deviating from this plan must fulfill course prerequisites and should meet with an advisor to confirm course sequencing and degree requirements.**

Year One	Semester 1	CRS
	FINE 2600 Art History I <i>(also fulfills CU Denver Humanities Core requirement)</i>	3
	FINE ____ 2-Dimensional Studio Arts course	3
	ENGL 1020 Core Composition I	3
	First-Year Seminar <i>(fulfills CU Denver CORE requirement)</i>	3
	CU Denver CORE Math requirement	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS		15

Year Two	Semester 3	CRS
	FINE ____ Pre-20 th Century Art History Elective ^{PE}	3
	FINE ____ Studio Art Elective	3
	CU Denver CORE requirement	3
	CU Denver CORE requirement <i>(suggest Lab Science)</i>	4
	General Elective <i>(student choice)</i> ^{UD}	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS		16

Semester 2	CRS	
FINE 2610 Art History Survey II	3	
FINE ____ 3-Dimensional Studio Arts course	3	
ENGL 2030 Core Composition II ^{PR}	3	
CU Denver CORE Requirement	3	
General Elective <i>(student choice)</i> ^{UD}	3	
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS		15

Semester 4	CRS	
FINE ____ Upper Division Art History Elective ^{PE}	3	
FINE ____ Upper Division Art History Elective ^{PE}	3	
General Elective <i>(student choice)</i> ^{UD}	3	
General Elective <i>(student choice)</i> ^{UD}	3	
General Elective <i>(student choice)</i> ^{UD}	3	
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS		15



Year Three	Semester 5	CRS
	FINE _____ Upper Division Art History Elective ^{PE}	3
	ENGL 2070 or 3084 or 4180 or 4280 or UD Art History Elective	3
	CU Denver CORE Requirement	3
	CU Denver CORE Requirement	3
	General Elective (<i>student choice</i>) ^{UD}	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS		15

Semester 6	CRS	
FINE _____ Upper Division Art History Elective ^{PE}	3	
ENGL 2070 or 3084 or 4180 or 4280 or UD Art History Elective	3	
CU Denver CORE Requirement	3	
General Elective (<i>student choice</i>) ^{UD}	3	
General Elective (<i>student choice</i>) ^{UD}	3	
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS		15

Year Four	Semester 7	CRS
	General Elective (<i>student choice</i>) ^{UD}	3
	FINE _____ Upper Division Art History Elective ^{PE}	3
	CU Denver CORE Requirement	3
	General Elective (<i>student choice</i>) ^{UD}	3
	General Elective (<i>student choice</i>) ^{UD}	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS		15

Semester 8	CRS	
FINE 4951 BA Thesis	3	
Non-Major Arts	3	
General Elective (<i>student choice</i>) ^{UD}	3	
General Elective (<i>student choice</i>) ^{UD}	3	
General Elective (<i>student choice</i>) ^{UD}	2	
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS		14

^M Major Course Available ^{PE} Prerequisite Enforced ^{PR} Prerequisite Recommended ^{UD} Students should consider that 45 credits of upper division (3000/4000 level) course work is required when selecting "student's choice" electives.