Technical Art History, B.A.

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Arts

Nature of the Program

Built for the curious and knowledge seekers, the technical art history major emphasizes the scientific study of structures of art and objects, within art historical contexts, and values hands-on experience in preventative art conservation, conservation and restoration of artifacts, and reconstruction techniques. Students will conduct research on the physical nature of art and its making through interdisciplinary studies in art history, art, science, anthropology, and more depending on their areas of interest.

Technical art history majors will graduate well-equipped for a multi-faceted career of collaboration with conservators, scientists and museum professionals. They will enhance the world's ability to care for its art and material culture. Graduates will excel in high-demand careers and be prepared for elite graduate programs including: art and object conservation, ethnographic and archaeological materials conservation, historic preservation, art history, museum studies, art handler, museum technician, library and archival studies, and more.

In the classroom, technical art history majors will: assess the construction and condition of art and artifacts, conduct risk assessments for museum collections, employ preventive care for collections; conduct digital documentation with stereomicroscopy, ultraviolet illumination, and digital photography; examine objects using infrared reflectography, microscopy, and x-rays; participate in disaster recovery exercises, and study with world-renown conservation professionals. They will visually analyze objects, conduct comparative analyses, engage in archival research, and develop broad cultural historical and aesthetic knowledge.

The San Gemini Preservation Studies Global Positioning Studies program (https://artanddesign.wvu.edu/field-study/gps/san-gemini-preservation-studies/) is the ideal hands-on study abroad program for a technical art history major. This program is a series of professional place-based field courses in conservation, preservation, and restoration of cultural heritage in San Gemini, Umbria, Italy. The program offers students both theoretical knowledge and hands-on skills on field projects and workshops.

Admissions

Besides meeting the requirements for general University admission, there are no additional entrance requirements (e.g., portfolio review) to the Bachelor of Arts programs in Art History, Art Therapy, Game Design and Interactive Media, or Technical Art History.

A portfolio review or a research paper is recommended for applicants seeking scholarship consideration into the Technical Art History program.

For further information, please consult the College's website (https://ccarts.wvu.edu/future-students/undergraduate-audition-and-portfolio-reviews/) or call the College's Recruitment Office at (304) 293-4339. Applicants can also visit the School of Art and Design's website: http://artanddesign.wvu.edu/academics (https://artanddesign.wvu.edu/academics/) or phone the School office at (304) 293-2552.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS 2024-2025

The Admission Requirements above will be the same for the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

Major Code: 2520

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. **(**http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/**)**

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric	
& ENGL 102	and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research	
or ENGL 103	Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3

F6 - The Arts & Creativity	3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity	3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)	9
Total Hours	31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
University Requirements		35
School of Art and Design Requirements		49
Technical Art History Major Requirements		36
Total Hours		120

University Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations (GEF) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)		
Outstanding GEF Requirements 1, 3, 4, and 5		15
ART 191	First-Year Seminar	2
General Electives *		18
Total Hours		35

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Recommended GEF Depth/Minor Areas include: Forensic and Investigative Science (FIS), Archaeology/Anthropology (ANTH); Art History electives; Study Abroad/Professional Field Experience; Studio Art

School of Art and Design Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A grade of C- or higher required in all ART and ARHS courses in the program requirements.		
Chemistry Coursework		
CHEM 115 & 115L	Fundamentals of Chemistry 1 and Fundamentals of Chemistry 1 Laboratory (GEF 2) **	4
CHEM 116 & 116L	Fundamentals of Chemistry 2 and Fundamentals of Chemistry 2 Laboratory (GEF 8)	4
CHEM 233 & 233L	Organic Chemistry 1 and Organic Chemistry 1 Laboratory	4
CHEM 234 & 234L	Organic Chemistry 2 and Organic Chemistry 2 Laboratory	4
Foreign Language (GEF 7) ***		12
Art History Core		
ARHS 120	Survey of Art History 1 (may fulfill GEF 6)	3
ARHS 160	Survey of Art History 2 (may fulfill GEF 8)	3
Studio Coursework		
ART 111S	Drawing 1	3
ART 112S	Drawing 2	3
ART 122S	Visual Foundations 2	3
Select two of the following:		6
ART 213S	Painting 1	
ART 226S	Introduction to Sculpture	
ART 230S	Printmaking - Intaglio and Relief	
ART 240S	Ceramics	
ART 241S	Ceramics	

ART 280	Studio Art for Art Historians	
Global Positioning Studies (GPS) Requirement ****		
Total Hours		49

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MATH prerequisites or CHEM 110 may be required for entry into CHEM 115 and 115L which are determined by placement.

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All students must complete six credit hours of Latin (CLAS) or 12 credit hours of another foreign language. Students who elect to complete Latin (CLAS) courses will fulfill GEF 5, but will still need to fulfill GEF 7.

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Global Positioning Studies (GPS) Requirement - At least one ART or ARHS course must fulfill the GPS requirement.

Technical Art History Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
A grade of C- or higher required in all ART and ARHS courses in the major requirements.		
Art History Core		
Prehistory to 1300: Select one of the following:		3
ARHS 320	Greek and Roman	
ARHS 325	Ancient Roman Art and Architecture	
ARHS 331	Medieval	
ARHS 333	Medieval Architecture	
1300-1750: Select one of the following:		3
ARHS 350	Northern Renaissance	
ARHS 354	Italian Renaissance	
ARHS 360	Baroque	
ARHS Semester in Italy		
1750-Present: Select one from the following:		3
ARHS 370	American	
ARHS 375	Nineteenth Century	
ARHS 380	Modern	
ARHS 381	Modern Architecture	
ARHS 389	Contemporary	
Art History Major Coursework		
ARHS 240	Research, Writing, & Methods in Art History ****	3
ARHS 345	Modern Art Theory	3
ARHS 401	Senior Project-Capstone (fulfills the Writing and Communication Skills Requirement)	3
ARHS 491	Professional Field Experience	3
ARHS 494	Seminar	3
Technical Art History Coursework		
ARHS 411	Conservation Practices: Digital Documentation, Treatment, Condition Assessment	3
ARHS 412	Collections Care and Preservation of Material Objects	3
ARHS 413	Material Objects Investigations 1 (2-D)	3
ARHS 414	Material Objects Investigation 2 (3-D)	3
Total Hours		36

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ARHS 240 fulfills writing requirement.

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)	3	CHEM 115 & 115L (GEF 2)	4

ARHS 120 (GEF 6)	3	ARHS 160 (GEF 8)	3
ART 280	3	ARHS 411	3
ART 191	2	ART 111S	3
Foreign Language (GEF 7)	3	Foreign Language (GEF 8)	3
GEF 3	3		
	17		16

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3	ARHS 240	3
CHEM 116 & 116L (GEF 8)	4	ARHS 412	3
ART 112S	3	GEF 4	3
Art History Core Course	3	Art History Core Course	3
Foreign Language	3	Foreign Language	3
	16		15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
CHEM 233	3	GEF 5	3
CHEM 233L	1	ARHS 413	3
ARHS 345	3	Art History Core Course	3
ART 122S	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	2		
	15		15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
CHEM 234	3	ARHS 401	3
CHEM 234L	1	ARHS 491	3
ARHS 414	3	General Elective	3
ARHS 494	3	General Elective	3
ART 213S, 226S, 230S, 240S, or 241S	3	General Elective	1
	13		13

Total credit hours: 120

Major Learning Outcomes

TECHNICAL ART HISTORY

Upon graduation all Bachelor of Arts students in Technical Art History will be able to:

- communicate effectively in both written and oral forms;
- interpret the documentation of the treatment history of an artwork and put it into context;
- link an analysis of material to the date of inception and other topics relating to its history and artistic production;
- apply digital documentation processes and selected non-destructive analytical/imaging techniques to a material object or work of art;
- demonstrate proper handling of artworks including during storage and transportation and create condition assessment surveys;
- synthesize knowledge and skills from across the fields of art history, chemistry, and studio art and apply them to a material object or art work through reconstruction.