

The Art Major: Concentration in Art History

Over the centuries, visual artists have depicted the world in styles ranging from primitive to realistic to abstract. As an art history student, you learn how these developments reflect the times in which the artists lived. PC's art major concentration in art history equips you to analyze visual material in historical, cultural and social contexts. You'll also develop skills in effective research and writing reasoned, well-documented papers. These soft skills prepare you for graduate school and careers in various fields.

Art class sizes at PC are smaller, so your instructors are able to give you individualized attention. Outside the classroom, experiences like studying abroad and volunteering in the community expand your learning opportunities.

What You'll Study When You Concentrate in Art History

The art history program enhances the liberal arts curriculum by intersecting art with other disciplines. Your courses connect a variety of subjects – from chemistry and international studies, to business and general humanities. They also satisfy your general education requirements in the fine arts. Meanwhile you develop skills like analyzing ideas, researching primary and secondary sources, and writing evidence-based papers in your own voice.

PC's art history coursework totals 42 hours – including your choice of 18 hours of electives. Interdisciplinary electives include Latin American Art, African American Art, and Gender and Art. In your first two years, you'll take Survey of Western Art, and Studio Foundations courses in 2D and 3D techniques. Your final two years include courses like Aesthetics, and an Art History Seminar that culminates in a senior capstone project. If eligible, you may also conduct an honors project, which earns you marks of distinction on your transcript and diploma.

Experiences Outside the Classroom

No matter your major, at PC you'll have a number of opportunities to learn and grow outside of the classroom.

- **Studying abroad.** PC's art department organizes "Maymester" trips to a variety of international locations such as Italy, Greece, Spain, England and Cuba. Students who study art history abroad for longer terms find that they can better see and understand their surroundings.
- **Summer Fellows Program.** You can work together with your professors on a summer project and receive a stipend for participating in the program.
- **Independent research.** You can conduct independent research during the regular academic year on a topic of your choice.
- **Internships.** Students can intern at art museums to gain hands-on experience, explore career options and earn education credits.

In addition to these campuswide opportunities, other options are available to you as a student in the art department.

- **Art exhibitions.** PC's Harper Center Gallery for the Arts hosts four exhibitions each year, including the senior art show.
- **Regional galleries.** Students may also visit other art galleries in the region, in nearby cities like Greenville and Columbia.

Career Outcomes

The [BBC](#) recently cited [LinkedIn](#) data that "creativity, persuasion and collaboration" were the soft skills employers wanted most in 2019. This finding flies in the face of claims that liberal arts majors have no job market value.

According to [PayScale](#), those with a bachelor's degree in art history earn a median salary of \$59,000, as of January 2020. Many art majors pursue careers as art directors, project managers and marketing directors.

Art majors and minors from PC have attended notable graduate schools like New York University and Savannah College of Art and Design. PC art alumni now work in related fields like graphic design, teaching and art auctioning. Graduates have gone on to work at the Jewish Museum in New York City and the Boulder Art Museum. Other alumni work in other disciplines like historic preservation, medicine and law. No matter your major, PC's liberal arts education prepares you with problem-solving, critical thinking and other marketable skills.

4 Fast Facts

1. Every year, PC's art majors visit places like New York City and Washington, D.C. to study contemporary and classic art.
2. Now teaching art history at Greenville's Fine Arts Center, Rebecca Roth '09 studied art in Florence, Italy, as a PC undergraduate.
3. PC's art degree hones soft skills like creativity, persuasion and collaboration – LinkedIn employers' top 3 soft skills of 2019.
4. Art alumni have gone on to work at the Jewish Museum in New York City and the Boulder Art Museum.

Meta Page Description

Presbyterian College's art major concentration in art history emphasizes creativity, persuasion and other in-demand soft skills that employers value.