

What can I do with this degree?

ART HISTORY

AREAS

ART MUSEUMS/GALLERIES

Education
Administration
Curatorial
Conservation
Registrar
Collections Management
Sales
Publications
Development
Public Relations
Exhibit Design/Preparation
Archivist
Tour Guides/Docent

EMPLOYERS

Government or private museums
Local historical societies
Galleries

STRATEGIES

Intern or volunteer in an art museum. Develop strength in art history areas.
Enhance computer skills. Earn a business minor. Acquire strong skills in research, fund-raising, speaking, and writing. Earn an advanced degree in an academic discipline or museum studies for greater career opportunities. Each specialty has varying qualifications and required training.
Develop good interpersonal skills, including the ability to work well on teams.

AREAS

FINE ARTS

EMPLOYERS

Self-employed
Shared studios
Historic sites
School/Community programs

STRATEGIES

Prepare a strong portfolio. Participate in juried shows. Secure guild membership.
Consider developing a source of supplemental income. Learn to network and make contacts.

Develop strong skills in area of interest. Obtain experience through apprenticeships, internships, or volunteering.

AREAS

EDUCATION

Studio Art

Fine Arts

Art History

EMPLOYERS

Art schools

Public and private schools (K-12)

Colleges and universities

Adult and community programs

Libraries

Museums

Alternative schools

Group homes

STRATEGIES

Obtain certification for public school teaching. Graduate degree usually required for post-secondary teaching. Develop a specialty area. Work or volunteer as a tutor, camp counselor, Big Brother/Sister, or after-school program counselor.

Become a member of art clubs. Obtain substitute-teaching experience. Develop strength in art history areas.

AREAS

PHOTOGRAPHY

EMPLOYERS

Museums and historical societies

Media organizations

Photo agencies, studios, and auction houses

Libraries

Self-employment

Large corporations

Hospitals

STRATEGIES

Apprentice with a free-lance photographer. Prepare a black and white and a color portfolio.

Obtain a staff photographer position with the yearbook, campus newspaper, or magazine. Act as an audio-visual assistant or projectionist.

AREAS

ART SALES

EMPLOYERS

Galleries/Museums
Auction houses
Specialty stores

STRATEGIES

Gain sales experience.
Obtain a business minor.
Develop computer skills.
Establish contacts by attending shows.
Volunteer in museums, membership drives, and community outreach programs.
Serve as a student assistant in a university gallery.
Develop strong interpersonal and communication skills.

AREAS

RETAIL

Buying
Store Management
Display Design
Fashion Coordination
Custom Framing

EMPLOYERS

Retail stores, including department, grocery, drug, specialty, and variety chains

STRATEGIES

Gain sales experience. Enhance curriculum with business courses. Obtain summer, part-time, or internship positions in retail. Secure leadership in campus organizations. Serve as treasurer or financial officer of an organization. Obtain a sales position with the yearbook or campus newspaper.

GENERAL INFORMATION

A bachelor's degree is valuable for entry-level positions, but an advanced degree is usually necessary to attain competitive, upper-level positions.

An art degree can and should be tailored to areas of specialization.

Save artwork for a strong portfolio - too much is better than too little.

Be prepared to relocate to the larger markets of metropolitan areas where more opportunities exist.

Join art related professional and student organizations.

Volunteer with fundraising efforts for the arts.

Gain valuable experience through volunteering, internships, part-time and summer jobs, and apprenticeships.

Conduct informational interviews with professionals in areas of interest to learn more about opportunities and strategies for these areas.

Learn to network.

Be prepared to begin career in entry-level positions.

Pair an art degree with other career interests to increase opportunities and provide supplemental income.

Develop skills in business management, computers, marketing, and other related areas to increase marketability.

A career in the arts takes dedication, patience, flexibility, talent, and some luck.

Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. (2005) UTK is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA /ADEA Employer