



XAVIER UNIVERSITY CAREER SERVICES CENTER

Conaton Learning Commons, Room 530 | 513-745-3141 | xavier.edu/career

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ART MAJORS

SKILLS & ABILITIES OF THE ART MAJOR

Technical

- Knowing the qualities of each medium
- Working with a variety of medium
- Attaining a high level of craftsmanship
- Good finger and manual dexterity

Communication

- Communicating visually
- Analyzing and explaining works of art
- Collaborating with others
- Interpreting data or verbal instructions to produce artwork
- Presenting and displaying work

Problem Solving

- Taking multiple approaches to problems
- Utilizing available resources
- Work under pressure and meet deadlines
- Adapting techniques

Artistic

- Seeing, drawing, and understanding form
- Relating abstract ideas and visual forms
- Mastering the use of color, space, and line
- Utilizing theories of composition
- Creative thinking
- Visualizing shapes and spatial relationships

Personal Traits

- Independent
- Confident
- Intuitive
- Self-disciplined
- Organized
- Flexible
- Imaginative

**Partially taken from the University of Texas—Fine Arts Career Services—A Career Guide for Studio Art Majors*

POTENTIAL CAREERS

Obvious

- Art Teachers
- Art Lawyers
- Curators
- Appraisers
- Art Gallery Administrators
- Colorists
- Cartoonists
- Counselors/Therapists
- Set Designers
- Animators
- Calligraphers
- Photographers
- Graphic Analysts
- Exhibit Production Artists

Less Obvious

- Advertising Media Planner
- Director of Development
- Docent Coordinator
- Outreach Education
- Public Programming
- Publicist
- Academic Advisor/Counselor
- Alumni Affairs Coordinator
- Lobbying Organizer/Researcher
- Market Researcher

TYPES OF EMPLOYERS

- Advertising Agencies
- Colleges and Universities
- Sign Shops
- Art Galleries
- Libraries
- Art Supply Stores
- Public Relations Firms
- Media Production Companies
- Newspapers
- Publishing Companies
- Museums
- Textile Industry
- Amusement Parks
- Retail Stores
- Film Industry
- Greeting Card Companies
- Printing Firms
- Auction Houses
- Recreation Departments
- Corporate Communication
- Photo Agencies
- Camps
- Restoration Firms
- Schools

TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS EMPLOYING PERSONS WITH A BACHELORS IN ART

Artists, broadcasters, writers, editors, entertainers, public relations	25.4%
Top and mid-level managers, executives, administrators	7.5%
Sales occupations, including retail	6.2%
Other administrative (record clerks)	5.2%
Other management-related occupations	4.4%
Teachers, elementary school	4.0%
Secretaries, receptionists, typists	3.9%
Teachers, secondary school	3.4%
Other marketing and sales occupations	3.4%
Precision/production occupations	2.9%

ACTIVITIES ON THE JOB

- About 13% spend most of their workweek in sales, marketing, and purchasing.
- About 12% spend most of their time at work teaching activities.
- Management and administrative duties take up most of the time at work among 12% of employed arts grads.
- About 7% spend most of their typical work week in finance, accounting, and contractual duties.
- 35% of employed arts grads regularly engage in computer applications, programming, and system-development activities.

**Taken from The College Majors Handbook (Fogg, Harrington, & Harrington) 2004*

POST GRADUATION ACTIVITIES

- Nearly 1/2 of all master's degrees earned by visual arts majors are in the field of visual arts.
 - About 19% are earned in education.
 - About 5% are earned in other arts fields such as dramatic arts.
 - About 4% are earned in business administration and management.
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RELATED BOOKS IN THE CAREER RESOURCE LIBRARY (CLC 530)

- *Career Opportunities in the Visual Arts*
- *Opportunities in Interior Design and Decorating Careers*
- *Opportunities in Architecture Careers*
- *Opportunities in Commercial Art and Graphic Design*
- *Great Jobs for Art Majors*
- *The Artist's Way at Work*
- *National Directory of Arts Internships*