



## CAREER *services* CENTER

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XAVIER  
UNIVERSITY

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ART MAJORS

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## SKILLS & ABILITIES OF THE ART MAJOR

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### 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
- Criticizing, 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

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### 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

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## TYPES OF EMPLOYERS

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- 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
  - Magazines
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## TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS EMPLOYING PERSONS WITH A BACHELORS IN ART

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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%

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## ACTIVITIES ON THE JOB

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- 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. 8% spend most of their time at work in these activities.
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## POST GRADUATION ACTIVITES

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- 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.

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

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## RELATED BOOKS IN THE CAREER RESOURCE LIBRARY

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- *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*
- *Careers for Culture Lovers & Other Artsy Types*
- *Peterson's Graduate Programs in the Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences*
- *Prospects Postgraduate Directory: Arts and Humanities*