

# Career

# Paths

## ART & ART HISTORY

Needs new description – previous description was just a reiteration of “Preparing for your career.”

### Museums and Galleries

**Example Career Paths:** Art direction | Administration | Curatorial | Conservation | Restoration | Registrar | Collections management | Exhibit design/preparation | Archive management | Education | Tours | Sales | Publications | Development | Public relations | Historian

**Potential Employers:** Art museums | Archives | Historical societies | Natural history museums | Living history museums | Galleries | Community centers | Auction houses

**Professional Associations:** [American Alliance of Museums](#) | [Society of American Archivists](#)

### Fine Arts and Crafts

**Example Career Paths:** Glass | Ceramics | Textiles | Printmaking | Multi-media | Fibre | Painting | Sculpture | Illustration | Film | Performance | Installation | Video

**Potential Employers:** Self-employed | Studios | Living history museums and historical sites | School and community programs | Colleges and universities | Commissions

**Professional Associations:** [American Craft Council](#)

## Commercial Art

**Example Career Paths:** Graphic art | Motion design | Web design | Graphic novels | Illustration | Story boards | Advertising | Medical and scientific illustration | Typography | Animation | Art direction | Logo/Branding | Design: advertisement, magazine, layout, book, packaging, stationary, wallpaper

**Potential Employers:** Advertising agencies | Public relation agencies | Design firms | Company marketing departments | Publishing companies: magazines, newspapers, books | Department stores | Television and motion picture industry | Governmental agencies | Universities | Manufacturing firms | Greeting card companies | Internet media companies | Self-employed | Large corporations

**Professional Associations:** [American Institute of Graphic Arts](#) | [Animation World Network](#) | [National Cartoonists Society](#)

## Education

**Example Career Paths:** Formalized instruction | Recreational instruction | Research (art history) | Art curriculum writing

**Potential Employers:** K-12 schools, public and private | Universities and colleges | Art schools | Adult and community programs | Museums | Recreation centers | Libraries | Group homes | Arts and Craft Centers (Arrowmont)

**Professional Associations:** [Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design](#) | [College Art Association](#)

## Media

**Example Career Paths:** Journalism: production, design, art criticism, editing | Art direction | Sales | Programming | Video | Illustration | Animation | Story board | Film | Social media | Digital imaging and editing

**Potential Employers:** Newspapers | Magazines | Websites | Book publishers | Studios

**Professional Associations:** [American Society of Media Photographers](#) | [Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators](#) | [Society of Illustrators](#)

## Photography

**Example Career Paths:** Fine arts | News | Commercial and industrial | Portrait | Nature | Scientific | Journalism | Food | Underwater | Weddings/Events | Fashion

**Potential Employers:** Museums | Newspapers | Magazines | Websites | Photo agencies | Studios | Libraries | Large corporations | Self-employed | Venues

**Professional Associations:** [National Press Photographers Association](#)

## Fashion/Textile/Interior Design

**Example Career Paths:** Fashion design | Fashion product development | Entrepreneurship | Colorists | Stylists | Fabric development | Surface design | Management | Buying | Tapestry | 2D, 3D, and 4D product design

**Potential Employers:** Fabric manufacturers, printers, and converters | Print design studios | Garment suppliers | Retailers | Fashion Houses

**Professional Associations:** [Costume Society of America](#) | [Surface Design Association](#) | [International Textile and Apparel Association](#)

## Preparing for your Career

- 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.
- Seek exposure to art by visiting museums around the country and world.
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in areas of interest to learn more about opportunities and strategies for these areas. Learn to network.
- Pair an art degree with other career interests to increase opportunities and provide supplemental income.
- According to the Department of Labor, many Artists are self-employed.
- 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.

This resource was adapted from What Can I Do With My Major.

For more, visit <https://web.uri.edu/career/wcidwmm/>

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### WCIDWMM

What Can I Do With This Major? features 100 major profiles with information on common career paths, types of employers that hire in the field, and strategies to maximize opportunities. Scroll to the...

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