Faculty and Service Roles

Ph.D. Art History Program Guide

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Faculty and Service Roles

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Department Leadership

Department Chair  Ann Gunter
Committee on Graduate Affairs

Christina Kiaer  Director of Graduate Studies
Ann Gunter  Diversity and Equity Officer
Krista Thompson  Admissions & Recruitment Coordinator; Practicum Organizer
Alicia Caticha  Member-at-Large

Committee on Undergraduate Affairs

Jesús Escobar  Director of Undergraduate Studies
Antawan Byrd  Advisor to Northwestern Art Review
Thadeus Dowad  Member-at-large
Ben Weil  Graduate Student Member-at-Large
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum Committee</td>
<td>Ann Gunter</td>
<td>Department Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christina Kiaer</td>
<td>Director of Graduate Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jesús Escobar</td>
<td>Director of Undergraduate Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Antawan Byrd</td>
<td>Member-at-Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on Lectures and Events</td>
<td>Ann Gunter</td>
<td>Department Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jesús Escobar</td>
<td>Warnock Lecture Series Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anna Cohen</td>
<td>Graduate Student Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ruslana Lichtzier</td>
<td>Graduate Student Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on Research</td>
<td>Ann Gunter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yuthika Sharma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liaison to Library Digital Collections</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liaison to Block Museum</td>
<td>Rebecca Zorach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Senate Representative</td>
<td>Rebecca Zorach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate Student Representatives</td>
<td>Anna Cohen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ruslana Lichtzier</td>
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</table>
This handbook has been revised Winter 2023. Currently matriculated students may opt to either follow the new guidelines or continue following the guidelines as they are listed here. Students matriculated in 2023 and beyond will adhere to any new guidelines.

The following handbook describes departmental policies and resources. Please consult The Graduate School (TGS) website for more general information and resources.

**Advising**

**Director of Graduate Studies**
First-year students are advised by the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS). The DGS orients and advises all first-year students in advance of registration each quarter. The DGS remains a resource for you throughout your time in the program and may always be consulted on any questions that may arise, as well as any conflicts or other concerns. The DGS is the liaison between you, faculty, Weinberg, and TGS. The DGS oversees final approval of all exceptions, progress to degree, work assignments, etc.

**Primary Advisor**
You are required to have an advisor. Typically, this advisor becomes the chair of your Qualifying Exam (QE) and dissertation committees. In very exceptional cases after discussion with relevant faculty and the DGS, some students may need two co-advisors, which is permitted and needs to be indicated on GSTS. Once you have selected your advisor, they oversee your course of study, with support from the DGS. The primary advisor has many roles to play, including overseeing registration, course selection and distribution requirements, advising you on your graduate student worker assignments, degree progress, and grant/internship applications. You will meet with your advisor quarterly to discuss your progress and plan for the
next steps in the program.

You will need to select and register your selected primary advisor by the last day of Spring quarter exam week in your first year. To do so, confer with the DGS and your intended selection. After they have approved your thinking, indicate your choice on the Committee tab in the Graduate Student Tracking System (GSTS). The system will route your suggestion to the advisor for their approval and the office staff will mark this requirement completed in your milestones.

To change your primary advisor, for any number of reasons, please contact the Chair and DGS. Should faculty wish to terminate either a primary advisor or committee member relationship, they will contact the Chair and DGS. Any advisory concerns should be brought to the DGS, Department Chair, or Associate Dean of Student Services in The Graduate School.

Course of Study

Awarded Degrees

The Department of Art History at Northwestern is designed as a Ph.D. program. Normal time to degree is five to seven years, although funding is only guaranteed for five years (see Funding). TGS caps time to degree at nine years, after which point you need to petition to maintain good standing. The M.A. can be applied for in the course of advance towards the Ph.D., but is not expected to be a terminal degree.

Petitioning for M.A. (Optional)
Our M.A. is not designed as a terminal degree but can be awarded to students who successfully complete twelve course credits in good standing, pass one language exam, and complete the requirements for the First Year Spring meeting. Since it is not a requirement towards the Ph.D., you must petition for an M.A. degree by completing the corresponding TGS Form through GSTS (see below); it will not be awarded automatically. Application deadlines are on the academic calendar and more information on the petition process can be found on the TGS website.

Please note that you must complete a) Masters in Primary Ph.D. form to
activate M.A. options on your student record, b) Application for Degree form to signal your intent to file for your M.A., and c) Masters Degree Completion for official awarding of M.A. degree.

**Curriculum**

The art history Ph.D. is based on a balance of breadth (distribution requirements) and depth (your Major or Teaching Field, and eventually your dissertation fields, or areas of specialization within the Teaching Field). We encourage and promote interdisciplinarity by way of coursework outside of the department in related fields and programs.

You will be enrolled in full-time coursework or the equivalent for the first three years of matriculation, during which time a minimum of 18 graded courses at the 400-level are completed (certain 300-level courses may count towards this requirement, usually with the expectation of additional work, such as a longer final paper; confirm with the DGS and the course instructor on a case-by-case basis). Full-time enrollment is at least three credits.

The curriculum is as follows:

**Major or Teaching Field**

You are required to take eight courses in the major field, six of which must be Northwestern 400-level seminars or those offered by the Big Ten Alliance/Committee for Institutional Cooperation (CIC). You and your advisor determine what counts towards the Major or Teaching Field regardless of the department in which the course was taken. At least five of your major field classes will be departmental offerings, although we know this is not possible in all fields or applicable to all individual scholarly needs. Up to two of the eight required courses may include Independent Studies or M.A. transfer credits.

The Major or Teaching Field corresponds roughly with the temporal and/or geographic categories used as hiring descriptors, i.e., Modern, Early Modern, Latin American, and so forth. In the first year, the DGS can help you determine your major field, but after you declare an advisor, you will work with them to define the parameters of that field.

**Breadth Requirement**
You are required to take four courses in three major teaching fields outside your Major or Teaching Field, in order to diversify your exposure to different temporal, geographical, and faculty teaching areas in Northwestern 400-level art history seminars, and to build community in the department. Your advisor determines what satisfies the breadth requirement.

With your advisor’s approval, you may petition the DGS for previous graduate coursework to count toward this requirement, but it is not recommended as standard practice. (See “Credit for Courses Taken at Other Graduate Institutions.”) In exceptional cases, you may petition your advisor and the DGS to use an AH 499 or non-art history course to satisfy this requirement.

**Required Courses in Critical Practices**

A four-part critical practice sequence aims to develop your capacity for art-historical research and analysis while simultaneously cultivating writing skills across a range of professional practices. The four-course sequence consists of:

**AH 401: Methods** is taken during the Fall of your first year. This course offers an introduction to various methods used in analyzing art and visual-spatial culture. It is expected that the course will survey a broad spectrum of issues that inform current work in the field, and that it will cultivate analytical and expository writing skills while introducing you to art historical work at the graduate level.

**AH 403: Mellon Objects Study Seminar** is taken the Winter of your first year. This course is for first-year graduate students of the Departments of Art History at Northwestern and the University of Chicago. It is meant to introduce you to the complexities of doing object-based research. This course is led each winter by faculty from Northwestern and University of Chicago alongside the Andrew W. Mellon Academic Curator and other curators at the Art Institute of Chicago (AIC), where it meets. The course is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

**AH 405: Summer Seminar Abroad** is taken the Summer of your first year and involves traveling with your cohort and a professor for two weeks to learn about on-site research in a particular place related to the professor’s area of expertise. It is meant to introduce you to the complexities of archival, museological, and other on-site research, as well as introduce you to a specific area of study. Typically, the summer

*This course is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon through 2023. Its continuation is under review.*
The seminar takes place in late August or early September; first-year students should keep these dates in mind when applying for other summer programs.

AH 406: Dissertation Prospectus Seminar is taken during Spring of your third year. It provides advanced students an opportunity to draft a dissertation prospectus, introducing them to the mechanics of that genre of writing and the long-format expectations of the dissertation.

Independent Study (AH 499)
Enrolling in an AH 499 requires prior consultation with the advisor and relevant faculty member. Each faculty leads AH 499 differently, but the reading and writing load should correspond to that of a seminar, with short writing assignments and at least biweekly meetings.

In your first year, you are discouraged from registering for Independent Studies.

In your second year, you may enroll in no more than one AH 499 a quarter (you should only enroll in more in exceptional circumstances with both DGS and advisor approval). Specifically, in consultation with your advisor (especially if you arrive without an M.A.), you might wish to enroll in an AH 499 with your advisor before Spring of your second year, to begin preparing for the exam and dissertation focus of the second year.

During your third year, you are expected to register quarterly for one to three credits of AH 499 with your advisor in preparation for the Qualifying Exam and Dissertation Prospectus. During the year you should also register for two additional AH 499 with other members of your examination committee; this allows you to dedicate time for guided study and preparation for your Major or Teaching Field examination.

Research Course Credits for Full-time Status (AH 590, TGS 500, TGS 512)
There are three different course numbers you can use to achieve full-time status without being in coursework: AH 590, TGS 500, and TGS 512. These courses confer credit for your ongoing dissertation research and fill up your registration. Please note that you are encouraged to use one of these numbers to reduce your course load while serving as TA.

Of these courses, first- and second-year students should only use AH 590, and primarily only during the summer months. Second-year students may elect to take
one AH 590 during the quarter they are serving as a TA. Otherwise, only in the
rarest occasions and with prior approval by the DGS should a first-year or second-
year student use this credit during the academic year. You will need a permission
number from Adams to enroll in this course.

Third-year students and beyond should use either TGS 500 or TGS 512. Please use
the Registration Decision Tree in the appendix to assess which is the correct
enrollment. You can confirm correct enrollment with Keiser, if needed.

Language Courses
Language classes do not count as part of your required 18 course credits but
do count towards full time status.

Registration

Registration is required from your quarter of entry until your final quarter of
completion of the degree, including summers. A provisional list of annual course
offerings is provided on the department website. Before registering, meet with your
advisor or the DGS to sign off on your course of study. Please plan accordingly.
Registration typically takes place three weeks to ten days before the first day of a
quarter. Dates are listed on the academic calendar, and we strongly advise you add
these dates to your own calendar.

To enroll in Art History courses requiring department permission, obtain a
permission number from Adams to enter when registering. Each department
administers their own permission numbers, so classes in other departments may
require numbers from their corresponding staff.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are registered correctly and on time in
advance of each quarter. Your quarterly stipends and health insurance are
dependent on full-time status, therefore, if you do not register properly and with at
least three credits you may have severe financial implications including loss of
health insurance, charges for quarterly tuition, even violation of your visa status.
Failure to register by the correct date will at minimum require a petition for late
registration, which can be done at
https://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/documents.academic-policies-procedures/tgs-
late-registration-petition-form.pdf and requires the signature of the DGS and your
advisor. Changes cannot be made after a quarter is completed.
Due to the serious consequences of registration errors, we recommend you a) monitor your Student Account information monthly for fees or charges that might indicate a problem with enrollment, and b) check CAESAR once mid-quarter and once prior to the end of quarter to make sure your enrollment matches your activities. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Keiser.

For more information about Caesar, registration, and university policies not detailed here, visit the TGS website. Additional guidance can be found through TGS Student Services.

Typical Course of Study
The specifics of registration according to year in the program are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td><strong>Winter</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AH 401: Proseminar</td>
<td>AH 403: Mellon COSI Objects and Materials*</td>
<td>3-4 units of coursework</td>
<td>AH 405 &amp; 2 units of AH 590 (or coursework)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3 additional units of coursework</td>
<td>2-3 additional units of coursework</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Coursework includes language study as necessary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second Year</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td><strong>Winter</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4 units of coursework</td>
<td>3-4 units of coursework</td>
<td>3-4 units of coursework</td>
<td>3 units of ART_HIST 590 (or coursework)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Second-year students may wish to take an AH 499 with your advisor during the year (see above).
- One AH 590 may be used the quarter you serve as a TA.
- Coursework includes language study as necessary.

* This course is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon through 2023. Its continuation is under review.
### Third Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-4 units of coursework</td>
<td>3-4 units of coursework</td>
<td>AH 406</td>
<td>3 units of TGS 500 (or coursework)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prospectus Writing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2-3 units of coursework</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Third-year students should take multiple AH 499 with your advisor and committee members during the year.
- TGS 500 can be used as necessary so that you have at least three credits each quarter.
- Coursework includes language study as necessary.

### Fourth–Ninth Year

3 units of either TGS 500 or TGS 512 each quarter (see below)

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**Registration for TGS 500 or 512**

In your fourth year and beyond, you may receive funding from non-departmental sources (COSI, Franke, Buffet, Paris Program, etc.) or from non-Northwestern sources (Met Lauder, Schiff, The Center, etc.). In these cases, you still need to be enrolled, but your funding will determine whether you enroll in TGS 500 or TGS 512. Please see the “Registration Decision Tree” in the appendix to figure out which enrollment fits your situation. Questions can be directed to Keiser.

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**Transfer Credit for Graduate Level Courses**

After completing four quarters in good standing, you may petition your advisor to transfer up to three course credits of graduate coursework conducted at another university towards your Ph.D. After DGS approval, your advisor will determine which degree requirements these credits satisfy, if any. Transfer credits may not be used for any course within the four-part Critical Practices sequence.

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**Graduate Interdisciplinary Cluster and Certificate Program**

You are encouraged to participate in the Interdisciplinary Cluster Initiative, a program designed to foster connections between you and those in other programs.
with whom you might have natural intellectual affinities. Interdisciplinary clusters in different areas of intellectual inquiry have been developed by faculty across schools and programs and will provide a second intellectual home for incoming and current graduate students. Clusters offer their own discrete courses as well as sponsor corresponding programming. Students may apply to a cluster during admission to Northwestern, but you may affiliate with a cluster at any point during your study. More information can be found here.

The Big Ten Academic Alliance Traveling Scholar Program

The Big Ten Program enables doctoral-level students at any participating CIC university to take advantage of educational opportunities including specialized courses, unique library collections, or unusual laboratories at other CIC universities without change in registration or increase in tuition. A list of participating universities can be found here.

If you wish to become a CIC Traveling Scholar, please consult your advisor at least one quarter in advance. After confirming your advisor’s approval, you should speak to your TGS Student Services Representative and the DGS. Each Traveling Scholar may spend up to two semesters or three quarters on the host campus, regardless of the number of courses taken. Please see the CIC program website for important information about deadlines and procedures. Except in very rare cases, students in their first year do not partake in this program other than summer language study.

Pathway to the Ph.D. Degree

The following section outlines the timeline of milestones designed to bring you successfully along the path to the Ph.D. and prepare you for academic research and teaching, work in museums, and other careers in the visual arts.

Please note that Art History Department guidelines and qualifications may diverge from TGS. Please assume ours are correct unless TGS’s regulations are more stringent. Our course of study and requirements are approved by TGS and set the standard for what is expected as you move to the Ph.D. in Art History. To see the TGS requirements, see the TGS policy guide.
If, for any reason, you need to delay any of the following milestones, please petition the DGS in writing before the deadline.

**Graduate Student Tracking System (GSTS)**

The department uses [GSTS](#) to document your progress through the program. This is where you, your advisors, DGS, and office staff can monitor progress toward your degree. Usage guides can be found [here](#), if needed. Entering your milestones in GSTS is required.

### Milestones Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Required Action</th>
<th>Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Selection of Primary Advisor</td>
<td>Enter in GSTS on Committee tab</td>
<td>By June 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate First Foreign Language Proficiency</td>
<td>Provide DGS and Keiser with evidence of coursework or pass exam; Keiser enters into GSTS</td>
<td>By end of Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Year Progress Report</td>
<td>Complete Smartsheet sent by Upenieks</td>
<td>By June 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Year Meeting</td>
<td>Schedule with Primary Advisor (and DGS if desired) and complete the materials outlined below</td>
<td>By end of Spring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second Year</th>
<th>Required Action</th>
<th>Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select Qualifying Exam Committee</td>
<td>Consult with advisor, update GSTS on Committee tab</td>
<td>By end of Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petition for M.A. (optional)</td>
<td>Consult with advisor; complete TGS Form on GSTS</td>
<td>After Winter if in good standing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Year Progress</td>
<td>Complete Smartsheet</td>
<td>By end of Spring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Third Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam lists</td>
<td>Consult your advisor and exam committee to agree on draft lists</td>
<td>By first week of related AH 499 or end fourth week of Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate Second Foreign Language Proficiency</td>
<td>See guidelines for meeting this milestone below; notify Keiser who will update GSTS</td>
<td>By end of Spring quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifying Exam</td>
<td>Arrange date with advisor and committee: find exam room and communicate schedule; submit the Qualifying Exam petition in GSTS on the TGS Forms tab</td>
<td>By end of Winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select Dissertation Committee</td>
<td>Update in GSTS on Committee tab</td>
<td>Fifth week of Winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AH 406 Dissertation Prospectus Seminar</td>
<td>Register/Pass</td>
<td>Start of Spring†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Prospectus and Colloquium</td>
<td>Arrange date with advisor and committee: find exam room and communicate schedule; submit the Ph.D. Prospectus petition in GSTS on the TGS Forms tab</td>
<td>By end of Spring‡</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Fellowship Workshop with Stephen Hill</td>
<td>Register with Upenieks</td>
<td>Mid-May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Year Progress Report</td>
<td>Complete Smartsheet sent by Upenieks</td>
<td>By end of Spring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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* As of Fall 2022, this requirement is under faculty review.
† As of Fall 2022, this requirement is under faculty review.
‡ As of Fall 2022, this requirement is under faculty review.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ph.D. Candidates</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submit Dissertation</td>
<td>Complete Smartsheet sent by Upenieks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress Assessment Form</td>
<td>First day of Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth Year Chapter</td>
<td>Submit to committee, notify Keiser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Before the end of Spring, fifth year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Defense</td>
<td>Arrange date with advisor and committee: find exam room and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>communicate schedule; submit the Ph.D. Prospectus petition in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GSTS on the TGS Forms tab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At least one month before degree conferral</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Submission of Dissertation to committee and send Upenieks day and location information for your defense...

...for December degree

~4 weeks before defense; consult advisor and committee

...for June degree

~4 weeks before defense; consult advisor and dissertation committee

...for August degree

~4 weeks before defense; consult advisor and dissertation committee

Ph.D. Application for Degree form due through GSTS TGS Forms tab...

...for Fall degree

October 21, 2022

...for Winter degree

January 27, 2023

...for Spring degree

February 23, 2023

Submission of Dissertation to TGS...

...for Fall degree

November 18, 2023
Milestone Requirements

Selecting the Primary Advisor
Typically, you will matriculate with an idea of who your advisor will be, as they are usually the expert in your field of study. After conversation with that individual and the DGS, declare your primary advisor through the Committee tab in GSTS. This should be completed by the end of Spring during your first year.

First Year Spring Meeting
In late Spring of your first year (no later than June 5), schedule a meeting with your advisor. You may include the DGS if you wish. In advance of this meeting, complete the department’s End of Year Annual Progress Survey (see In-Program Feedback and Review section below for more information). In addition to the typical questions, you will be asked to provide:

- A polished seminar paper that you feel represents your best art history work in your first year
- A set of questions you have about that paper, your writing, and how it might be improved
- A one-page self-evaluation based on your learning experience in the first year that addresses your perceived strengths (this can include faculty comments you received on your papers) and areas for future development

Your advisor will be notified when your survey is submitted. In your meeting, either remotely or in-person, you will discuss these materials and your future direction at Northwestern. If necessary, time is dedicated to discussing areas for improvement expected and specific steps to be undertaken during your second year to achieve such improvement. Your advisor will enter a brief paragraph to your survey about your meeting. You will also be able to enter comments about this summary after it’s entered. When complete, all this paperwork will be uploaded as a single document into GSTS. The corresponding milestone is then marked "completed" in GSTS.

Language Requirements
Languages in which you are to demonstrate proficiency are selected by you and your advisor in relation to your plan of study. Besides traditional languages, if related to your research, computer programming languages may also count. You must demonstrate proficiency in at least one foreign language relevant to your research project by the end of Spring in your first year. For most students, proficiency in a second language is also required and must be completed by the end of Spring in your third year. In some circumstances, such as in Medieval Studies, additional language competency may be required after the third year.

In some cases, with justification, you may petition the DGS for permission to postpone demonstration of either language proficiency until September of the following year.

If a second foreign language is not needed for your research, you may petition the DGS for an exception of this second language requirement by Fall in your second year. In this case, your advisor and the DGS may approve an alternative specialization.

Language proficiency can be demonstrated in the following ways (and in all cases email approval from the DGS must be sent to Keiser to be recorded in GSTS):

1. You may submit evidence to the DGS that you have passed a language examination while in a graduate program at another institution within two years prior to admission to the graduate program at Northwestern.

2. You may submit evidence to the DGS that you have taken the equivalent of two years of college credit in a foreign language at the undergraduate level, with a grade of B or better, within two years prior to entrance into the graduate program at Northwestern.

3. During your matriculation in the program, you may enroll in standard college level language classes at Northwestern or other institutions (including summer programs) until you complete or test out of second year of study at Northwestern (see number five below). In all cases, you must earn an average grade of B or better in these courses across two years, and your advisors must agree that their language skills are sufficient for dissertation research.

4. With the consent of the advisor, if your native language is not English, you
may petition the DGS for permission to use your native language to pass out of one of the language requirements, but only in cases where that language will be a primary research language for the dissertation.

5. In cases where you enter the program with prior experience in a language that does not conform to any of the above requirements, but that you believe is the equivalent of two years of college study or better, or in cases where you take graduate level translation courses or summer language programs that do not conform to standard US college level equivalents, you should take the online Northwestern language placement exam to assess your level. This online exam can be taken at any time as coordinated by the relevant language department. You must perform sufficiently well on this exam to test out of the Weinberg undergraduate foreign language requirement (equivalent to two years of study). If you do, the online exam may be followed up by a short translation or interview exam administered by the language department. Procedures vary by department.

6. In some very rare cases, as, for example, when a language is not taught at Northwestern but a faculty member is proficient or when a specific translation skill is necessary (perhaps paleography), a departmental foreign language examination can be administered. This is a supervised, written exam in which you are required to translate and/or summarize two passages. The passages used for the examinations are passages of an art historical, literary, or critical nature, and represent a level of difficulty expected in most languages by the end of a second year of study of the language. Dictionaries may be used. If you don’t pass an exam, you may retake it. If this path is desired, please confirm with your advisor and the DGS about scheduling.

Qualifying Examination (QE)

Exam Committee
The QE is administered by a three-person committee chosen by you in consultation with your advisor and agreed to by relevant faculty. Two members of the committee must be full-time Northwestern art history faculty (or TGS faculty, as may happen if a faculty member leaves Northwestern) and at least one member must be tenured. Normally, exam committees are composed exclusively of Northwestern faculty members, but in exceptional circumstances related to field-specific needs and with approval from the advisor, you may petition the DGS to include a non-Northwestern faculty as your third exam member. By the end of Spring in the second year, all selected committee
members should agree to serve on your committee, and you will submit their names through the Committee tab on GSTS.

Exam Fields

Each member of your exam committee oversees one field of the exam according to the following categories:

- The Major or Teaching Field, developed in consultation with you and your advisor (see Curriculum for more information about this Field). This list is usually more-or-less consistent within the field.
- The Concentration or Research Field, which is within the Major or Teaching Field. Normally, this is the area of the dissertation and is developed by you in consultation with your advisor and examiner. It may therefore be a theoretical model, a precise historical moment, a genre of production, or even an individual artist. Since this is the area from which the dissertation develops, the reading list is constructed with an eye to the formulation of a viable prospectus.
- The Secondary field is complementary to the Major field or a method or theory topic of use to the dissertation. This field is developed by you in consultation with your examiner and advisor.

Exam lists must be established and approved, at least in draft, by the examiner no later than the fourth week of Fall in your third year or the first week of the related AH 499.

The length of the exam lists varies by field, but generally, bibliographies for the Major or Teaching Field include around 50 seminal titles. Lists for the Concentration or Research Field and the Secondary or Thematic Field include are subject to more variation depending on individual needs, but on average include about 25 titles each.

If helpful, exam lists might also be thought of as potential bibliographies for teaching a class, the first an introductory, comprehensive survey course and the latter two smaller, focused seminars. Examples of exam lists from the department can be made available to you by your examiner, pending permission from the examinee whose list they share.
Exam Formats*

The department offers two tracks for the Ph.D. Qualifying Exam, both of which include written and oral components. The exams shall be completed by the end of Winter quarter in the third year. The format of the exam is flexible to meet the needs of different students and fields. A successful exam demonstrates your familiarity and ability to think with, and sometimes against, key texts in your fields. For both tracks preparation will include regular meetings with the examiner in independent studies and, typically, an extensive amount of writing in the form of précis of each text on the bibliographies.

Track 1: Oral Exam
You may choose to take a traditional three-hour oral qualifying exam, which takes place at the end of Winter quarter. For oral exams, each faculty member administers their exam section differently, but usually, it is a slide- and conversation-based, question-and-answer exam related to the readings you have done prior to the exam. The exam is meant to demonstrate your deep understanding of the field bibliography and familiarity with the visual/textual materials at hand. Although some faculty may show you images you have not previously seen, you should not expect to be examined on things you have not read for the exam. Most examiners offer a practice exam before the official qualifying exam or at the end of the relevant independent study. For oral exams, the Major or Teaching Field exam is allocated 45 minutes and the other two fields are allocated 30 minutes each.

In the rare event that a student fails all or a portion of their oral exam, the student will take a written make-up exam in the specified field(s), following the format of written exams outlined below under Track 2. All three examiners will read and evaluate any written retake exams and will determine whether a follow-up oral conversation is necessary.

Track 2: Written Exams with Follow-up Oral Conversation
In this track, students can schedule their written field exams either all at once toward the end of Winter quarter or they have the flexibility to choose to schedule them at separate points over the Fall and Winter quarters. Either way, written field exams must all be completed two weeks before the end of Winter quarter. This will allow for the required follow-up oral conversation with all three examiners (80 minutes) to occur by the end of the Winter quarter. All three examiners will read all three written exams in order to foster a synthetic discussion of the combined fields and give the student the opportunity to answer

* As of Fall 2022, the timing and format of the QE is under faculty review, including steps following a failed exam.
to the written work. This also offers the student an opportunity to redress any deficiencies in the written exams. Examiners will offer the student an evaluation of the written exam in a timely manner and in advance of the follow-up conversation. The discussion will likely include slides.

The written portion of each exam field might include different writing formats, such as an essay, short answers, or a practical exercise (syllabus, conference proposal, etc.). All writing formats will require discussion of examples of specific objects or works. The combined written components for each field exam should total around 3500-4500 words (approximately 12-15 pages, 12-pt font, double-spaced). Each section is a take-home, open-book exam, emailed by the field examiner (cc’d to the DGS) at an appointed time and date, to be returned three days (72 hours) later (also cc’d to the DGS). If an exam is not submitted by the deadline, it may be disqualified and the student risks failing the field exam.

In the rare event that a student fails all or a portion of their written exam, they may be presented with three options, depending on the recommendation of the qualifying exam committee: 1) Compensate for the quality of the written portion in the follow-up oral conversation. If the committee determines that the oral component makes up for the deficiencies in the written component, the committee may pass the student. 2) Rewrite a portion of the exam. The committee, in consultation with the advisor and the DGS, will specify which portion of the exam is to be rewritten, how much time the student has to rewrite the exam, and how the rewrite will be evaluated. 3) Rewrite the entire exam. In instances in which the student fails the written component, and the follow-up oral component does not compensate for the deficiencies of the written component, the committee may ask the student to rewrite the entire exam. If this happens, the committee, in consultation with the advisor and the DGS, will specify the timetable for the rewrite.

Both Track 1 and Track 2
You are responsible for scheduling the oral component of your qualifying exams with your advisor and committee, which may include coordinating a room or remote meeting. If you have any questions about this, you can reach out to Upenieks. After oral parts of the exam are administered, you are excused from the exam while the committee deliberates. You then rejoin the committee and discuss the results of the exam, including strengths and areas for future development. You may pass the exam with honors or without. Following your successful exam, please complete the Ph.D. Qualifying Exam form on the TGS Forms Tab in GSTS.

In the event that a student fails parts of the oral or written portions of exams in either Track 1 or 2, they must complete any required rewrites and pass the qualifying exam before the conclusion of the next term. In the very rare
circumstance that required rewrites are deemed unsatisfactory and the qualifying exam is ultimately not passed, then the student is found to be making unsatisfactory progress and is excluded from the program. Appeals of exclusion decisions may be directed to the Graduate School.

[Link to document]

Dissertation Prospectus
The dissertation is the final requirement for the Ph.D. and is intended to represent a substantive contribution to the field based on your original research and analysis. It is supervised by your advisor with input from the other members of your dissertation committee. Your Dissertation Prospectus puts forth your dissertation project for committee approval.

Dissertation Committee
The dissertation is administered by a three-person (or occasionally a four- or five-person) committee chosen by you, confirmed by your advisor, and entered into GSTS on the Committee tab no later than the fifth week of Fall in your third year. The Dissertation Committee is not necessarily the same as the Exam Committee, although that is most often the case.

Two members of the committee must be full-time Northwestern art history faculty (or TGS faculty, as may happen if a faculty member leaves Northwestern) and at least two members must be tenured. Normally, exam committees are composed exclusively of Northwestern faculty members, but in certain circumstances external expertise is necessary and, with approval from your advisor, you may petition the DGS to include a non-Northwestern faculty as your third or fourth committee member.

Dissertation Prospectus Format
In Spring of your third year, after passing your qualifying exam and confirming your dissertation committee, you will write a Dissertation Prospectus of about ten pages (and no more than fifteen) plus bibliography and illustrations. The Prospectus is written in close consultation with your advisor, usually during a Spring independent study, and is refined in AH 406 Dissertation Prospectus. The prospectus should include:

- An overview of the project and primary objects/historical context, the principal questions that motivate the project, a clear statement of the...
project’s argument, and the stakes thereof

- Brief chapter outlines or principal components of the argument including methodology/ies
- A purposeful account of the "state of the field" (often called the “lit review”)
- A research plan
- A substantial bibliography indicating the primary and secondary sources necessary for conducting research on the topic

It is not expected that your Prospectus will be finalized for the Prospectus Colloquium; rather it should represent a coherent and well-articulated dissertation project that satisfies the above criteria. Examples of the Prospectus may be available through your advisor or can be requested through Keiser.

**Dissertation Prospectus Colloquium**

Normally the Dissertation Prospectus Colloquium will take place at the end of your third year. You will present your Prospectus in a colloquium with all committee members present. The circa ten-page document must be distributed at least one week prior to the colloquium to give the committee enough time to read it carefully.

At the conclusion of your Prospectus Colloquium, your committee will let you know if your Prospectus is approved, along with required emendations or suggestions for future iterations. If you have met all other degree requirements up to this point, you will be considered ABD and advanced to candidacy.

You are responsible for scheduling your Prospectus Colloquium with your advisor and committee, which may include coordinating a room or remote meeting. If you have any questions about this, you can reach out to Upenieks. Following your successful colloquium, please complete the Ph.D. Prospectus form on the TGS Forms Tab in GSTS.

In exceptional cases, when requested in advance of this milestone deadline, you may ask your advisor and DGS to postpone your Prospectus Colloquium until your fourth year. If approved, this does not postpone TGS requirements, which stipulate that you be ABD by the end of the 4th year or dismissed. Please be aware that if you somehow neglect to secure written approval for an extension, and if you do not complete and pass this milestone and your qualifying exam by
the end of Spring quarter in your third year, you will be placed on probation, which must be remedied within two quarters as per the rules on good standing below.

Fifth Year Chapter
Before the end of Spring in your fifth year, you are expected to complete and circulate to your committee a draft chapter of your dissertation (some advisors ask to review the chapter in advance). The chapter should not be an introduction to the dissertation project as a whole. Although it should be tightly argued and include proper citations, it is not immutable: after further research and writing, the vetted version is likely to change within the context of the final dissertation. The provisional chapter draft is intended to facilitate a check-in with the committee so that its members can assess progress toward the degree and write strong letters of recommendations for fellowships. It also ensures that written feedback is not left to the final stages of the dissertation.

The chapter is not awarded a pass/not pass grade, nor does it need to be “defended” in a meeting with the committee. Instead, the chapter is vetted by your committee members who give written feedback no later than eight weeks after submission. Should you not receive feedback in this timeframe, you are encouraged to consult the DGS or, if necessary, the Chair.

Once you have submitted your Fifth-Year Chapter to your committee, alert Keiser to update your milestones in GSTS.

Dissertation Defense and Awarding of Ph.D.
When you and your advisor agree that the dissertation is ready, it is presented and discussed with your committee at an open oral defense. Normally, this is before the end of the seventh year; TGS requires defense before the ninth year. Students who do not meet TGS’s limit on time to degree are placed on probation for two quarters, after which, if they have not submitted their dissertation or applied for an extension of the probationary period, they are dismissed by TGS.

In preparation for the defense and eventual deposit of your dissertation, you must complete the following:

- Circulate the complete and carefully proofread dissertation to the entire dissertation committee at least three to four weeks before the defense is scheduled. Be sure to confirm this timeline with your committee, as faculty
members have their own expectations. You must review TGS degree/deposit timelines and work with your advisor to ensure you have planned enough time to defend and revise as necessary to graduate in the quarter of your choosing.

- Coordinate a defense time with your committee and either reserve a room or set-up a remote meeting for that time. Questions can be directed to Upenieks.
- Faculty from outside your committee can elect to join your defense as members of the audience, although they do not normally ask questions unless invited to do so. Therefore, three weeks prior to your defense, you must alert Upenieks to share your defense date and location. You may also choose to hold an open defense where other graduate students, friends, or faculty are invited to join the audience.
- Complete the Application for Degree form on the TGS Form tab in GSTS. Deadlines change by year and quarter and can be found on the academic calendar. More information can be found here. Double check your unofficial transcript in GSTS to make sure you don’t have any incomplete grades. Work with TGS Student Services to resolve any unreported grades.
- At least one day prior to your defense, execute a tech or Zoom check with remote participants.
- At least 30 minutes prior to your defense, arrive and execute a second tech check.
- After your successful defense and/or final approval from your advisor for any revisions, submit the Ph.D. Final Exam Form under the TGS Forms tab in GSTS.
- Deposit your dissertation in ProQuest, following the TGS preparation guidelines, or apply for an embargo as outlined on the TGS Ph.D. Requirements page.

In-Program Feedback and Reviews

Seminar Feedback

Seminars are the bulwark of your Ph.D. study, and arguably the most important
work you do other than your dissertation. In seminars, you read assigned texts related to a specific subject and discuss them, in depth and with precision, in a three-hour format. Best results come when you are prepared, having carefully read the assigned materials, and when you participate in class discussion. Ideally, you are also learning to model pedagogy from your professors. Each faculty member should assign course and learning objectives in their syllabi, and you should make sure to understand what the expectations of you are in each case. Workload varies across classes, but it is not unheard of for a professor to expect anywhere from five to ten hours of reading a week. Most seminars conclude with research papers, which you should be sure to consider as the course develops rather than waiting for the end. Seminars are meant to help familiarize you with specific materials, but also to teach you the skills of critical reading and analysis, as well as confident speaking and dialogue. Other professional skills (conference papers, abstract writing) are sometimes also addressed.

In 2021, the department updated its graduate student seminar review process. This is an outline of “best practice” and what you might expect:

1) Each class should begin with an “intake” survey during the first week of class. This is usually in written form and means to ascertain your interests, learning goals, strengths, and weaknesses relevant for you and your faculty instructor to know.

2) Syllabi should include clear learning objectives which faculty will discuss during the first week(s) of the quarter (i.e., if it is expected that the final paper refer to course materials, that should be stated).

3) Each faculty should set up meetings for a mid-term check-in with you about your progress in relationship to your original intake surveys and to discuss any final paper requirements.

4) Faculty are expected to provide extensive written feedback on written work, especially the final paper (or presentation), before the start of the following quarter (i.e., within two weeks).

5) This feedback should include a holistic explanation of the grade that ideally responds to original intake information, including self-learning goals and/or stated learning objectives of the course.

6) If there is a concern about the comments/grade, you are encouraged to speak with the faculty instructor and advisor. In all cases, the DGS is also available, and advisors should be sure to let the DGS know if there are any problems.
Teaching Feedback

Whenever you serve as a Reader or Graduate Student Instructor (TA), it is expected that the faculty of record sit in on your section or read a selection of your paper comments in order to give you written or oral feedback regarding areas of strength and areas of potential growth and development. Normally, faculty instructors hold weekly TA meetings to talk about teaching expectations and grading, and faculty working with Readers should have detailed instructions and rubrics about grading. For additional information, expectations, guidelines, and resources, please see the Graduate Student Teaching Guide, which is online. Concerns should be brought to the DGS and/or Chair.

End of the Year Progress Survey and Report

TGS mandates that the DGS review all student progress at the end of the year, and submit that review on GSTS, where it can be consulted by the DGS, Chair, your advisor, and, as necessary, the office staff. To do this, every year in mid-May Upenieks will send out the End of the Year Progress Survey, which you are asked to fill out in its entirety. Questions include a self-evaluation including your progress to degree, plan for the following year, and comments you received on your papers; reporting on the year’s activities includes secured external fellowships and grants, publications, and participation in conferences and performances.

After you complete the survey, it is forwarded to the DGS, for approval. It is then uploaded to GSTS where both you and your advisor can review and add any additional comments. First year students will follow the requirements of the First Year Spring Meeting, as outlined in the milestones. If progress has not been satisfactory, the DGS will note this and detail the timeline required to remediate.

Good Standing

Continued advancement in the program is based on maintaining “good-standing.” With proper consultation with your advisor, the DGS, and timely completion of your milestones you will retain good-standing. In your first three years, please meet quarterly with your advisor to review your curricular progress. Please come prepared for those meetings with the “DGS_Advising_Report,” available online under Resources for Current Students and the end of this handbook. This document helps
assure that you are meeting your curricular requirements and milestones. Students in their fourth year and beyond are similarly expected to meet at least annually with their advisor (see “Advising” above).

**Good Standing in the Department**

Good standing in the department requires:

- Both a cumulative and quarterly GPA of 3.5 (between a B+ and an A-), excluding undergraduate language courses (cumulative GPA including language courses must be 3.0 or higher)
- Timely and successful completion of all milestones or properly requested extensions
- No more than one incomplete grade (Y or NR) on your record per quarter
- Each incomplete grade resolved by the end of the following quarter including Summer (leave quarters are an exception) or properly requested exception
- Evidence of incorporating feedback and suggestions for improvement.

ABD candidates maintain good standing by continuing to meet requirements like the Fifth Year Chapter and making steady dissertation progress, as determined by your advisor and DGS.

If, at any point, you are not in good standing, you will be put on academic probation. You will receive notification from the department and meet with the DGS and your advisor to determine remedies. The DGS will notify you through GSTS that you are not in good standing and inform TGS. You must re-establish good standing within two quarters (not including Summer) in order not to be dismissed from the program. Your progress toward remediation will be reviewed by the DGS quarterly. Failure to make satisfactory progress may result in a second quarter of probation or, after that, dismissal.

**Probation**

Although our program and milestones have been established to encourage the best possible outcomes, in rare cases students may find themselves facing academic probation, which can be determined by either the department or TGS. Department guidelines and qualifications may diverge from TGS, but in most cases the department guidelines are more stringent. However, should you request postponement of a department milestone, department permission does not excuse you from TGS requirements. Should you not meet TGS requirements, you will be
placed on academic probation by TGS, which the department cannot override. Consult this page should you have any questions. Failure to make satisfactory progress may result in probation or, ultimately, dismissal.

**Grounds for Dismissal**

Students who cannot re-establish good academic standing during the two probationary quarters will become ineligible to receive funding and be dismissed from the department and TGS. Grounds for dismissal include, but are not limited to:

- Being on academic probation for more than two consecutive quarters
- Failing to pass required departmental milestones within two quarters of their due date
- Failing the QE and subsequent written version
- Failure to make satisfactory progress toward completion of the dissertation, including submission of the Fifth Year Chapter
- Failing to adhere to TGS policies including those about registration, necessary medical qualifications (as, for example, proving Covid vaccination), working off-campus without approval of a TGS Permission to Work form, academic integrity, or equitable behavior.

Following TGS regulations, within five business days of the determination of dismissal you will be informed in writing through GSTS, including the effective date of the exclusion and a clear statement of the reasons for dismissal. For more information, see the TGS webpage here.

**Appeal Process**

If you have been dismissed or excluded from the program, you may appeal by writing to the Dean of TGS within ten days of the dismissal or exclusion date. Any supporting materials must be provided with the written appeal.

While the department makes its own rules about academic standing, milestones, and other expectations, we defer to TGS with regards to matters and procedures of exclusion.
Teaching and Other Professional Development

Graduate Student Workers (GSW)

Every graduate student admitted to the department on a full funding package from TGS is required to serve some time as a graduate student worker (GSW or GA) for the department, either as a teaching assistant (TA), Reader, or rarely, a Research Assistant (RA). Normally, you will serve as a GSW for three years. The department will strive for two quarter teaching loads, dependent upon departmental resources and commitments to undergraduate teaching. You will typically be a GSW in your second, third, and fourth years of funding.

Permission to defer your final GSW year until your fifth year may be granted, for example, if you secure non-department fellowships during your fourth year. In other circumstances you may petition for deferment of your final GSW year, but this must be approved by your advisor and DGS. Such deferrals require substantive scholarly reasons and depend on department teaching needs and resources.

For a more thorough overview of these positions, their assignment, expectations, guidelines, and related resources, please see the “Graduate Student Worker Guide.” The guide, which is always “in progress” and subject to revision is available on the department website at Graduate>Resources for Current Students.

Serving as GSW in other departments is not expected and rarely approved, unless it is through a fellowship opportunity on campus (Kaplan, Buffet, for example). In rare instances where a teaching opportunity comes up in another department, that opportunity is made available to all students in the annual GSW Matrix, subject to approval from the Chair and DGS. You are not entitled to arrange your own teaching outside of the department through entrepreneurial means.

GSW Matrix

At the beginning of May, Keiser will issue a survey regarding your teaching and funding schedule for the following year. The form asks you to rank your teaching and other GSW priorities for the entirety of the following year. You must do this in consultation with your advisor, who is required to sign off on your selections, which should correspond to your individual pedagogical and professional development needs.
Steered by the DGS, the Curriculum Committee assigns teaching responsibilities based on your preferences. Barring any delays, your teaching assignments will be shared by Keiser by the end of May, though they remain subject to change. Please note that TA sections are typically held Friday mornings and that you are expected to be available to lead sections at that time.

**GSWs and Taxes**

You will be taxed differently each quarter depending on whether you are a GSW or not. The quarters where you are not a GSW, you are considered on university fellowship. Information about how this affects the amount that is withheld from your stipend payment can be found [here](#).

In the August prior to each academic year, Keiser enters your funding quarter-by-quarter, based on the results of the GSW Matrix. Therefore, if there are any changes to the quarter in which you will be a GSW after the academic year starts, you must alert Keiser as soon as possible.

**GSW Training**

At the beginning of every academic school year, the DGS or another faculty member and one advanced student hold a GSW training session. This is required for all first time GSW and strongly recommended for all others.

TGS and the [Searle Center for Advanced Teaching and Learning](#) offer teaching training, certificate programs, fellowships, and other learning opportunities for graduate student educators.

**Other Northwestern Teaching Opportunities**

Stand-alone teaching opportunities where you serve as instructor of record for a class of your own design are available to advanced students by application through the department COSI program, the Kaplan Humanities Institute Franke Fellowship, and an increasing number of other initiatives. If applying for one of these opportunities outside of the department, you must notify the DGS, Chair, and Keiser by the end of February. This is because many of these opportunities require that the course you teach be offered through your home department, and therefore may affect or be affected by other department course offerings. Further, because the announcement of these fellowships comes after university course planning, this...
communication is essential for the department to have contingencies in place, should you receive one of these fellowships in late Spring.

Only on the rarest of occasions will other stand-alone teaching opportunities be available in the department for advanced graduate students.

**Work Outside the Department**

If you wish to work for pay while on university funding, you must seek the approval of your advisor, the DGS, and TGS. See the TGS website for forms and procedures. Please note that TGS limits the amount of work you can do to 20 hours a week including your departmental GSW requirements. Failure to comply with TGS procedure risks losing your funding, placing you on probation or, if you are found willfully negligent, eligible for program dismissal.

**Department Professional Development Programs**

As a part of your professional training as an art historian, you are firmly expected to attend department-organized conferences and lectures; participate in graduate professional development workshops organized by the DGS; and attend the few required training workshops led by office staff (for things like GSTS, submitting an expense report, etc.).

**TGS Professional Development Programs**

TGS offers research support services, international programs, fellowships, and grants to current graduate students. More information can be found here.

**Outside Professional Development Programs**

You are encouraged to develop a scholarly profile by attending and/or speaking at conferences and by publishing your work. Most students join the College Art Association and/or subfield associations, as suggested by their advisor (this is a good use of department grant monies). To be “competitive” on the job market, you
should aim to have a peer-reviewed article published by the time you complete your dissertation. Timelines and guidelines vary by subfield and advisor; consult your advisor about these expectations no later than your fourth year.

**Department Graduate Student Representatives**

Two graduate students serve as department graduate student representatives (grad reps). Typically, one second-year student is elected by their peers each year. Terms are two years so that at any given time there is a grad rep with a year of experience serving as graduate representative.

Both grad reps are responsible for attending all department meetings. Time is set aside each meeting for a report from the grad reps where they can raise concerns, share news, or make other announcements to the faculty. Reps take notes on the meeting’s proceedings and share these notes monthly with their fellow graduate students. Similarly, they organize monthly graduate-student-only town halls and share notes from those meetings with the DGS and during monthly department meetings. Grad reps are given admin access to the graduate student listserv to assist in this communication. Reps also serve on the Committee on Lectures and Events, which meets monthly, to ensure graduate student interests are represented in department events. Each year, they either assist in coordinating the graduate student lecture series, where local scholars are invited to campus to present their work, or the Myers Graduate Student Symposium. Other duties include occasionally soliciting feedback on particular topics from their fellow graduate students and presenting this feedback to faculty and assisting office staff in finding event dates that work for graduate schedules.

Graduate student representatives are paid a $1200 stipend for this labor.

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**Tuition and Stipend Funding**

**Your Funding Package**

The terms of your funding package, currently twenty quarters (typically five years
and five summers), are outlaid in your offer of admission. You are not guaranteed any funding beyond your original five-year package. For more information about TGS funding, see here and here.

Banking Quarters
In your first five years, non-department Northwestern fellowships (i.e. COSI, Paris Program, Block, Franke) and external fellowships may be used in lieu of your allotted twenty quarters of funding. This allows you to bank quarters for use in your sixth year to the number of quarters your fellowship covered (typically this is three to four quarters). You are not allowed to bank more than four quarters. Banked quarters come with full benefits.

Advanced Student Quarters (ASQs)
When possible, the university makes additional quarters of funding available for advanced students, called ASQs. The allocation of these quarters is determined by the DGS and Chair with an eye to equity and individual needs/circumstances but is ultimately approved by TGS. The DGS along with Keiser oversees this process to ensure transparency, equity, and the proper communication across university channels. The availability and competitiveness of these quarters cannot be predicted from year to year and students are advised not to count on receiving them.

Leaves of Absence
Northwestern subsidizes several varieties of paid graduate student leaves, including family leave and sick leave. These are determined by TGS and not by the department. Students are required to submit for a leave by completing the Petition for Absence form on the TGS Forms tab in GSTS. More information about the procedure can be found here for family leave and parental accommodations, or here for all other leaves.

All leaves of absence are subject to privacy regulations and your leave status is not shared broadly. You are responsible, however, for letting the department and/or your funding provider know that you are taking leave. Please see the DGS or Keiser if you have questions.
The Graduate School provides guidance for avoiding faculty-student conflicts on their webpage Dealing with Student-Faculty Conflict, which provides guidance for avoiding and resolving conflicts, with potential courses of action open to faculty and students within TGS and Weinberg. Grievances that cannot be resolved between individual members of the department should be brought to the DGS or Chair. You are also encouraged to reach out to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs in TGS.

In 2021, Northwestern hired its first Ombudsperson, who is a legally impartial and confidential resource for conflict resolution and enquiry available to students and faculty.

Northwestern University Graduate Workers (NUGW) Union

NUGW is an antiracist, feminist labor union fighting for better working and living conditions for all graduate workers. NUGW is currently working toward contract recognition with Northwestern University to lock in and guarantee wages, benefits, and workplace protections. For more information or to become a member, visit their website.
TGS offers innumerable resources to support your graduate experience, ranging from family to legal support, local transport fee waivers, and so forth. In particular, TGS offers health and wellness support which includes access to urgent care, patient advocacy coordinators, counseling and mental health resources.

Diversity & Inclusion
TGS’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) focuses on the recruitment and support of underrepresented populations to foster an inclusive environment and facilitate community engagement. More information about their resources, funding opportunities, retention initiatives, and inclusion and anti-bias training can be found on their website.

Nondiscrimination Statement by Northwestern

Northwestern University does not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship status, veteran status, genetic information, reproductive health decision making, or any other classification protected by law in matters of admissions, employment, housing, or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates. Harassment, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is based on any of these characteristics is a form of discrimination. Further prohibited by law is discrimination against any employee and/or job applicant who chooses to inquire about, discuss, or disclose their own compensation or the compensation of another employee or applicant.

Northwestern University complies with federal and state laws that prohibit discrimination based on the protected categories listed above, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX requires educational institutions, such as Northwestern, to prohibit discrimination based on sex (including sexual harassment) in the University’s educational programs and activities, including in matters of employment and admissions. In addition, Northwestern provides reasonable accommodations to qualified applicants, students, and employees with disabilities and to individuals who are pregnant.
Any alleged violations of this policy or questions with respect to nondiscrimination or reasonable accommodations should be directed to Northwestern’s Office of Equity, 1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4-500, Evanston, Illinois 60208, 847-467-6165, equity@northwestern.edu.

Questions specific to sex discrimination (including sexual misconduct and sexual harassment) should be directed to Northwestern’s Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equity, 1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4-500, Evanston, Illinois 60208, 847-467-6165, TitleIXCoordinator@northwestern.edu.

A person may also file a complaint with the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights regarding an alleged violation of Title IX by visiting www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html or calling 800-421-3481. Inquiries about the application of Title IX to Northwestern may be referred to Northwestern’s Title IX Coordinator, the United States Department of Education’s Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, or both.
Appendix

Registration Decision Making

WHICH COURSE DO I USE TO TOP UP TO FULL-TIME STATUS?

What year are you, based on the quarter for which you're registering?

1st or 2nd Year

Are you receiving stipend payments through the university?

Yes

No

Is it Fall quarter?

Yes

No

AH 590

You will need a permission number from Adams. Select the # of credits needed to get you to 3 credits.

TGS 500

No permission number needed. Automatically tops you up to 3 credits.

TGS 512

No permission number needed. Automatically tops you up to 3 credits. Costs $100 per quarter.

3rd or 4th Year

Will your monthly income checks still come from an NU entity, even if you’re on a fellowship that is allowing you to bank quarters? Examples: Include Paris Program, Block, COSI, Buffet, Framke, etc.

Yes

No

I'm not sure

5th+ Year

Have you been explicitly told by TGS or the department that you are eligible to receive health insurance for the year?

Yes

No

When in doubt, ask Keiser to confirm your registration.