

**How long does it take to complete the MA program? Is it possible to shorten the time period by taking extra coursework?**

The MA degree requires 30 credit hours total, 24 hours of coursework and 6 hours of thesis. All MA students must complete a thesis; we do not offer a comprehensive exam option. It will generally take students 2-3 years to complete the program, depending on how many hours you enroll in each semester.

**If I don't have the minimum requirements will you consider me if I have considerable relevant experience in the field?**

For the MA degree in Art History, the prerequisite is 24 hours of art history coursework; the prerequisite for the PhD is the same plus an additional 30 hours of graduate-level coursework in art history (ie, an MA in the field). This requirement is firm and will not be waived for related life experience.

**What does it cost to attend UNM?**

Check UNM tuition rates here: [UNM Tuition Rates](#)

**What forms of financial assistance are available?**

The department offers a limited number of assistantships (GA, TA, RA), which offer a monthly stipend, health insurance, and a tuition waiver of six credit hours (with all additional hours billed at the in-state rate). The UNM Office of Graduate Studies also offers a variety of grants, fellowships and scholarships. Students are also encouraged to apply for federal financial aid.

**If I am awarded an assistantship for the first semester of enrollment, am I assured of one for the duration of my enrollment?**

Normally a student is limited to five assistantships during their course of study. Each area of study determines the graduate and teaching assignments for each semester. These selections are based on a student's progress towards their degree, academic performance, evaluations of past teaching experience, and area needs. Awarding of assistantships is a competitive process done each semester. Although there are no guarantees that assistantships will be renewed, in most cases successful teaching and progress towards the degree will be justification for continued financial aid, to the extent that such aid is available.

**Is it possible to enroll in graduate credit courses before being admitted into the art graduate program?**

Students with an undergraduate degree, who are not currently enrolled in a graduate program and wish to enroll in graduate level courses, may apply for Non-Degree status at <http://apply.unm.edu>. Once enrolled in non-degree status a student may enroll in graduate level courses with the permission of the instructor. A maximum of 12 credit hours may be transferred to the MFA program. Transfer of this coursework is not automatic and is subject to departmental approval. Successful completion of graduate level course work as a non-degree student does not guarantee admission to the program.

**Who can I talk to regarding my specific situation / application?**

You can contact the department graduate office (505-277-6672 or [art255@unm.edu](mailto:art255@unm.edu)) and speak with the graduate advisor. You can also contact the faculty Art History area representative via email. Contact the department graduate office for the current area representatives and their contact information.