Art Conservation Studies Concentration

Art conservators utilize an equal balance of art historical, studio and scientific skills to perform their work. As such, any individual wishing to pursue an advanced degree, and ultimately a career, in art conservation must undergo training in three distinct areas of study at the undergraduate level: Art and Cultural History, Studio Art, and Chemical Science. The Art Conservation Studies concentration is designed to facilitate the acquisition of this skill set at Bowling Green State University and then to acquire hands-on training at Studio Art Centers International (SACI), our foreign affiliation in Florence, Italy. Beyond the coursework of the program, students are strongly encouraged to pursue conservation internships and other related fieldwork during the summers.

Minimum Requirements

6 courses in Art History and/or Archaeology (at least three distinct cultural traditions)
5 courses in Studio Art (2D and 3D)
4 courses in Chemistry (general and organic)
1 course in Art Conservation (at SACI, Florence, or at other US or foreign institutions)
1 internship in Art Conservation

Course Checklist

Art History:
Minimum 18 credit hours (six 3-credit hour classes):
At least two introductory-level surveys:
   ARTH 1450/1460/2700
   ARTH 1450/1460/2700
At least four upper-level courses, in at least three different cultural traditions or historical periods:
   ARTH 3xxx
   ARTH 3xxx
   ARTH 3xxx
   ARTH 4xxx (must be in one of the “tracks” already pursued at the 3000-level)

Studio Art:
Minimum 15 credit hours (five 3-credit hour courses; strongly recommended are courses in drawing, painting, and at least one in 3D; others could be substituted).
   Student selected.

Chemistry (courses designed for non-chemistry majors not accepted):
Minimum 16 credit hours (four 4-credit hour courses with labs):
   CHEM 1250: General Chemistry I with Lab (5 credit hours)
   CHEM 1270: General Chemistry II (4 credit hours)
   CHEM 1280: General Chemistry Laboratory (1 credit hour, with CHEM 1270)
CHEM 3410: Organic Chemistry I with Lab (5 credit hours)
CHEM 3440: Organic Chemistry II (3 credit hours)
CHEM 3450: Organic Chemistry II Laboratory (2 credit hours, with CHEM 3440)

Art Conservation (courses offered at SACI in Florence, Italy; other programs also available):
Students are strongly encouraged to study for at least one term at SACI, although students would most benefit from a full academic year (a two-term sequence during the Fall and Spring) in order to take advantage of the art conservation course offerings. In addition to many other benefits of attending SACI and studying abroad in Italy, SACI's art conservation courses will expose students to a European philosophy of conservation, one with a greater emphasis on art restoration not often found in otherwise similar American programs.

- ARTS(PC-1)400: Beginning Painting Conservation I (offered all terms)
- ARTS(PC-2)400: Beginning Painting Conservation II (Spring and Summer)
- ARTS(OS)400: Mural Conservation (Fall and Spring)
- ARTS(DTC1)495: Diagnostic Techniques for Conservators (Spring)
- ARTS(AO)401: Conservation of Archaeological Objects (Fall and Spring)

Art Internship

Since many graduate programs for Art Conservation require that applicants have documented conservation experience, students are strongly encouraged to seek internship opportunities at regional, institutional or private conservation laboratories. Involvement in supervised collection care projects such as collection assessments, re-housing, and exhibition design, as well as examination and treatment of individual artifacts is also encouraged.

Conservation Internships at the Toledo Museum of Art
The nearby Toledo Museum of Art (TMA) offers students paid summer conservation internships on a competitive basis. The current TMA conservation staff includes Suzanne Hargrove, Head of Conservation, and Jeffrey Boyer, Conservation Technician, and Kimberly Oberhaus, Administrative Assistant in Conservation. We encourage all students working within the Art Conservation Studies Concentration to submit their applications to the TMA for this internship. For example, here is a listing for a TMA 2010 paid summer internship in art conservation.

Conservation Internships at BGSU's Center for Archival Collections
Art Conservation Studies Concentration students should also consider applying for internships at BGSU’s own Center for Archival Collections (CAC). Art history major Jessica Pfundstein has recently interned in this preservation lab located right on campus and she collected the following information for future potential interns.

The Center for Archival Collections is located on the 5th floor of Jerome Library. Their website lists the specialists they have on staff for the conservation of manuscripts, rare books, and other items. Their website also lists staff contact information and phone numbers, as well as the
Center's hours of operation. The website for the CAC's preservation lab, located in nearby Perrysburg, OH, further contains information about the various conservation techniques utilized on site there. These techniques include basic repair, washing, de-acidification, and paper storage practices. Frederick N. Honneffer is the CAC conservator. He works in the lab preserving documents on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at the CAC in Jerome Library on the other days. His email address is fhonnef@bgsu.edu, and his lab phone number is 419-372-5764.

**Other Internships**

There are many other potential museums and galleries with art conservation and/or related internships. For instance, among many other institutions, concentration students should investigate internships at the following regional and national institutions with in-house art conservation labs:

- **Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH**
- **Intermuseum Conservation Association (ICA), Cleveland, OH**
- **Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH**
- **Art in Public Places, Arts Commission of Greater Toledo, OH**
- **Detroit Institute of Arts, MI**
- **Flatlanders Gallery, MI**
- **University of Michigan Museum of Art, MI**
- **Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, MI**
- **Williamstown Art Conservation Center, Williamstown, MA**
- **Straus Center for Conservation and Technical Studies, Cambridge, MA**
- **Northeast Document Conservation Center, Andover, MA**
- **Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA**
- **Atlanta Art Conservation Center, Atlanta, GA**
- **Midwest Art Conservation Center, Minneapolis, MN**
- **Balboa Art Conservation Center, San Diego, CA**
- **Getty Conservation Institute, Malibu, CA**
- **de Young Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA**
- **Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA**
- **Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA**
Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts, Philadelphia, PA
Gerald Ford Conservation Center, Omaha, NE
Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT
Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT
Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD
Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX
Kimbell Art Museum, Forth Worth, TX
St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO
Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO
Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA
Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
Save Outdoor Sculpture (SOS), DC
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC
Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
Phillips Collection, Washington, DC
Library of Congress, Washington, DC
Graduate Programs

In their senior years and/or after graduation from BGSU, students who have completed this Art Conservation Studies Concentration should consider applying for graduate school in conservation. Among other graduate programs, we would recommend investigating the following excellent schools:

**Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, Conservation Center, New York, NY**

**State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY**

**University of Delaware, Newark, DE**

**University of Texas at Austin, TX**

**Texas A&M University, Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation, TX**

**Courtauld Institute of Art, London, UK**

**Other degree programs**