V. ACADEMIC POLICIES

A. Graduate Academic Expectations Statement
The goal of the University of St. Thomas art history program is for participants to master the methods of the field of art history, including critical reading and analysis, planning and completing a research agenda, and the presentation of your work in both written and oral formats. While a broad knowledge of the scope of art historical periods, chronology, and attribution is important to the field, we believe that such content is best explored by a well trained and conscientious researcher.

While in the program, you may take a number of courses in periods or thematic areas new to you. As most of our graduate seminars are topic-driven, it is expected that you will work as an independent researcher develop a greater comfort level within the area of study.

Our graduate core classes are conducted in a seminar format with a limited number of students. In each you should expect:
- an intensive amount of reading
- an intensive amount of discussion
- an extensive amount of time devoted to research
- some formal presentations to the class
- an intensive amount of writing.

Core classes (seminars) meet once a week. Regular attendance is mandatory. Participants are expected to have completed the assigned readings and arrive at the meeting ready to outline, analyze, and discuss them.

Incompletes are only given in cases of extreme need. It is, therefore, important to organize your time effectively and plan your work in advance.

Researching topics will require that you use a wide array of libraries, including the St. Thomas library and others in the Twin Cities. You should expect to make heavy use of interlibrary loan and plan accordingly. Materials may take days to be delivered to campus (but can often arrive in hours depending on circumstances).

Presentations always have time limits. Students should strive to time their presentations appropriately (speaking as close to the limit as possible without going over). In order to maintain class momentum instructors will cut off an individual presentation if it takes too much time.

Seminar participants should always use high quality visual materials in their presentations. Please contact the art history Visual Resources Curator for advice and assistance in developing your images. Other technology needs may be addressed by contacting UST IRT.

Both inside and outside of the classroom, our program excels due a strong sense of collegiality among all students, faculty, and staff. While this creates a demanding and supportive learning environment, graduate students are expected to support the program outside the classroom. Graduate participation is expected at all department events. This includes talks by visiting
scholars, exhibition openings, and other events -- but most important is your attendance at events featuring your fellow graduate student colleagues, such as the annual Graduate Forum.

On a more general level, it is important that all graduate students familiarize themselves with the policies and deadlines contained in the graduate handbook. It is up to the students to schedule (and successfully complete) their language exam before taking their 7th course, to begin work on a qualifying paper prospectus (once they have taken their 10th course), and to develop a strategy to finish within the time limits of the degree. At all times the Graduate Director and the general art history faculty will be there to help and answer questions.