

# VISUAL STUDIES, BA: ART AND CULTURE OF SEEING

Visual Studies at the University of Pennsylvania prepares students to forge innovative connections across the disciplines that study vision and images. Students acquire a critical awareness of seeing and the problems and possibilities for investigating, thinking, and writing about seeing in the 21st century. Fundamentally interdisciplinary, the Visual Studies Program partners with the Departments of Philosophy, Psychology, History of Art, Fine Arts, and Architecture. Students may also find interest in Penn Programs such as Cinema Studies and Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies or outside of the School of Arts and Sciences in the Annenberg School of Communications, and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

In Sector B, students explore the status of images as representations or models of visual experience and as bearers of information, and they develop skills in interpreting artifacts visually.

The minimum total course units (<https://www.college.upenn.edu/credits-needed-major/>) for graduation in this major is 35. Double majors may entail more course units.

**For more information:** <https://www.sas.upenn.edu/visual-studies> (<https://www.sas.upenn.edu/visual-studies/>)

For information about the General Education requirements, please visit the College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum (<https://www.college.upenn.edu/curriculum/>) page.

Code	Title	Course Units
<b>College General Education Requirements and Free Electives</b>		
Foundational Approaches + Sectors <sup>1</sup> + Free Electives		20
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
<i>Stage 1 - Core Courses</i>		
VLST 1010	Eye, Mind, and Image	1
VLST 1020	Form and Meaning	1
or VLST 1030	3 Dimensions: Time and Space	
<i>Stage 2 - Core Courses</i>		
VLST 3010	What is Visual Studies?	1
Select 2 course units in each Sector:		6
<b>A. Philosophy and Science of Seeing:<sup>2</sup></b>		
PSYC 1340/ VLST 2110	Perception	
or NRSC 2217/ PSYC 2240/ VLST 2170	Visual Neuroscience	
PSYC 4340/ VLST 2120	Research Experience in Perception	
or VLST 305	What is an Image?	
Select one of the following:		
PHIL 1380	Aesthetics	
PHIL 2640/ VLST 2210	Introduction to Philosophy of Mind	
PHIL 2843	Philosophy and Visual Perception	

PHIL 4843/2843/ VLST 2230	Philosophy and Visual Perception	
PHIL 3623	Philosophy of Perception	
<b>B. Art and the Culture of Seeing:</b>		
ARTH 1020/ VLST 2320	Renaissance to the Present	
	or ARTH 278 American Art	
	or ARTH 286 Modern Art: Picasso to Pollock	
Select one of the following:		
ARTH 1030/ EALC 0100/ VLST 2330	Art and Civilization in East Asia	
ARTH 1040/ VLST 2340	Art of Global Asia	
ARTH/VLST 2350	Introduction to Visual Culture of the Islamic World	
<b>C. Art Practice and Technology:</b>		
VLST 1020	Form and Meaning (course not used in Stage 1)	
	or VLST 103 3 Dimensions: Time and Space	
Select one course unit in the following:		
FNAR 1010	Video I	
FNAR 0010	Drawing I	
DSGN 0010	Art, Design and Digital Culture	
or one approved alternate course (See Website)		
<i>Stage 3 - Art and the Culture of Seeing Concentration Requirements<sup>3</sup></i>		
Select 4 course units of Art/Culture of Seeing Electives with: Attribute AVAC ( <a href="http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/avac/">http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/avac/</a> )		4
Select 1 course unit of a Philosophy/Science or Art Pract & Tech Elective with the following Attributes:		1
Attribute: AVPS ( <a href="http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/avps/">http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/avps/</a> )		
Attribute: AVPT ( <a href="http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/avpt/">http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/avpt/</a> )		
<i>Stage 4 - Capstone Course</i>		
VLST 3950A	Senior Project	0.5
VLST 3950B	Senior Project	0.5
<b>Total Course Units</b>		<b>35</b>

<sup>1</sup> You may count no more than one course toward both a Major and a Sector requirement. For Exceptions, check the Policy Statement (<http://www.college.upenn.edu/sectors-policy/>).

<sup>2</sup> Important - Check for Pre-Requisites on PSYC and some FNAR courses.

<sup>3</sup> Four courses (4 course units) in your concentration and one course (1 course unit) from another Sector. (Note: No Stage 2 courses may be double-counted in Stage 3).

## Honors

Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.70 in the major.

- Senior Project Completed (Grade of A)

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2025 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.

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