

ART SCHOLARSHIPS – ART HISTORY

ART DEPARTMENT

Scholarships in art history are given to selected continuing students who have **officially declared their major in art history** at Westmont College. Art scholarships are granted on the basis of the applicant's **ability** and **potential**.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

All of the following must be received by the art department no later than **March 1**:

- Application form
- Cover letter (*see below*)
- Statement of progress
- Two writing samples

*Filing a **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** with the Financial Aid Office prior to applying will assist greatly in processing your application.

Art faculty members review all of the applications and select individuals who have demonstrated **the greatest potential for success in the field of art history**.

After the art faculty review the applications, the names of those students who are eligible will be given to the Financial Aid Office. Award recipients will be notified by both the Financial Aid Office and the Art Department.

It is expected that art history scholarship recipients commit themselves to working hard in this area of study and strive to achieve their maximum potential. The scholarships may be renewed, but **students must re-apply each year**.

If you have questions, please call the Art Department at (805) 565-6162.

COVER LETTER

In addition to your application form, writing sample and a statement of progress, an important part of your scholarship application is the **cover letter**.

We know from personal experience and the anecdotes of former students that students often have difficulty "talking themselves up," that is, putting their best foot forward. This is due in part to a laudable sense of Christian humility, but it is also the result of inexperience and naïveté.

The cover letter does three things:

1. Gives you a chance to articulate important things about yourself and your work that we may not already know
2. Gives you practice in presenting yourself to future employers or graduate programs
3. Gives you a document to use as a foundation for future promotional endeavors

Possible topics to address:

- A description of the trajectory you are on. What have you learned? What do you desire to learn?
- An anecdote that recounts a significant learning moment for you as an art/art history student
- Things you do outside the classroom because you are committed to the importance of art (e.g visiting or working at museums or exhibitions, volunteering as an after-school art aide, contributing to an art publication)
- Anything else that communicates something noteworthy about your achievements and goals in education, community or business

Be concise. **Aim for one page** – potential employers will not read a rambling four-page autobiography. Be sure to edit your letter for clarity and correctness before submitting it with your application.

If you would like guidance in writing your letter, the Office of Life Planning offers resources and assistance. Contact director Dana Alexander by e-mail at dalexand@westmont.edu or call him at (805)565-6237.

We look forward to learning more about you as we read your letters and review your work!

ART HISTORY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM CONTINUING STUDENTS

Date

Name

Address/m.s.#

Phone

E-mail

FAFSA on file with Financial Aid Office: Yes No

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

1. **Cover Letter** (a.k.a. Letter of Application)

Present yourself as a developing art historian by writing a cover letter that promotes your accomplishments in art history and addresses your qualifications for an art scholarship. Include information that addresses what you are doing with your interest in art outside the classroom walls. See *guidelines included with application package*.

2. **Statement of Progress**

Write a concise paragraph that addresses the ways you have grown since you have involved yourself in the Westmont Art Program.

3. **Writing Samples**

Submit two examples of writing on the visual arts. These may come from coursework, or from extra-curricular involvement (e.g. Horizon reviews, letters to the editor, etc.)

Application must be received by March 1. Send all materials to:

Westmont College
Art Department
955 La Paz Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93108