Master of Fine Arts in Art

The MFA degree is the recognized terminal degree in the studio arts. The MFA program is designed to refine the visual art skills of the graduate student in a particular area or areas of concentration by providing the instruction, facilities and time for the student both to develop a significant body of studio work and to expand his or her intellectual horizons in preparation for a rewarding professional career.

Studio Course Categories:

- Ceramics
- Drawing
- Fiber Media
- Painting
- Printmaking
- Sculpture

Master of Fine Arts in Art

Admission Requirements

Applicants for admission to the MFA program must apply to, and meet all criteria for admission to, the Graduate School. For admission to the Master of Fine Arts program in the Department of Art, the Graduate School does not require submission of Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores (contingent upon student's GPA). Additional information about these criteria and other admission criteria, such as international admissions, is available in the admissions section of this catalog.

Application must be made to the Graduate School and include the following items:

- A letter of intent stating the applicant’s goals and objectives with regard to graduate study;
- A portfolio of work (20 digital images of studio work which the applicant feels would most effectively represent his/her involvement, ability, and potential);
- An artwork inventory page that should indicate by corresponding number, the title, date, dimensions, and medium of each work; and
- Three letters of recommendation from undergraduate instructors, or other appropriate individuals, indicating the readiness of the applicant to pursue independent and sustained graduate-level work.

The Department has established February 15 as the application deadline for fall semester admission. Graduate Assistantship applications are also due by February 15.

October 15 is the application deadline for spring semester. (Assistantship applications are not considered for spring semester.) Applications received after these deadlines may be considered, subject to space availability.

The entire graduate faculty of the department will review all materials submitted by each applicant. Recommendations are made by measuring, as accurately as possible:

- The applicant’s demonstrated preparedness and potential to be successful in the program;
- The sense, on the part of the faculty, that the faculty could contribute, in a meaningful and constructive way, to the student’s development as an artist;
- Available space in the program, as well as faculty and departmental resources.

Other admission requirements include twelve credits of undergraduate Art History course work. Art History deficiencies of up to 6 credits may be compensated for by enrolling in the necessary courses concurrent with graduate work.

General Requirements

Basic requirements are a minimum of 60 credits in graduate courses approved by the Department of Art and the Graduate School. A minimum of two 5000-level courses, totally 6 credits, must be taken in the area of Art History (ART 5525 Contemporary Art, and ART 5527 Theories and Methodology, are strongly recommended for graduate students), and a minimum of 12 credits must be thesis project. The student may elect, as a program option, to take up to six credits in other related areas outside the Art Department. These courses must be departmentally approved. Students are required to complete ART 6601 and ART 6621. The department will accept a grade of C in one class as long as the minimum overall 3.0 GPA is maintained. The student will have the opportunity to repeat the course.

A written thesis will be submitted to the candidate’s thesis committee by the MFA candidate before the oral examinations. Each candidate for the MFA degree must also have a one-person exhibit during the last semester before the granting of the degree. A collection of digital images of the exhibit must be turned in to the Art Department at this time. The thesis project consisting of original creative work by the candidate is the focal point of the visual growth by the candidate and should demonstrate a professional level of competency within a unified creative point of view. The MFA degree is the terminal degree in the field of the visual arts. A minimum of two years of participation in the program is required for this goal. An oral examination is held concurrently with the thesis project show.

Additional information is available from the Department of Art.

Courses

**ART 5518 Art of the Book: 3 semester hours.**

Expands the traditional idea of book form with innovative structures and concepts. Textual and nontextual formats and methods for generating ideas for works are addressed. Traditional techniques for bookbinding will also be included. Equivalent to MC 5518.
ART 5522 World Arts: 3 semester hours.
Study of the art produced in cultures outside of the western tradition. Topics include pre-Hispanic art of Mexico, Central and South American art, and North American Indian art, Oceanic art, and the art of Africa south of the Sahara.

ART 5523 Nineteenth Century Art: 3 semester hours.
History of the visual arts from the beginning of the 19th century up to the advent of Cubism.

ART 5524 Modern Art: 3 semester hours.
Study of art and art theories from the emergence of Realism to WWII (1840-1940), focusing largely on Western Europe and the United States.

ART 5525 Contemporary Art: 3 semester hours.
Study of art and art theories from WWII to the present.

ART 5526 Special Topics in Art History: 3 semester hours.
Reading and discussion on a significant movement, theme, theory, or geographic area in art history. May be repeated.

ART 5527 Theories and Methodologies: 3 semester hours.
Study of art historical methods and theories of art, including but not limited to formalism, Marxism, psychoanalysis, semiotics, feminism, and postcolonialism. PREREQ: ART 1102 or equivalent.

ART 5531 Advanced Printmaking: 3 semester hours.
Advanced work in printmaking. Choice of medium.

ART 5532 Advanced Printmaking: 3 semester hours.
Advanced work in printmaking. Choice of medium.

ART 5541 Advanced Painting and Composition: 3 semester hours.
Special projects and experimental individual work for advanced students.

ART 5542 Advanced Painting and Composition: 3 semester hours.
Special projects and experimental individual work for advanced students.

ART 5551 Advanced Metals-Jewelry: 3 semester hours.
Experimental work. Individual projects may include plastics, electroplating, electroforming, advanced fabrication, anodizing or raising techniques.

ART 5552 Advanced Metals-Jewelry: 3 semester hours.
Experimental work. Individual projects may include plastics, electroplating, electroforming, advanced fabrication, anodizing or raising techniques.

ART 5561 Advanced Fiber Media: 3 semester hours.
Experimental work. Individual projects may include on-loom and off-loom techniques, dyeing processes, basketry, or multilayered fabrics.

ART 5562 Advanced Fiber Media: 3 semester hours.
Experimental work. Individual projects may include on-loom and off-loom techniques, dyeing processes, basketry, or multilayered fabrics.

ART 5571 Advanced Ceramics: 3 semester hours.
Individual projects may include ceramic sculpture, mosaics or experimental problems in form and techniques.

ART 5572 Advanced Ceramics: 3 semester hours.
Individual projects may include ceramic sculpture, mosaics or experimental problems in form and techniques.

ART 5581 Advanced Sculpture: 3 semester hours.
Experimental work with an emphasis on scale and environmental problems.

ART 5582 Advanced Sculpture: 3 semester hours.
Experimental work with an emphasis on scale and environmental problems.

ART 5591 Advanced Papermaking: 3 semester hours.
Further development of topics from ART 3391.

ART 5599 Experimental Course: 1-6 semester hours.
This is an experimental course. The course title and number of credits are noted by course section and announced in the class schedule by the scheduling department. Experimental courses may be offered no more than three times. May be repeated.

ART 6601 Independent Study in Drawing: 3 semester hours.
Individualized course designed to address drawing-specific concerns: technical, material, and/or conceptual possibilities inherent to various drawing media. May be repeated for a total of 6 credits.

ART 6621 Graduate Seminar: 3 semester hours.
Reading and discussion of theories and practices related to the production and presentation of studio art under the supervision of the instructor. Students will research and prepare written presentations for weekly seminar discussion and evaluation. May be repeated.

ART 6635 Research in Studio or Theory: 4 semester hours.
Investigation of technical, material, and/or aesthetic/theoretical problems in art history/studio areas under the supervision of the instructor.

ART 6640 Experimental Problems in Studio: 4 semester hours.
Experimentation in technical, material, and aesthetic problems in a studio area under the supervision of the instructor.

ART 6645 Studio: 1-12 semester hours.
Studio work under the supervision of the instructor. 1-12 credits. May be repeated up to 12 credits.

ART 6649 Thesis Proposal: 1 semester hour.
Summary of the objectives and goals of the thesis project prepared under supervision of the student's advisor. Concurrent with application for admission to candidacy.

ART 6650 Thesis Project: 1-12 semester hours.
Preparation and presentation in a one-person show of a significant body of work which demonstrates a professional level of competency within a unified creative point of view. An exhibition and slides of the works are required by the department under the supervision of the candidate's advisor. A graduate faculty orals committee will review and approve or disapprove the show and thesis proposal. 1-12 credits. May be repeated up to 16 credits. Graded S/U. PREREQ: ART 6649.

ART 6660 Special Topics: 1-4 semester hours.
1-4 credits. May be repeated.

ART 6699 Experimental Course: 1-6 semester hours.
This is an experimental course. The course title and number of credits are noted by course section and announced in the class schedule by the scheduling department. Experimental courses may be offered no more than three times. May be repeated.