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;
• An artist’s statement;
• A portfolio of work (20 digital images of studio work which the applicant feels would most effectively represent his/her involvement, ability, and potential);
• A work sample list that indicates 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; and
• 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, totaling 6 credits, must be taken in the area of Art History (ART 5525 Contemporary Art and ART 5527 Art and Ideas 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 6620, ART 6621, Art 6649, and Art 6650. Students are also required to take 12 focused studio credits. 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.

Each candidate for the MFA degree must create and display an original one-person exhibition during the last semester of study in the program. The MFA thesis exhibition is reviewed and assessed by the candidate’s thesis committee by an oral examination. In addition, candidates for the MFA degree must prepare and submit an original written thesis to their thesis committee prior to the oral examination. The MFA thesis exhibition and the written thesis should reflect a coherent formal and conceptual point of view. The MFA thesis exhibition and the written thesis should meet the professional and academic standards for the terminal degree in the visual arts. Completion of the requirements for the MFA degree requires a minimum of two years enrollment in the program.

Program Objectives

1. Students will formalize their ability to direct and focus their professional work.
2. Students will demonstrate the breadth and depth of conceptual capacity appropriate for a terminal degree in the arts.
3. Students will demonstrate a professional level of competence and a unified creative point of view.

Program Outcomes
1. Students will conceptualize and write a Thesis Proposal for their Thesis Project.
2. Students will conceptualize and execute a Thesis Project which projects the student's conceptual and expressive relationship with his/her major area(s) of studio work.

Courses

**ART 5508 Digital Media: 3 semester hours.**
Studio course integrating art with technology, providing hands-on experimentation; lectures and demonstrations will introduce key concepts and ideas as well as the history of digital arts.

**ART 5510 Professional Practice and Display: 3 semester hours.**
Course will prepare the student to present work professionally, and to explore employment possibilities, grant writing, gallery installation and maintenance, business practices, and survival skills.

**ART 5518 Narrative and Print: 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.

**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 Art and Ideas: 3 semester hours.**
This course explores and examines the relation between intellectual history and art history, including art and politics, art and theory, and art and society.

**ART 5528 Mixed Media, Intermedia, Postmedia: 3 semester hours.**
Art history course that examines how contemporary art practices have challenged and changed the concept of media and mediation.

**ART 5531 Advanced Printmaking: 3 semester hours.**
Advanced work in printmaking. Choice of medium. May be repeated.

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

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

**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. May be repeated.

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

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

**ART 5591 Advanced Papermaking: 3 semester hours.**
History, fundamental techniques of Western/Eastern papermaking on traditional methods. Traditional sheet forming, paper chemistry, pulp preparation, types of non-adhesive, history and terminology of book binding. May be repeated.

**ART 5593 Integrated Media: 3 semester hours.**
Studio/lecture course designed to acquaint the student with the possibilities of using non-traditional means such as site, time, and interaction to communicate ideas.

**ART 5599 Experimental Course: 1-6 semester hours.**
The content of this course is not described in the catalog. Title and number of credits are announced in the Class Schedule. Experimental courses may be offered no more than three times with the same title and content. 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 6620 Graduate Studio Seminar: 3 semester hours.**

**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: 3 semester hours.**
Research and practical experience in university teaching or exploration of theoretical issues in visual arts.

**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 6699 Experimental Course: 1-6 semester hours.**
The content of this course is not described in the catalog. Title and number of credits are announced in the Class Schedule. Experimental courses may be offered no more than three times with the same title and content. May be repeated.