Art (ARTS)

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Degree Conferred:
M.F.A. (ART)

The objective of the program of study leading to the degree of Master of Fine Arts in art shall be professional achievement of high order, a knowledge of art history and criticism, the development of a fundamental grasp and understanding of the professional field of art and its relationship to supporting fields of knowledge, as well as the satisfactory completion of course work and other degree requirements. The program of study will vary depending upon the art medium areas selected for the creative work and the goals of the individual graduate student. The Master of Fine Arts degree in art is considered to be the terminal degree in studio art and is awarded in recognition of professional development in the visual arts as evidenced by a period of successful post-bachelor's degree study. The M.F.A. degree is recognized as preparatory to studio art teaching positions at institutions of higher education.

Areas of Study: Major and/or minor areas of study include drawing, painting, sculpture, design, printmaking, ceramics, and photography.

Prerequisites to Degree Programs: An earned bachelor's degree with an art major concentration or its equivalent. Consideration will be given to applicants without an art major concentration who present evidence of proficiency in creative work in the visual arts.

Acceptance to the M.F.A. degree program requires a two-semester art history survey or its equivalent. Failing to meet this requirement, the M.F.A. student is required to complete the appropriate semesters of survey of art history for non-graduate credit.

In addition to the requirements for admission to the Graduate School, the applicant must also submit the following materials to the Department of Art: transcripts of college level work; at least three letters of reference concerning art work, work habits, and potential for graduate study in art; a portfolio of art works; a personal statement concerning background, imaginative and technical development, and goals for graduate study in visual art; and an application form obtained from the Department of Art on request.

Requirements for the Master of Fine Arts Degree: Completion of a minimum of 60 semester credit hours and a minimum of four regular semesters in residence (not to include summer terms).

1. A minimum of 45 credit hours in studio courses:
   A. A minimum major concentration area of 6 credit hours in each of four semesters (total 24 credit hours).
   B. Two semesters of ARTS 5913 Graduate Seminar in Studio Art, to be taken in the fall semesters of the first and second years of study (total of 6 credit hours).
   C. A minimum of 15 Studio Art Elective credit hours. These may include 3 credit hours in excess of the required 9 hours of Art History and/or criticism. Up to 6 credit hours in graduate courses taken outside the art department may be included, with prior approval.

2. Art History requirement: While in the M.F.A. program, the student is required to complete a minimum of nine hours of art history as follows:
   A. An elected 19th or 20th century art history course.
      ARHS 4813 The History of Photography (Irregular) 3
      ARHS 4823 History of Graphic Design (Irregular) 3
      ARHS 4883 18th and 19th Century European Art (Irregular) 3
      ARHS 4893 20th Century European Art (Irregular) 3
      ARHS 4913 American Art to 1860 (Irregular) 3
      ARHS 4923 American Art 1860-1960 (Irregular) 3
   B. An elected pre-19th century art history course.
      ARHS 4833 Ancient Art (Irregular) 3
      ARHS 4843 Medieval Art (Irregular) 3
      ARHS 4853 Italian Renaissance Art (Irregular) 3
      ARHS 4863 Northern Renaissance Art (Irregular) 3
      ARHS 4873 Baroque Art (Irregular) 3
   C. ARHS 6943, Seminar: Critical Thought in Art

3. The required final semester in the M.F.A. program is to be devoted to work on the M.F.A. exhibition, ARTS 601V (6 credit hours), the production and presentation, under the direction of a graduate committee, of a one-person exhibition of art work. The M.F.A. candidate will be responsible for making three acceptable slide (or digital) presentation sets of the exhibition and exhibition statements, which will be retained by the Department of Art and the University Library.

The final semester must be completed during a regular school year. During this final semester, the M.F.A. candidate may enroll for three additional credit hours in electives if the candidate does not hold a
graduate assistantship. The M.F.A. candidate holding an assistantship may not take additional credits in the final semester.

In addition to the requirements listed above, the M.F.A. program in Art also requires:

1. **Graduate Critiques:** All M.F.A. students are required to participate in regular reviews critiquing their artworks. These reviews involve both a mid-term critique conducted by several faculty members and a final critique attended by the entire department faculty and all current M.F.A. students. After M.F.A. students receive Candidacy, their participation is still required although they will no longer need to present their artwork for review.

2. **Candidacy Application and Review:** After completion of at least two semesters in the M.F.A. degree program, the student may make application to be a candidate for completion of the M.F.A. degree. The art faculty will conduct a formal review of the applicant’s work and progress in the program. The awarding of candidacy will be dependent upon a two-thirds majority vote by the graduate faculty based on the following criteria: 1) a demonstrated formal and technical proficiency in the applicant’s major studio area; 2) conceptual development as demonstrated by growth in ideas supporting the applicant’s creative research; 3) an ability to locate their research in the context of issues and practices within contemporary and historical art issues; and 4) the ability to communicate the intention and basis of their research in coherent written and verbal form. At least two regular semesters of residence must be completed after acceptance as a degree candidate.

**Graduate Committee and Major Adviser:** When the student has been accepted as a degree candidate, the student will select a major adviser from the graduate art faculty. The major adviser will serve as adviser to the student in planning the completion of the program of study. At least one semester before graduation, a four- or five-member committee of graduate art faculty will be selected. The student’s major adviser will be chairperson of this committee, and one member of the graduate committee will represent the art history or criticism area. The degree candidate may select one additional committee member from a discipline outside the Department of Art.