Requirements for the Master of Fine Arts Degree:

1. A minimum of 42 credit hours in studio courses:
   a. A minimum focused study area of a total of 24 credit hours. For each semester in residence, excluding summers and the final semester, M.F.A. candidates must enroll in a minimum of three hours in their focused study area as advised by their media area adviser.
   b. One semester of ARTS 5923 MFA First Year Seminar, to be taken in the fall semester of the first year of study, and one semester of ARTS 5933 MFA Second Year Seminar, to be taken in the fall semester of the second year of study (total of 6 credit hours).
   c. A minimum of 12 Studio Art Elective credit hours. These may include 3 credit hours in excess of the required 12 hours of Art History and/or criticism. Up to 6 credit hours in graduate courses taken outside the School of Art may be included, with prior approval. Students electing to take only 9 hours of Art History will complete 15 hours of electives.

2. Art History requirement: While in the M.F.A. program, the student is required to complete a minimum of 12 hours of art history. Students admitted to the program with 12 or more hours of prior college level art history courses may elect to take only 9 hours of Art History. Requirements include:
   a. Six hours of elected art history courses. (Three hours for students with 12 or more hours of prior college level art history)
   b. ARHS 5933 Contemporary Art
   c. ARHS 5763 Seminar in Critical Theory

3. In the final year prior to graduation, the M.F.A. candidate must demonstrate satisfactory progress toward the M.F.A. exhibition thesis by meeting regularly with the thesis chair and committee, as well as faculty and peers in the M.F.A. candidate's media area.

4. The required final semester in the M.F.A. program is to be devoted to work on the M.F.A. exhibition, ARTS 601V (http://catalog.uark.edu/search/?P=ARTS%20601V/) (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 one acceptable digital presentation of the exhibition and exhibition statements, which will be retained by the School 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 a selected group of School of Art Graduate faculty and 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 four semesters in the M.F.A. degree program, the student will make application to be a candidate for completion of the M.F.A. degree. A committee of graduate faculty members will conduct a formal review of the applicant's work and progress in the program. The awarding of candidacy will be dependent upon a three-fourths majority vote by the student's graduate faculty committee 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. Students who do not pass the Candidacy Review will be allowed one additional Candidacy Review, held during the following regular semester. Students failing to pass Candidacy the second time will be dismissed from the program.

3. 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 area. The degree candidate may select one additional committee member from a discipline outside the School of Art.

Graduate Faculty

Art History Courses

ARHS 5013. Case Studies in Art History. 3 Hours.
This class provides in-depth studies of selected artists, themes, or specific groups of art works. This course is only offered during intersession. (Typically offered: Irregular) May be repeated for up to 9 hours of degree credit.

ARHS 5563. Pre-Columbian Art. 3 Hours.
An introduction to pre-Columbian art from Mexico (3000 BC–1521 AD) through a survey of works of art from different media: sculpture, architecture, and mural painting. Topics examined include: sacred images, political uses of sculpture, architecture and cosmogony, as well as the relationship between the material and content. (Typically offered: Irregular)

ARHS 5573. Artists of New Spain. 3 Hours.
An overview of colonial art in colonial New Spain. Focused on native agency, social function of art, and cross-cultural communication. Topics include indigenous materials and techniques, the use of images in legal contexts, and ritual liturgy. Some consideration will be given to artworks from the viceroyalty of Peru. (Typically offered: Irregular)

ARHS 5763. Seminar in Critical Theory. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4763.) Study of critical theory as it relates to problems in modern and contemporary art. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4763 and ARHS 5763. (Typically offered: Spring)

ARHS 5773. History of New Media Art. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4773.) Examines the history of 'new media' art in relation to larger shifts in technology, philosophy and politics. Beginning in the 19th century, the course explores the development of photography, film, video, performance, sound and digital art through the 20th century. Culminates with an examination of contemporary practice. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4773 and ARHS 5773. (Typically offered: Irregular)

ARHS 5793. Making the Museum: History, Theory and Practice. 3 Hours.
Presents a broad overview of the institutional history and the contemporary professional practice of the museum world. Features numerous visiting lectures from a working professionals from the local area and nationwide institutions. (Typically offered: Spring Even Years)

ARHS 5813. The History of Photography. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4813.) Survey of photography from 1685 to present. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4813 and ARHS 5813. (Typically offered: Irregular)

ARHS 5823. History of Graphic Design. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4823.) Survey of graphic design history from 1850 to the present. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4823 and ARHS 5823. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923. (Typically offered: Irregular)

ARHS 5833. Ancient Art. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4833.) Study of visual arts of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, or Rome. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4833 and ARHS 5833. (Typically offered: Irregular)

ARHS 5843. Medieval Art. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4843.) Study of Early Christian, Byzantine, Early Medieval, Romanesque, and Gothic styles. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4843 and ARHS 5843. (Typically offered: Irregular)

ARHS 5853. Italian Renaissance Art. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4853.) Study of Proto-Renaissance, Early, High Renaissance, and Mannerist styles in Italy. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4853 and ARHS 5853. (Typically offered: Irregular)

ARHS 5863. Northern Renaissance Art. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4863.) Study of Late Gothic and Renaissance styles in the Netherlands, Germany, and France. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4863 and ARHS 5863. (Typically offered: Irregular)

ARHS 5873. Baroque Art. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4873.) Study of art styles of the 17th century, primarily in Italy, Spain, France, Flanders, and the Netherlands. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4873 and ARHS 5873. (Typically offered: Irregular)

ARHS 5883. 18th and 19th Century European Art. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4883.) Study of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century art and architecture in Europe. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4883 and ARHS 5883. (Typically offered: Irregular)

ARHS 5893. 20th Century European Art. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4893.) Study of major styles and movements of the century, including Cubism, Fauvism, German Expressionism, and Surrealism. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4893 and ARHS 5893. (Typically offered: Irregular)

ARHS 5913. American Art to 1860. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4913.) The visual arts in the United States from Colonial times through 1860. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4913 and ARHS 5913. (Typically offered: Irregular)

ARHS 5923. American Art 1860-1960. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4923.) The visual arts in the United States from the onset of the American Civil War through the Cold War Era. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4923 and ARHS 5923. (Typically offered: Irregular)

ARHS 5933. Contemporary Art. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4933.) Study of styles and major trends in the visual arts since 1960. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4933 and ARHS 5933. (Typically offered: Fall)

ARHS 5953. Art Museum Studies. 3 Hours.
(Formerly ARHS 4953.) A survey of the history and function of the art museum and an introduction to museum work. Investigation of collections and collections management, conservation, exhibitions, education and public programs, museum management, and contemporary issues which effect the museum profession. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4953 and ARHS 5953. Prerequisite: ARHS 2913 and ARHS 2923, or graduate Art MFA standing. (Typically offered: Irregular)
ARHS 5973. Seminar in Art History. 3 Hours.  
(Formerly ARHS 4973.) Special studies of periods and styles of art. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4973 and ARHS 5973. Prerequisite: 9 hours of Art History. (Typically offered: Irregular) May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

ARHS 5983. Special Topics in Art History. 3 Hours.  
(Formerly ARHS 4983.) Subject matter not covered in regularly offered courses, and relating to the history of art before the nineteenth century. May be repeated for different topics. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4983 and ARHS 5983. (Typically offered: Irregular) May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

ARHS 5993. Special Topics in Modern Art. 3 Hours.  
(Formerly ARHS 4993.) Subject matter not covered in regularly offered courses, and relating to the history of art from the nineteenth century to the present. May be repeated for different topics. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARHS 4993 and ARHS 5993. (Typically offered: Irregular) May be repeated for up to 9 hours of degree credit.

ARHS 6413. Greek Art and Archaeology. 3 Hours.  
Greek Art and Archaeology focuses on how visual and material culture shaped and were shaped by Greek society (religion, politics, military, economy, gender, etc.) from the Bronze Age through the Hellenistic period. Masterpieces of Greek art are analyzed alongside the material remains of everyday Greeks in civic and domestic spaces. (Typically offered: Spring Odd Years)

ARHS 6423. Roman Art and Archaeology. 3 Hours.  
Roman Art and Archaeology focuses on how visual and material culture shaped and were shaped by Roman society (religion, politics, economy, gender, ethnicity, etc.) from the Iron Age through the Late Antiquity period. We encounter famous masterpieces, but also the material remains of everyday Romans in civic and domestic spaces. (Typically offered: Spring Even Years)

ARHS 6613. African Art and Society. 3 Hours.  
Situates the artistic production of modern Africa (1800-present) within a socio-cultural framework, taking into consideration the role of the artist, the methods of production, the relationship between form and function, and the impact of geopolitical shifts (including intercontinental trade, colonialization, and globalization) on the artistic practice. (Typically offered: Irregular)

ARHS 6623. African American Art History. 3 Hours.  
Surveys African American art from the seventeenth century to the present. It begins with a discussion of the transatlantic slave trade and it examines art produced in what Pratt terms the 'contact zones'. It then follows developments in African American art from the Antebellum Period to the present. (Typically offered: Irregular)

ARHS 6633. Contemporary African Art. 3 Hours.  
Serves as a forum for the study of contemporary African art. It situates African art from the 1980s to the present within a historic context, addressing the impact of geopolitical ruptures on artistic practices, and it examines how the work operates across different intellectual, political, and geographical spheres. (Typically offered: Irregular)

ARHS 6783. Special Topics in Contemporary Art. 3 Hours.  
Examines specialized topics within the field of contemporary art, with special attention to cutting-edge issues confronting artists today. (Typically offered: Irregular) May be repeated for up to 9 hours of degree credit.

ARHS 6933. Graduate Research In Art History. 3 Hours.  
Independent study in specific areas of art history and criticism. (Typically offered: Irregular)
ARTS 5923. MFA First Year Seminar. 3 Hours.
Introduction to graduate level study in art, including pedagogy related to teaching art at the college level. Topics to be covered include: development of research interests, critical thinking within studio practice, situating work in the contemporary context, expectations at the graduate level, and an introduction to techniques and theories of studio art education. Prerequisite: Admission to MFA program. (Typically offered: Fall)

ARTS 5933. MFA Second Year Seminar. 3 Hours.
Preparation for a professional art practice. Examination of theoretical and practical aspects of career development for contemporary artists. Prerequisite: ARTS 5923. (Typically offered: Fall)

ARTS 596V. Fine Arts Gallery Internship. 1-3 Hour.
(Formerly ARTS 493V.) Study all aspects of operating the Fine Arts Gallery. Research and preparation for exhibitions, organize and install exhibits, care of art works, create and distribute publicity, arrange interviews with newspapers, and other media. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both ARTS 493V and ARTS 596V. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer)

ARTS 601V. Master of Fine Arts Exhibition. 1-6 Hour.
Production and presentation of a one person exhibition of art work. The M.F.A. candidate will be responsible for making three acceptable slide sets of the exhibition and exhibition statements. Prerequisite: M.F.A. candidacy. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer)

ARTS 602V. Graduate Drawing. 1-6 Hour.
Individual problems in drawing techniques. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall and Spring) May be repeated for degree credit.

ARTS 603V. Graduate Drawing Studio. 3 Hours.
Intensive studio practice in drawing combined with reading, writing, and discussion of relevant contemporary issues in the fields of painting and drawing. Includes regular critiques, both with the group and in individual consultations with the instructor. Prerequisite: Admission to MFA program in Studio Art. (Typically offered: Fall and Spring) May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 612V. Graduate Painting. 1-6 Hour.
Individual problems in painting techniques. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer) May be repeated for degree credit.

ARTS 613V. Graduate Painting Studio. 3 Hours.
Intensive studio practice in painting combined with reading, writing, and discussion of relevant contemporary issues in the fields of painting and drawing. Includes regular critiques, both with the group and in individual consultations with the instructor. Prerequisite: Admission to MFA program in Studio Art. (Typically offered: Fall and Spring) May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 622V. Graduate Sculpture. 1-6 Hour.
Individual problems in sculpture techniques. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall and Spring) May be repeated for degree credit.

ARTS 623V. Graduate Sculpture Studio. 3 Hours.
Intensive studio practice in sculpture combined with reading, writing, and discussion of relevant contemporary issues in the field of sculpture and new media. Includes regular critiques, both with the group and in individual consultations with the instructor. Prerequisite: Admission to MFA program in Studio Art. (Typically offered: Fall and Spring) May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 642V. Graduate Printmaking. 1-6 Hour.
Individual problems in printmaking techniques. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer) May be repeated for degree credit.

ARTS 6433. Graduate Printmaking Studio. 3 Hours.
Intensive studio practice in printmaking combined with reading, writing, and discussion of relevant contemporary issues in the fields of printmaking. Includes regular critiques, both with the group and in individual consultations with the instructor. Prerequisite: Admission to MFA program in Studio Art. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer) May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 652V. Graduate Ceramics. 1-6 Hour.
Individual problems in ceramic techniques. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer) May be repeated for degree credit.

ARTS 6533. Graduate Ceramics Studio. 3 Hours.
Discussion of contemporary ceramics issues in tandem with the development of a cohesive body of work. Students lead their own explorations, technically and conceptually, while working toward a professional standard of output. Includes regular critiques, with the class and individually with the instructor. Any ceramic processes may be used. Prerequisite: MFA Studio Art Graduate Standing. (Typically offered: Fall and Spring) May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 682V. Graduate Photography. 1-6 Hour.
Individual problems in photography. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer) May be repeated for degree credit.

ARTS 6833. Graduate Photography Studio. 3 Hours.
Intensive studio practice with reading and discussion of contemporary issues in photography for MFA students. Prerequisite: Admission to MFA program in Art. (Typically offered: Fall and Spring) May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 695V. Special Topics. 1-6 Hour.
Subject matter not covered in other courses. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Irregular) May be repeated for up to 12 hours of degree credit.