Program Description: 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 coursework 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 School 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, conceptual and technical development, and goals for graduate study in visual art; and an application form obtained from the School 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 42 credit hours in studio courses:
   a. A minimum major concentration 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 major concentration area as advised by their media area advisor.
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 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.

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 as follows:
   a. Six hours of elected pre-19th century or post-19th century art history courses.
   b. ARHS 4933 Contemporary Art
   c. ARHS 4763 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 submitting regular thesis progress reports to 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 (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 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.

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

Art History Courses

ARHS 4563. Pre-Columbian Art (Irregular). 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.

ARHS 4573. Artists of New Spain (Irregular). 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 vicerealty of Peru.

ARHS 4763. Seminar in Critical Theory (Sp). 3 Hours.
Study of critical theory as it relates to problems in modern and contemporary art. Prerequisite: Nine credit hours of ARHS coursework.

ARHS 4773. History of New Media Art (Irregular). 3 Hours.
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. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923 and 3 hours of 3000 level and above art history coursework.

ARHS 4773H. Honors History of New Media Art (Irregular). 3 Hours.
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. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923, honors standing and 3 hours of 3000 level and above art history coursework.

ARHS 4813. The History of Photography (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Survey of photography from 1865 to present.

ARHS 4823. History of Graphic Design (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Survey of graphic design history from 1850 to the present. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923.

ARHS 4833. Ancient Art (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Study of selections from the visual arts of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, or Rome. Prerequisite: ARHS 2913.

ARHS 4843. Medieval Art (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Study of Early Christian, Byzantine, Early Medieval, Romanesque, and Gothic styles. Prerequisite: ARHS 2913.

ARHS 4853. Italian Renaissance Art (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Study of Proto-Renaissance, Early Renaissance, Early High Renaissance, and Mannerist styles in Italy. Prerequisite: ARHS 2913.

ARHS 4863. Northern Renaissance Art (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Study of Late Gothic and Renaissance styles in the Netherlands, Germany, and France. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923.

ARHS 4873. Baroque Art (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Study of art styles of the 17th century, primarily in Italy, Spain, France, Flanders, and the Netherlands. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923.

ARHS 4883. Ancient Art (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Study of selections from the visual arts of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, or Rome. Prerequisite: ARHS 2913.

ARHS 4843. Medieval Art (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Study of Early Christian, Byzantine, Early Medieval, Romanesque, and Gothic styles. Prerequisite: ARHS 2913.
ARHS 4883. 18th and 19th Century European Art (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Study of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century art and architecture in Europe. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923.

ARHS 4893. 20th Century European Art (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Study of the major styles and movements of the century, including Cubism, Fauvism, German Expressionism, and Surrealism. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923.

ARHS 4913. American Art to 1860 (Irregular). 3 Hours.
The visual arts in the United States from Colonial times through 1860. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923.

The visual arts in the United States from the onset of the American Civil War through the Cold War Era. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923.

ARHS 4933. Contemporary Art (Fa). 3 Hours.
Study of styles and major trends in the visual arts since 1960. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923.

ARHS 4953. Art Museum Studies (Irregular). 3 Hours.
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 affect the museum profession. Prerequisite: ARHS 2913 and ARHS 2923, or graduate Art MFA standing.

ARHS 4973. Seminar in Art History (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Special studies of periods and styles of art. Prerequisite: 9 hours of Art History. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

ARHS 4983. Special Topics in Art History (Irregular). 3 Hours.
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. Prerequisite: ARHS 2913 or ARHS 2923. May be repeated for up to 9 hours of degree credit.

ARHS 4993. Special Topics in Modern Art (Irregular). 3 Hours.
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. Prerequisite: ARHS 2923. May be repeated for up to 9 hours of degree credit.

ARHS 6933. Graduate Research In Art History (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Independent study in specific areas of art history and criticism.

ARHS 6943. Seminar: Critical Thought in Art (Fa). 3 Hours.
Explore topics of concern to the studio artist involving underlying concepts and purposes of art as well as models and methods for the analysis of art. Course based on discussions of selected readings, prepared papers and seminar reports. Prerequisite: graduate standing. May be repeated for up to 3 hours of degree credit.

Art Courses

ARTS 4023. Figure Drawing II (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Advanced study of the figure with emphasis on figure structure and its relationship to pictorial form in drawing. Prerequisite: ARTS 2013.

ARTS 4303. Professional Development and Seminar (Sp). 3 Hours.
Preparation of students for professional practice and job seeking. Development of online and print portfolio and other collateral. Contemporary design practice through discussions, reading, writing, guest speakers and studio visits. Emphasis on assisting each student in preparing for their unique future. Prerequisite: ARTS 3383 and ARTS 3393 and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design majors only.

ARTS 4313. Interactive Language (Sp). 3 Hours.
Advanced course utilizing interactive languages to create responsive experiences for the web, touch screens. Exploration of the intersection of linear and non-linear design experiences in the application of motion to web. Prerequisite: ARTS 3383 and ARTS 3393 and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design majors only.

ARTS 4323. Technology in Context (Fa). 3 Hours.
Advanced course focusing on speculative explorations in the world of interaction design. Much of the work will be touch and gesture based and dealing with the built environment. Application of knowledge about proper workflow and execution in an advanced way. Prerequisite: ARTS 4303 and ARTS 4313 and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design majors only.

ARTS 4343. Identity Systems (Fa). 3 Hours.
Advanced identity design course emphasizing creating cohesive messaging systems that cover a wide range of media. Creation of identity systems that are based on research and appropriate to content, context and audience. Media may span environmental, motion, print, web and packaging. Prerequisite: ARTS 4303 and ARTS 4313 and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design majors only.

ARTS 4353. Human Centered Design (Fa). 3 Hours.
Research-based studio introducing design methods that focus on an audience centric process. Exposure to communication theory, modes of persuasion, sustainability, how to design for niche audiences. Prerequisite: ARTS 4303 and ARTS 4313 and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design majors only.

ARTS 4363. Design Co-op (Sp, Fa). 3 Hours.
Collaboration with an organization, or design firm, providing opportunity to address problems existing outside of the classroom with the focus shifting between design for good initiatives. Collaboration, research, problem seeking and solving will be addressed. Prerequisite: ARTS 4323, ARTS 4343, and ARTS 4353 and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design majors only.

ARTS 4373. Advanced Typography (Sp). 3 Hours.
Culminating typography course, exploration of typography at an advanced level through a variety of projects. Projects may range from type design to type in motion to complex publication design. Exhibition of the utmost professional idenation, process, execution and craft expected. Prerequisite: ARTS 4323, ARTS 4343, and ARTS 4353 and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design majors only.

ARTS 4383. Degree Project (Sp). 3 Hours.
Capstone course requiring completion of a self-directed project through in-depth research, writing and making, offering an opportunity to specialize prior to entering the job market. Prerequisite: ARTS 4323, ARTS 4343, and ARTS 4353 and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design majors only.

ARTS 4513. Technical Ceramics (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Advanced study of ceramic materials and processes. Clay composition, clay body formulation and analysis, glaze composition and formulation, firing methods (low, mid, and high-temperature gas, electric and atmospheric firings), and kiln design will be covered in depth. Prerequisite: ARTS 4503.

This course introduces students to the World Wide Web and the technologies and practices involved in creating a successful Web presence. Discussions include interactivity, usability and accessibility with an emphasis on standards-based hand-coding with a special attention to graphic design standards.

ARTS 4623. Visual Design: Web II (Sp). 3 Hours.
This advanced web design course deals with responsive web coding for desktop computers and mobile devices, including advanced HTML5, CSS3, PHP, databases, video and audio methods, content management systems and social media integration. Prerequisite: ARTS 4613.

ARTS 4663. Visual Design: Motion Design (Sp). 3 Hours.
In this course, students will explore motion graphic design as it combines 2D and 3D animation, typography, video footage photography and sound. The projects will explore elements of storytelling, moving compositions and animation principles that focus on Web delivery, using mainly Apple Final Cut Pro and Adobe After Effects. Prerequisite: ARTS 3363.
ARTS 469V. Special Problems in Interactive Design (Irregular). 1-6 Hour.
Students work on special projects on an individual basis with instructor, exploring innovative interface design, in-depth projects potentially exploring solutions to and awareness of social issues, with various types of media, from DVD and digital video to Web and motion graphics. Cross-discipline collaboration is encouraged. Prerequisite: ARTS 4613 and ARTS 4623. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 4813. Digital Photography (Sp, Fa). 3 Hours.
Introduction to digital photography production, techniques and theory. Digital input from scanning (flatbed & slide/negative), digital cameras, video and internet sources. Computer assisted manipulation of imagery for correction and abstraction. Output to a digital printing systems, analog systems (film recorder), servers and Internet. Prerequisite: ARTS 3803.

ARTS 4833. Advanced Black and White Photography (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Advanced black and white theory, practice and techniques including: Zone System, large format camera and studio lighting. Prerequisite: ARTS 3803.

ARTS 484V. Special Problems in Photography (Sp, Fa). 1-6 Hour.
Individual instruction for advanced undergraduates and graduate students. Special projects in photography designated by students in collaboration with faculty. Prerequisite: ARTS 3803 and (ARTS 3813 or ARTS 4823 or ARTS 4833). May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 4883. Bookmaking (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Introduction to the creation of unique, limited edition artist's bookworks -- with emphasis on technical knowledge and conceptual understanding of the book form as a means of artistic expression.

ARTS 493V. Fine Arts Gallery Internship (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-3 Hour.
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.

ARTS 494V. Graphic Design Internship (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-6 Hour.
Credit for practical experience gained through internship in graphic design. Report required form intern and field supervisor on progress and significant accomplishments. 3 credit hours per semester. Prerequisite: Any 4000 level ARTS visual design course except ARTS 4343. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 5013. Graduate Drawing (Fa). 3 Hours.
Graduate level study of drawing materials and techniques. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

ARTS 5913. Graduate Seminar in Studio Art (Fa). 3 Hours.
Examination and analysis of current issues and professional practices in contemporary visual art. The relationship of current theoretical literature to studio practice will be explored through writings, presentations and discussions of graduate student research. Prerequisite: Admission to MFA program. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 601V. Master of Fine Arts Exhibition (Sp, Su, Fa). 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.

ARTS 602V. Graduate Drawing (Sp, Fa). 1-6 Hour.
Individual problems in drawing techniques. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for degree credit.

ARTS 6033. Graduate Drawing Studio (Sp, Fa). 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. May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 612V. Graduate Painting (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-6 Hour.
Individual problems in painting techniques. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for degree credit.

ARTS 6133. Graduate Painting Studio (Sp, Fa). 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. May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 622V. Graduate Sculpture (Sp, Fa). 1-6 Hour.
Individual problems in sculpture techniques. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for degree credit.

ARTS 6333. Graduate Sculpture Studio (Sp, Fa). 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. May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 6383. Graduate Ceramics Studio (Sp, Fa). 3 Hours.
Ceramic techniques and issues in the studio art form. Individual projects. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 6383. Graduate Ceramics (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-6 Hour.
Individual problems in ceramic techniques. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for degree credit.

ARTS 6533. Graduate Graphic Design Studio (Irregular). 3 Hours.
Research-based studio which introduces students to design methods, focusing on an audience-centric process. This exploratory study will provide both artists and designers a broader perspective into creating work that strongly resonates with audiences. Through reading, writing, discussion, critique, and research, students will examine and question contemporary discourse. May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 642V. Graduate Printmaking (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-6 Hour.
Individual problems in printmaking techniques. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for degree credit.

ARTS 6433. Graduate Printmaking Studio (Sp, Su, Fa). 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. May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 652V. Graduate Ceramics (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-6 Hour.
Individual problems in ceramic techniques. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for degree credit.

ARTS 6533. Graduate Ceramics Studio (Sp, Fa). 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. May be repeated for up to 18 hours of degree credit.

ARTS 662V. Graduate Photography (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-6 Hour.
Individual problems in photography. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. May be repeated for degree credit.

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

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