

B.F.A. in Studio Art & Design

The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in art and design is a program intended for the student who wishes to pursue a professional career in the visual arts or design. The program is organized into a four-year sequence of study that provides a solid understanding of art, design, and art history. The student has an opportunity to explore a variety of curricular options and then chooses an intensive and professional major concentration. In addition to a primary concentration, B.F.A. students are encouraged to select a secondary area of interest to broaden their thinking and to enrich their creative study. B.F.A. candidates share a close working relationship with the department's faculty who are active professional artists and designers. Intensive studio work is complemented by an academic education with strong art history and liberal arts components. The B.F.A. degree consists of 67 credit hours in art, of which 55-58* are in studio and design, and 9-12* in art history.

B.F.A. Freshman and Sophomore Years

Freshman and Sophomore Students beginning in the program are required to complete a five-course studio curriculum during their first two years. The following courses are mandated: Drawing I, Figure Drawing, 2-D Foundations, 3-D Foundations and Photography I. This intensive curriculum establishes a base for the studio practices and principles for all visual expression. At the end of the fourth semester, students who have earned a minimum 3.25 grade point average in the program's courses will be accepted as candidates for the B.F.A. degree. Students who do not qualify are eligible for the B.A. degree.

*Note: B.F.A. candidates are waived from the second History/Social Science requirement and the University Fine Arts requirement.

B.F.A. Junior and Senior Years

By the beginning of the student's Junior year in the program, they must have completed the majority of the requirements of the program and have received a minimum grade point average of 3.25 in all art studio, art history, and design courses. Then, by the end of Junior year, B.F.A. candidates should have a concept created for their Senior thesis project. Students are reviewed at the end of the Junior year by area faculty, and again in November of the senior year by the entire studio and design to determine that project is rigorous, creative, professional and feasible. At these two reviews, students must receive support from the majority of the faculty to continue to work towards their B.F.A. Students meet regularly with their thesis director during their senior year and receive feedback from these review sessions. Those accepted into the B.F.A. program begin a two-year primary concentration in one of the following areas: ceramics, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, industrial design, or visual communication design. The concentration requires 15 hours of study in a major concentration area. Teaching in the concentration area stresses the creative development and preparation of the student for the professional world. In addition to

pursuing a concentration, during a student's senior year, all B.F.A. majors must enroll in the B.F.A. Senior Seminar (1 credit hour, fall only), which addresses both academic and professional issues. Students must also be enrolled in the Senior Thesis Courses (3 credit hours in fall, 6 credit hours in spring) with an advisor in their area. The culmination of the B.F.A. degree is the completion of a senior thesis project that is exhibited and accompanied by an artist/designer statement. The finalization of this two-semester senior project will require a thesis defense with the entire studio/design faculty and a vote is taken on whether the thesis project passes.

B.F.A. Course Requirements

- Art History (before 1600 A.D.)
- Art History (after 1600 A.D.)
- Art History (any period)
- Drawing 1
- 2D Foundations
- 3D Foundations
- Photography 1
- Figure Drawing
- Area of Concentration
- Elective (studio or design)
- Elective (studio or design)
- Elective (studio or design)
- Elective (studio, design, or art history)*
- 2D Elective
- 3D Elective
- 3-credit BFA Thesis (fall semester)
- 6-credit BFA Thesis (spring semester)
- Senior Seminar (fall semester only-1 credit)

**For the fourth required departmental elective, students may choose to take an art history course or a studio/design course. This option should be carefully considered in regards to your plans after graduating. Students should consider whether gaining further historical and contemporary context for the making of images and objects, or taking an additional studio or design course would best support their individual interests and career pursuits.*