

# Master of Fine Arts Degree in Studio Art and Design

The College Art Association and most other professional institutions of higher education recognize the MFA as the terminal degree for artists and designers. This degree has become the standard prerequisite for those who intend to teach at the college level. It is also appropriate for individuals seeking to further develop their professional careers as artists and designers. The department also awards the MA degree, but only to students who are not accepted to degree candidacy in the MFA program.

The Department of Art, Art History, and Design offers the MFA degree in studio art and design. The Master of Fine Arts degree at Notre Dame is for artists and designers with exceptional talent and strong academic skills. The program combines studio work with academic studies in art history and criticism. Students may concentrate in ceramics, graphic design, industrial design, painting, photography, printmaking, or sculpture, or in a combination of these disciplines. Students pursue areas of interest through a system of independent study with departmental faculty and a graduate committee selected by each student. Graduate students are expected to develop a personal direction in their work that culminates in a professional exhibition of visual artwork or design.

## ADMISSION

Art and design majors are evaluated primarily on the basis of a portfolio of twenty images, three letters of recommendation, and transcripts. All applicants must write a statement of intent indicating their goals for the MFA degree and their expectations for graduate studies. Prerequisites for admission ordinarily include the BFA degree in studio art or design, including courses in art and art history. However, students of

exceptional merit who have earned the BA/BS degree in studio art or design or the equivalent will be considered. All applicants must have a B (3.0 GPA) or better average in undergraduate major courses. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are not required for admission.

To be considered for financial aid, applications must be received by March 1. All applicants are reviewed by February 1.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Students accepted into the MFA program typically receive financial aid in the form of a full tuition waiver. In addition, the department has a number of stipends to award to students of exceptional talent. Students in good standing will continue to receive financial support for up to three years.

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- The successful completion of one credit hour of ARST 62704 (Teaching Methods) each year.
- Admission to the third year of the MFA program (MFA Candidacy)
- The successful completion of a written thesis approved by the student's thesis committee.
- The completion of a thesis project: an exhibition of creative work that is approved by the art and design faculty.
- Submission of ten slides documenting the completed thesis project to the departmental slide library.

## **CREDIT HOURS**

The MFA degree is a studio and research degree that requires three years or six semesters of study and 60 graduate credit hours with a B (3.0 GPA) or better average, including nine credit hours of art history, three credit hours in ARHI 63750 (Graduate Seminar), and ten credit hours of ARST 78708 (Thesis Direction). The minimum residency requirement for the MFA degree is registration in full-time status for two years or four semesters during the academic year. Students who are not in residence but still in the process of finishing an MFA degree must be enrolled for a minimum of one credit hour of ARST 78706 (Non-resident Thesis) each semester.

## **CONTACT**

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