School of Art and Design

Degrees Offered

- Master of Arts
- Master of Fine Arts

The graduate programs in the School of Art and Design lead to a master of arts (M.A.) with emphasis in art history, art education, or studio art (two years and a minimum of thirty credit hours; thirty-six is recommended) or to a master of fine arts (M.F.A.) with emphasis in studio art (three years and seventy-two credit hours). These programs are highly selective and closely integrated. All applicants are expected to have academic competence, artistic maturity, and the motivation to achieve excellence in their areas of concentration.

The master of fine arts is a professionally-oriented terminal degree in the studio arts, with concentration in ceramics, graphic design, intermedia/photography, painting, printmaking, or sculpture. Applicants typically hold a baccalaureate degree in art or its equivalent for admission. Recommended preparation includes twelve hours of art history, seventy hours of studio art or equivalent experience, and thirty-six hours of general education.

Accreditation

The School of Art and Design is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD), the only nationally recognized accrediting agency for professional art instruction. Applicants for graduate studies must comply with the standards for admission set by West Virginia University, the College of Creative Arts, and the School of Art and Design.

Reviews

All students enter the graduate programs in art as preliminary candidates. Students in the M.F.A. program are reviewed for advancement to degree candidacy at the end of their third semester of study or upon the completion of a minimum of thirty credit hours. Candidacy status is obtained upon review by the full faculty of the school and must be approved by the student's graduate committee. Students in the M.A. program are reviewed for advancement to degree candidacy at the end of their first semester of study or upon the completion of a minimum of twelve credit hours.

The School of Art and Design has high expectations for its graduate students. Because of this, certain standards of achievement exceed the minimum standards set by the university for all graduate students. The School of Art and Design reserves the right to impose stricter limitations on all art graduate students. Credit hours in courses with an earned grade of C do not automatically count toward graduate degree requirements. The graduate committee and the school director have the right to declare such credit hours unacceptable.

Program Transfer

A preliminary candidate in a graduate art program is not guaranteed acceptance into another graduate art program. A change from the M.F.A. program to the M.A. program (or the reverse) must be approved by the graduate faculty of the School of Art and Design. Under normal conditions, such a change is not considered until the student has established credibility by successfully completing a minimum of twelve approved credit hours of study at WVU. Transfer to a program outside the School of Art and Design must be approved by the receiving unit. To make an application for a double degree program or a special interdepartmental program at the graduate level, students must have prior written approval of the School of Art and Design Director.

Thesis

All candidates for a graduate degree in art must prepare a written thesis (or graduate project) related to their work and activity as a graduate student. The chair of the student’s graduate committee supervises the preparation of the thesis. The thesis must be prepared according to the form prescribed in the WVU regulations governing the preparation and electronic submission of dissertations and theses as well as school guidelines, unless an exception is authorized in advance by the student’s graduate committee and the school director. A final draft of the thesis must be submitted to committee members at least one month prior to the electronic filing date for review and approval.

Faculty

Director
- Alison Helm - M.F.A. (Syracuse University)
  Director

Associate Director
- Kristina Olson - M.A. (Stony Brook University)
  Associate Director
Graduate Advisor

- Joseph Lupo - M.F.A. (University of Georgia)
  Graduate Advisor

Professors

- Eve Faulkes - M.F.A. (Rhode Island School of Design)
  Graphic Design
- Alison Helm - M.F.A. (Syracuse University)
  Sculpture
- J. Bernard Schultz - Ph.D. (University of Pittsburgh)
  Art History-Italian Renaissance
- Janet Snyder - Ph.D. (Columbia University)
  Art History-Ancient, Medieval, Northern Renaissance, Native American

Associate Professor

- Victoria Fergus - Ph.D. (Purdue University)
  Art Education
- Gerald Habarth - M.F.A. (University of South Florida)
  Electronic Media
- Joseph Lupo - M.F.A. (University of Georgia)
  Printmaking
- Kristina Olson - M.A. (Stony Brook University)
  Art History-Modern and Contemporary, Art Criticism
- Naijun Zhang - M.F.A. (West Virginia University)
  Painting, Drawing

Assistant Professor

- Ronald Aman - Ph.D. (Pennsylvania State University)
  Art Education
- Joseph Galbreath - M.F.A. (Maryland Institute College of Art)
  Graphic Design
- Jason Lee - M.F.A. (University of Wisconsin, Madison)
  Sculpture, Foundations
- Robert Moore - M.F.A. (Utah State University)
  Ceramics
- Erika Osborne - M.F.A. (University of New Mexico)
  Painting, Drawing
- Rhonda Reymond - Ph.D. (University of Georgia)
  Art History-American and African-American, 17th-19th-century European Art
- Shoji Satake - M.F.A. (Indiana University, Bloomington)
  Ceramics
- Michael Sherwin - M.F.A. (University of Oregon)
  Photography, Digital Imaging

Lecturers

- Dylan Collins - M.F.A. (Kent State University)
  Sculpture, Drawing
- Kristen Harkness - Ph.D. (University of Pittsburgh)
  Art History-Survey, Methodology

Professor Emeritus

- Clifford Harvey - B.F.A. (Minneapolis College of Art and Design)
  Graphic Design
Applications

Applicants for the M.A. in art history must submit a copy of a written research project, three letters of recommendation, a statement of purpose, and GRE scores.

Applicants for the M.A. (studio and art education) or the M.F.A. must present a portfolio for admission to the School of Art and Design. This portfolio must contain twenty JPG images with a minimum of 800 x 600 pixels or equivalent video documentation. Applicants should take care to select images of recent and representative work for inclusion in the portfolio. Each image should be documented with name, date of completion, size of work, and type of medium. Applicants must also submit a statement of purpose and three letters of recommendation from college faculty or persons knowledgeable of the applicant’s interests and abilities.

Details about additional application requirements and the link to the online application form can be located at: http://artanddesign.wvu.edu/graduate_students/application_process. Materials should be submitted to: Graduate Advisor, School of Art and Design, College of Creative Arts, West Virginia University, P.O. Box 6111, Morgantown, WV 26506-6111.

In addition to the School of Art and Design’s graduate application and portfolio requirements, prospective students are required to fill out a separate West Virginia University student application form, which is to be submitted electronically to the Office of Admissions at http://grad.wvu.edu/ along with an application fee and official transcripts.

Financial Aid

Financial aid information is available through the Student Financial Aid Office, West Virginia University, P.O. Box 6004, Morgantown WV 26506-6004.

Graduate Assistantships

Graduate assistantships and other forms of financial aid are awarded to students of exceptional promise by the faculty of the School of Art and Design.

Master of Fine Arts

The Master of Fine Arts is a terminal degree in studio art. Our selective and limited enrollment ensures regular individual contact with a dedicated, diverse faculty who are committed to a sustained professional exchange with each student. A collaboratively designed curriculum is augmented by regular critiques engaging all studio majors and faculty. Media experimentation is encouraged. Students must be able to apply and communicate a diverse body of knowledge of historical, cultural, contemporary, and aesthetic issues to their professional practice. Students are expected to articulate and defend their position within the context of contemporary art discourse. The suggested distribution of studies for the three-year program is as follows:

Degree Requirements: Three-Year M.F.A. Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studio Art Concentration Courses</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives (studio/cognates)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art History</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Exhibition and Thesis</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: All graduate credits must be at the 500-level (graduate) or higher.

Transfers

In addition to the application materials listed, transfer students must ask to transfer graduate work completed elsewhere. Transcripts must accompany the written request. The acceptance of transfer credit is not automatic. The graduate faculty, the graduate advisor, and the School Director will determine how much, if any, previous graduate-level work may be transferred. The maximum allowable number of graduate transfer credits toward the degree is nine. All transfer credits must be in place by the end of the first semester.

Residence Requirements

M.F.A. students take nine to fifteen hours per semester. All students accepted into the M.F.A. program are required to spend six full-time semesters (excluding summer sessions) in residence. Approved study abroad semesters count toward the residency requirement.
Master of Arts in Studio Art

The studio art concentration promotes advanced study in ceramics, painting, printmaking, graphic design, intermedia/photography, and sculpture. This course of study requires a baccalaureate degree in art or its equivalent for admission. Preparation should include twelve hours of art history, forty-five hours of studio art related to professional needs, and thirty-six hours of general education. The suggested distribution of studies is as follows:

Degree Requirements: Two-Year M.A. Program in Studio Art

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Studio Art Concentration Courses</th>
<th>18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art History</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives (studio/cognates)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Exhibition and Thesis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

M.A. studio art students are required to produce a written thesis and, at the graduate committee’s discretion, may be required to hold a thesis exhibition.

Master of Arts in Art Education

Specialization in art education requires the completion of a minimum of thirty hours with a recommended total of thirty-six. The exact course of study is determined through consultation with the student’s advisor and graduate committee.

Degree Requirements: Two-Year M.A. Program in Art Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Studio/Academic Electives</th>
<th>12-18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art Education or Approved Studies</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 602 Master’s in Art Ed Project</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>30-36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

M.A. art education students are required to produce a written thesis or, at the graduate committee’s discretion, may complete a research project.

Master of Arts in Art History

The Master of Arts in art history program offers a two-year degree that provides a solid foundation in historical and theoretical study of the history of Western Art, from Medieval to Contemporary. The program emphasizes independent exploration and interdisciplinary research.

Applicants for admission to the master’s program are expected to demonstrate competence in the history of art, equivalent to an undergraduate major, as well as reading competence of at least one language other than English (four-semester equivalent), and must submit GRE examination scores. The B.A. degree in an area of substantial humanistic research plus a foreign language may also be considered appropriate preparation.

Reading proficiency in one language other than English in writing and speaking skills needed to communicate clearly and effectively are required for completion of the degree and can be met through additional coursework or passing a proficiency exam.

Art history studies the traditions and techniques of the visual arts. It is an interdisciplinary field, drawing upon philosophy, history, literature, religion, and mythology to examine works of art and their contexts. The history of art provides means to penetrate cultural constructions and their aesthetic and artistic productions. To assist the student in developing skills needed to analyze and understand the object, the course of study includes requirements in academic coursework and research.

The collection of the Art Museum of West Virginia University both provides first-hand experience with works of significant aesthetic and cultural value and introduces students to curatorial and museum practice. The Laura and Paul Mesaros Galleries in the Creative Arts Center and the Visiting Artist and Scholar program form a crucial link in the course of study, presenting installation and curatorial opportunities. Through the School of Art and Design’s association with regional institutions, museum and gallery internships are encouraged.

Completion of the program culminates in the master’s thesis, which may take a variety of forms within the context of art’s historical and critical practices. The student will select a thesis topic that must meet with the approval of the art history faculty. The thesis consists of a research paper demonstrating critical knowledge of relevant sources, skill in analysis and interpretation, and ability to present the results in a well-organized and intelligent manner. The thesis must be defended in an oral examination.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: TWO-YEAR M.A. Program in Art History

| Art History | 21 |
| Cognate Subjects | 6 |
Cognate subjects to be selected in support of research. (e.g.: history, philosophy, classics/religious studies, anthropology, arts administration, historic preservation, etc.)