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.

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.

FACULTY

DIRECTOR

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

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, UNDERGRADUATE ADVISOR

- Kristina Olson - M.A. (Stony Brook University)
Art History-Modern and contemporary, Art criticism

GRADUATE ADVISOR
• Joseph Lupo - M.F.A. (University of Georgia)
  Printmaking

PROFESSORS
• Eve Faulkes - M.F.A. (Rhode Island School of Design)
  Graphic Design
• Janet Snyder - Ph.D. (Columbia University)
  Art History-Ancient, Medieval, Northern Renaissance, Native American

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
• Joseph Galbreath - M.F.A. (Maryland Institute College of Art)
  Graphic Design
• Gerald Habarth - M.F.A. (University of South Florida)
  Electronic Media
• Jason Lee - M.F.A. (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
  Sculpture, Foundations
• Robert Moore - M.F.A. (Utah State University)
  Ceramics
• Rhonda Reymond - Ph.D. (University of Georgia)
  Art History-American, African American, 17th-19th century European art
• Shoji Satake - M.F.A. (University of Indiana-Bloomington)
  Ceramics
• Michael Sherwin - M.F.A. (University of Oregon)
  Photography, Digital Imaging
• Naijun Zhang - M.F.A. (West Virginia University)
  Painting, Drawing

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
• Dylan Collins - M.F.A. (Kent State University)
  Sculpture, Drawing
• Terese Giobbia - Ph.D. (Northern Illinois University)
  Art Education
• Jeffrey Moser - M.F.A. (University of Delaware)
  Interactive Media Design
• Kofi Opoku - M.F.A. (West Virginia University)
  Graphic Design
• Amy Schissel - M.F.A. (University of Ottawa)
  Painting, Drawing

LECTURERS
• Jennifer Allen - M.F.A. (Indiana University - Bloomington)
  Ceramics
• Aaron Blum - M.F.A. (Syracuse University)
  Photography
• Megan Gainer - M.F.A. (West Virginia University)
  Sculpture
• Kelley Galbreath - M.F.A. (Maryland Institute College of Art)
  Graphic Design
• Brett Herron - M.F.A. (West Virginia University)
  Printmaking
• Ronald Hollingshead - M.F.A. (West Virginia University)
  Sculpture
• Katherine Inge - Ph.D. student (University of Arizona)
  Art History
• Patrick Jones - M.F.A. and M.A. (West Virginia University)
PROFESSORS EMERITI

- Clifford Harvey - M.F.A.
  Graphic Design
- Margaret Rajam - B.A.
  Art History

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS EMERITI

- Victoria Fergus - Ph.D.
  Art Education

Admission to Masters Program

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 about the applicant’s interests and abilities.

In addition to the application materials listed, transfer students must 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.

Details about additional application requirements and the link to the online application form can be located at: http://artanddesign.wvu.edu/future-students. 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.