

MFA IN STUDIO ART

Total units required for the MFA: 60

Program Description

The Master of Fine Arts degree is a two-year 60-unit, multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary program in the visual arts with studies in ceramics, drawing, painting, new media art, printmaking and sculpture. This professional terminal degree offers opportunities for solo and group exhibition, curatorial collaboration, exhibition catalogue production and written thesis. The curriculum encourages an integration of art theory, art history and art studio practice. Students will be expected to demonstrate an advanced level of professional studio competence developed through a significant body of work that is contextualized in contemporary culture. Special emphasis is placed on the development of individuality, depth, and professional competence in both art technique and concepts.

The program prepares students to enter the Fine Arts profession by providing experiences with intensive and immersive study, exhibition of their work and community and professional engagement. The program also offers assistantship opportunities in teaching, art technician work and gallery operations. For a more complete list of possible professions attached to the MFA see Career Possibilities in Art (<https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/arts-letters/art/>).

Admission Requirements

Admission as a classified graduate student in Studio Art requires:

- a BFA or BA in Art or its *equivalent, including 12 units in Art History;
- a minimum 2.5 overall GPA
- a minimum 3.0 GPA in Art courses
- approval by Studio Art faculty review of other submitted materials (see Admission Procedures below); and
- English language proficiency: International students must pass TOEFL - minimum of 80 IBT, IELTS - minimum of 7.0 Band Score, PTE Academic Score: 65

*Equivalent- BA in Studio Art

1. In the liberal arts studio art major, normally at least 20% of the total credits are in studio courses, and at least 5% are in art/design history. Total required work in the visual arts normally equals 30-45% of the curriculum.

2. The curriculum should aim primarily toward breadth of experience and understanding rather than professional specialization. The primary objective of such training is not necessarily preparation for a career in art or design.

Upon graduation from BA or BFA, students must demonstrate:

- A developed visual sensitivity.
- The technical skills, perceptual development, and understanding of principles of visual organization sufficient to achieve basic visual communication and expression in one or more media.
- The ability to make workable connections between concept and media.

- Some familiarity with the works and intentions of major artists/designers and movements of the past and the present, both in the Western and non-Western worlds.
- An understanding of the nature of contemporary thinking on art and design.

Admission Procedures

Applicants must complete a University application and a separate Art Departmental application by the posted application deadline dates for the term applying.

- Graduate Studies (university) application submitted online via Cal State Apply (<https://www2.calstate.edu/apply/>) by Graduate Studies deadline.
- Art Department application submitted via SlideRoom (refer to Art Department website) that includes the following:
 - Art Department application form
 - Essay of intent addressing listed content on site
 - 3 letters of recommendation from previous faculty or art professionals
 - Official transcripts of all colleges attended
 - Twenty images or appropriate format of work (time-based images or documentation, video, audio etc.)

For additional admissions information please visit the Office of Graduate Studies website (<https://www.csus.edu/graduate-studies/>).

Minimum GPA Requirement

Minimum Cumulative GPA: 3.0

Advancement to Candidacy

Each student must file an application for Advancement to Candidacy, indicating a proposed program of graduate study. This procedure should begin as soon as the classified graduate student has:


- removed any deficiencies;
- completed at least 30 units of 200-level courses in the graduate program with a minimum 3.0 GPA;
- taken the Writing Placement for Graduate Students (WPG) or taken a Graduate Writing Intensive (GWI) course in their discipline within the first three semesters of coursework at Sacramento State or secured approval for a WPG waiver; and
- secured approval from the studio art faculty, based on a formal presentation of the student's work.

Advancement to Candidacy forms are available on the Office of Graduate Studies website (<https://www.csus.edu/graduate-studies/>). The student fills out the form after planning a degree program in consultation with Art Department Graduate Coordinator. The completed form is then returned to the Office of Graduate Studies for approval. **Note:** Advancement to Candidacy may be attempted **only twice**.

Final Review

During the semester when the student expects to complete 60 units, the student should consult with the Graduate Coordinator and the student's advisor in order to determine the details (such as the number of pieces and manner of presentation) of the final review, which is a culminating exhibition of student work. **Note:** Final reviews may be attempted **only twice**.

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Basic Core Courses (18 Units)		
ART 206	Art Theory and Criticism 	3
ART 212	Contemporary Art	3
ART 222A	Graduate Seminar 1	3
ART 222B	Graduate Seminar 2	3
ART 222C	Graduate Seminar 3	3
ART 222D	Graduate Seminar 4	3
Studio Core Courses (18 Units)		
ART 201A	Mentored Individual Studio Practice 1	3
ART 201B	Mentored Individual Studio Practice 2	3
ART 201C	Mentored Individual Studio Practice 3	3
ART 207	Graduate Studio and Critique	3
ART 208	Intensive Graduate Studio and Critique	6
Elective Courses (9 Units)		
Select 9 units from the following: ¹		9
ART 231	Teaching Practicum ^{2,3}	
ART 120	Advanced Drawing	
ART 123	Figure Drawing	
ART 124B	Advanced Watercolor	
ART 125A	Life Painting	
ART 126	Painting and Drawing in the Field	
ART 127	Collage and Assemblage	
ART 140	Intermediate Printmaking	
ART 141	Advanced Silkscreen	
ART 142	NewMedia: 3D Computer Modeling	
ART 144	Digital Printmaking	
ART 145	Advanced Printmaking Studio	
ART 147	Video Art	
ART 150	Advanced Ceramics	
ART 153	Hand-Built Ceramic Techniques	
ART 180	Figure Sculpture	
ART 183	Advanced Sculpture	
ART 187	Installation and Performance Art	
ART 299	Special Problems ³	
EDTE 280B	Instructional Design ²	
PHOT/ART 161	Photography in the Field	
PHOT/ART 162	Alternative Photographic Processes	
Elective Graduate Studio Courses (9 Units)		
Select 9 units from the following:		9
ART 207	Graduate Studio and Critique	
ART 208	Intensive Graduate Studio and Critique	
Culminating Requirement (6 Units)		
ART 500A	Culminating Experience Thesis ⁴	3
ART 500B	Culminating Experience Exhibition ⁵	3
Total Units		60

¹ Six units of the nine units may be selected from any university undergraduate (upper-division only) course or graduate course with faculty approval.

² EDTE 280B and ART 231 are part of the teaching option and will satisfy 6 of the 9 elective units.

³ Open only to graduate art students competent to carry on individual work; admission requires approval of the faculty member who will direct the work and of the Department Chair via signed petition form.

⁴ ART 500A is a written thesis requirement and is taken with studio advisor.

⁵ ART 500B is the final exhibition requirement taken with Graduate Coordinator.