ART, B.F.A.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: University Park

Program Description
The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree requires thorough preparation and is intended to develop a level of competence that will enable persons who wish to pursue professional careers in art to prepare themselves for specialized graduate studies, specialized professional training, and/or immediate participation in creative work.

Students enrolled in the School of Visual Arts may seek entrance into the B.F.A. program no earlier than the second semester and no later than the fourth semester.

There will be a continuous review of portfolio and performance of students enrolled in the B.F.A. program throughout the entire program. Students who do not meet the standards or who do not want to continue in the B.F.A. program may return to the B.A. program in art or choose another program of study.

What is Art?
Art is an individual and social practice that makes an impact. When people create or respond to art, they make connections between themselves and the experiences of others. In some cases, art provides a private encounter whereby individual thoughts and feelings are expressed through art, or recognized in the art of someone else. In other cases, art gives form to ideas and issues that concern entire communities. It is because art extends personal and public awareness that it is highly valued as a cultural activity. Those who make art and write about art contribute to one of the most important purposes of art, which is to shape our way we see ourselves.

You Might Like this Program If...
- You believe art may not be able to change the world, but it can change someone who can
- Artists are creative and critical thinkers and makers who shape our awareness about what is possible and, in doing so, change the way we see, experience, and understand things
- If you are a visual thinker who works with your hands, heart, and head, you too can change the world

Entrance to Major
For specific information on entrance procedures, please visit the website for the College of Arts and Architecture (https://sova.psu.edu/apply/undergraduate-application).

Degree Requirements
For the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Art, a minimum of 123 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Education
Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)
- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

Knowledge Domains
- Arts (GA): 6 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 6 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)
- Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits

6 of these credits are included in the Requirements for the Major.

University Degree Requirements
First Year Engagement
All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement
6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements
- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.
Total Minimum Credits
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate
degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits.
Students should consult with their college or department adviser for
information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and
earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within
their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require
up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or
in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward
degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or
within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80). For more information, check the Suggested
Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major
This includes 6 credits of General Education GA courses.

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or
better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as
specified by Senate Policy 82-44. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or
better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as
specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44). For more information, check the Suggested
Academic Plan for your intended program.

Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better
Select 47 credits in Art at the 300 or 400 level ^{1}

1 24 of these 47 credits must be in an area of concentration from the
following:
• Ceramics
• Drawing and Painting
• New Media
• Photography
• Printmaking
• Sculpture

Learning Outcomes
• Achieve the conceptual and technical knowhow evident in a
developed body of work that demonstrates personal commitment,
aesthetic intent, and a clear notion of an artistic voice;
• Apply a level of competence in the pursuit of a professional career in
art and cultural production;
• Be prepared for specialized graduate studies in visual arts and
design;
• Participate in a comprehensive program of discourse of art theory
and criticism, direct engagement with contemporary artists, and the
ongoing production of exhibitions;
• Demonstrate a capacity to use and apply art skills, artistic knowledge
and material thinking processes able to be applied to learning
situations across disciplines.

Academic Advising
The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help
advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their
intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of
both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they
come self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising
relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged
in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the
habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The
advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary
academic adviser, the information need to plan the chosen program of
study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/
policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

University Park
Angela Rothrock
School of Visual Arts Advising Coordinator
211 Patterson Building
University Park, PA 16802
814-865-0444
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Suggested Academic Plan
University Park Campus
The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible
ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes
in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any
time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ART 11</td>
<td>First-Year Seminar- School of Visual Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 110</td>
<td>Ideas as Visual Images</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 111</td>
<td>Ideas as Objects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 122</td>
<td>Commentary on Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 111</td>
<td>Ancient to Medieval Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 112</td>
<td>Renaissance to Modern Art</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Courses
Select 15 credits at the beginning level from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ART 201</td>
<td>Intro to Digital Arts: Computer Graphics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 203</td>
<td>The Art of Web Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 211</td>
<td>Introduction to Digital Art and Design Criticism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 220</td>
<td>Figure Drawing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 223</td>
<td>Drawing: Techniques, Materials, and Tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 230</td>
<td>Beginning Sculpture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 240</td>
<td>Beginning Printmaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 250</td>
<td>Beginning Oil Painting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 280</td>
<td>Beginning Ceramics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 296</td>
<td>Independent Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 297</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 299</td>
<td>Foreign Study--Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHOTO 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Photography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHOTO 201</td>
<td>A Chronological Survey of Photography</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Supporting Courses and Related Areas
Select 6 credits in art history.
(accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

**First Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall Credits</th>
<th>Spring Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ART 11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>ART 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 110</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ARTH 112 (GA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15, 15A, or 30†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Second Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAS 100A, 100B, or 100C‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Course, 200-level Studio (see list)†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Course, 200-level Studio (see list)†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Course from Art History²</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Third Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional Course, 200-level Studio (see list)†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course (GHW)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Course for Concentration, 300/400-level Studio²</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Course for Concentration, 300/400-level Studio²</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Course for Major, 300/400-level Studio²</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fourth Year**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202A, 202B, 202C, or 202D‡</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Course for Concentration, 300/400-level Studio²</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Course for Concentration, 300/400-level Studio²</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Course for Concentration, 300/400-level Studio²</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Course for Major, 300/400-level Studio²</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits 123**

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement
‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
# Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

**Career Paths**

An art major is a life-long learner who is forever curious and captivated by the personal journey of everyday life. As you hone your artistic dispositions with working techniques and practical studio skills you establish your own artistic vision and voice. We help you foster dialogue among peers about the place of art in society and how you participate and contribute to these changing debates. As you deepen your understanding of your own potential as an artist within a challenging
and quickly evolving world you become equipped with the means necessary to embark upon a career in the visual arts.

**Careers**

An art major possesses very distinctive human attributes, which is a creative capacity to readily adapt to change, a resilient ability to make do with limited resources, and an inventive desire to seek alternative solutions in times of challenge. This independence is powered by a sense of intrinsic motivation and confidence that anything is possible. These creative capabilities are applied by artists in extraordinarily diverse professional activities, occupations, and careers. Although there are many BFA graduates who achieve professional success as artists in their area of specialty, most ‘creatives’ will use their artistic skills in innumerable ways their entire lives.

**Opportunities for Graduate Studies**

As a BFA graduate you have achieved a level of competence that grounds your creative and critical capabilities, which enables you to pursue a range of professional options in visual arts and related fields. As a creative artist with a distinctive practice and specialized expertise in art media of your choosing, you are informed and prepared to negotiate the different forms of professional participation in the art world that can be built around artist residencies, sustained studio practice, and gallery work. You will also have a body of work that will ensure you can prepare a competitive portfolio for application to graduate school.

MORE INFORMATION (https://sova.psu.edu/degree/master-fine-arts-art)

**Professional Resources**

- College Art Association (http://www.collegeart.org)
- National Art Education Association (https://www.arteducators.org)
- National Council of Art Administrators (http://www.ncaaarts.org)
- Pennsylvania Art Education Association (http://paeablog.org)

**Contact**

**University Park**

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