

Master of Fine Arts Requirements

Initiation of Study

An accepted MFA student is assigned an Advisor, and this faculty member handles any advising and scheduling for the student. Subsequent to enrollment, the Advisor and Graduate Coordinator mutually select a committee to direct the student's program. The committee consists of two other faculty in addition to the chair, and are chosen from members of the graduate faculty. The initial meeting of the student with his/her committee takes place during the first month of graduate study, based on a set schedule. The student must schedule the meetings for each quarter by the end of the first week of classes and give the schedule to the Graduate Coordinator.

First Quarter / Initial Evaluation

The committee determines at this first evaluation the particular strengths and/ or deficiencies of the student, and the student, in turn, makes known any preferences or emphases he/she wishes to explore during graduate study. This meeting should occur well before the conclusion of the first month of study, and contain overall preliminary recommendations and the drafting of a plan-of-study consisting of at least 60 hours of graduate credit. Transcripts and portfolios should be reviewed and a plan developed which is consistent with our requirements for the specific degree, yet acknowledges any particular needs brought out during this evaluation. Most of the plan-of-study should consist of 500 level courses. 400 level undergraduate courses, a maximum of four of these courses, may be used for graduate credit. Any graduate student taking an undergraduate number will, both in quality and quantity, do work beyond that expected of undergraduates. Should the committee deem it necessary, the plan-of-study may contain a number of courses which do not carry graduate credit that must be taken to overcome deficiencies. The plan may also total graduate credits above the 60 hour minimum. Finally, any request for transfer of graduate credit from another accredited university may be incorporated in the plan-of-study at the discretion of the committee. It is imperative that 4 copies of the plan-of-study, properly signed, be submitted through the Graduate Coordinator to the Director of Graduate Studies at the beginning of this first quarter of graduate study.

Committee Meetings

The Program Coordinator and Graduate Coordinator will appoint a graduate committee to each student prior to the student's arrival on campus. The committee will review the qualifications of each student and set forth the courses required for the degree. A schedule will be set by each student and committee once a month to discuss the student's current portfolio. This on-going, lively dialog is beneficial to the growth of the students, as they progress throughout the program.

18-Hour Review

This review takes place in the spring quarter, when the graduate student has earned at least 18 hours of graduate credit in their discipline. The graduate faculty reviews the overall progress of the student at this junction and any recommendations or modifications necessary are discussed with the student. These recommendations or modifications can range from minor adjustments in the plan-of-study to considerations of whether or not the student is allowed to continue in the program.

Gallery Requirements

All graduate students in every area are required to assist with the function of the art galleries. Students will be assigned specific duties and installation of five exhibitions yearly.

Seminar Requirements

All students must take the Graduate Seminar course (Art 564) for 3 credits in the Spring Quarter every year. Attendance and participation is mandatory. A year-long course, this seminar consists of weekly meetings throughout the fall quarter, discussing personal artwork and artist statements. The winter quarter consists of weekly meetings of reading and discussing contemporary issues in art and design. The spring quarter consists of a culminating paper summarizing and interpreting the issues discussed in the winter quarter. The grade will encompass seminar attendance (10%), fall quarter assignments (10%), gallery participation (10%), participation in committee meetings (10%), and exhibition/publication submissions (10%). and the final written paper (50%).

The following activities must be completed and will affect the seminar grade:

- meet with committee once a month: turn in signed form by each committee member
- submit work to at least three exhibitions/publications per year: turn in a photocopy of entrance form and check
- exhibitions and publications can be found at Artdeadline.com
- graphics info can be found in CMYK, How, Print, Graphis - check the bulletin board downstairs for more or see your advisor
- gallery participation with specific assigned duties and installation of all exhibitions

Completion of Degree

The MFA degree culminates with a capstone research paper and exhibition, which demonstrates proficiency in the major area and provides significant evidence of the student's research capabilities. The content, extent and format of the exhibition and research paper are to be mutually agreed upon by the student, the advisor, and the members of the student's committee. This agreement should occur well in advance of actual presentation. The University Art Gallery is to be utilized, therefore scheduling with the Gallery Director is the student's responsibility and should also occur well in advance of the exhibition. The exhibition must be accompanied by a written and visual summation (usually in CD or DVD form), which is placed in the School of Art's graduate records.

The formal requirements for the last quarter of MFA study can be summarized as follows:

1. Mounting of an exhibition.
 2. Defense of exhibition, research paper, statement, and CD of images submitted to Graduate Coordinator.
 3. 4 copies of a Revised-Plan-Of-Study, properly signed, submitted to Graduate Coordinator.
- (Beginning of graduating quarter)

Graduate Exhibition & Capstone Research Requirements

- All students must have an oral defense in the gallery during the MFA exhibition during the 1st week of the show.
- Research paper: a written paper of at least 25 pages discussing personal artwork, the meaning behind it (explaining aesthetics, theories, and metaphors), influences, and where the artist/designer sees him/herself in the contemporary art world; must include at least 10 sources in bibliography.
- Draft of thesis paper due: first week of March
- Final research paper and twenty images on CD/DVD due: first week of May