



THE DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS

Department of Visual Arts and Art History
777 Glades Road

Boca Raton, Florida 33431

tel: 561-297-3870

fax: 561-297-3078

www.fau.edu/VAAH

To: Graduate Curriculum Committee

From: Linda K Johnson
Chair, Department of Visual Arts and Art History
Florida Atlantic University

Date: January 26, 2012

RE: Curriculum Changes to the Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts

The Department of Visual Arts and Art History was approved to add concentrations to the Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts beginning Fall 2012. The MFA in Visual Arts will offer concentrations in the following areas: Ceramics, Drawing, Graphic Design, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture and Book Arts. Attached is an outline of the curriculum changes that the Department is proposing to facilitate delivery of this program. These program changes can be delivered utilizing the current faculty members and existing resources within the Department.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Linda K Johnson'.



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SIGNATURE APPROVAL ROUTING FOR MEMOS – GRADUATE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

DATE: February 3, 2012

SUBJECT: Curriculum Changes to the Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts

FROM: Linda K. Johnson, Chair

See attached memo

Linda K. Johnson
Chair, Department of Visual Arts and Art History

Dr. Nancy Kason Poulson
Chair, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters Graduate Programs Committee

Dr. Heather Coltman
Interim Dean, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters

Dr. Debra Floyd
Chair, University Graduate Programs Committee

Dr. Barry Rosson
Dean, The Graduate College

MASTER'S PROGRAMS

Master of Fine Arts with Major in Visual Art (Changes effective fall 2011.)

The M.F.A. with Major in Visual Art is designed to further the conceptual development, aesthetic presentation, technical skill and career goals of the M.F.A. candidates. M.F.A. degrees are offered in the following studio concentrations: Ceramics, **Drawing**, Painting, **Photography**, **Printmaking and Sculpture** (Boca Raton campus), **Computer Art and Graphic Design** (Fort Lauderdale campus) and **Book Arts (Boca Raton and Fort Lauderdale campuses)**. These concentrations are designed to incorporate courses from the range of studio areas should the student desire this type of cross-disciplinary approach and flexibility. Graduates of the programs will be prepared for careers as professional artists. The programs will provide opportunities for students to develop their interests and talents at the terminal degree level.

Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art: Ceramics, Drawing, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture and Book Arts

Admission Requirements

1. Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Arts or equivalent degree.
2. A "B" average or better in all coursework while registered as an upper-division student working for a bachelor's degree.
3. Graduate admission application submitted online to FAU's Graduate College. Application is available at www.fau.edu/graduate.
4. Official college transcript(s) submitted to FAU's Graduate College.

Applicants must submit the following to the departmental graduate coordinator, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, Florida Atlantic University, Department of Visual Arts and Art History, AH 52, Room 118, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, FL 33431.

1. A statement of intent (stating area of concentration) and brief résumé.
2. Three letters of recommendation (preferably from previous instructors and/or professionals familiar with the applicant's academic and artistic background). The letter should be on letterhead or submitted on a form downloaded from the Graduate College website.
3. Portfolio of 20 slides/CD images of recent work in area of concentration. A maximum of four details and/or alternate views is acceptable. Applications for painting must include a minimum of two details. Each image should be identified with name, medium, size, date and the top of the image indicated. CD images must include ID information on disk and a printed description sheet.
4. Copy of official transcript.
5. CD will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage.
6. Deadline for applications (online and postmarked): February 21st (fall admission only).

Completed admission portfolios must be submitted directly to the Department of Visual Arts and Art History, Attention: Graduate Coordinator. The Graduate College will be notified by the department of the evaluation results and will notify candidates. Only completed portfolios and application packets will be considered.



Program Requirements and Curriculum

This full-time M.F.A. program requires a minimum of 60 credits and includes the following distribution of credits. The department admits full-time graduate students in the fall of each year.

Concentration: <i>Ceramics, Drawing, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture or Book Arts</i>		24-32
Art Electives (may be in area of concentration)		12
Art, History or Criticism		12
Free Electives (may be outside the Art Department)		4
Documentation/Thesis Exhibition (required for all M.F.A. candidates)		8
Graduate Documentation	ART 6956C	4
Graduate Thesis Exhibition	ART 6972C	4

All candidates accepted into the M.F.A. program will be assigned a three-member supervisory committee from the department faculty with at least one member from the student's stated area of concentration for the first year. The three-member composition of the supervisory committee will change for the second year. At the end of year two, the M.F.A candidate will select a three-member committee (by April 30) that will direct them through their exhibition and thesis statement and documentation in year three. The committee will be composed of the candidate's major professor (usually from area of concentration) and a member or members of the department faculty. An additional member may be from outside the department and is encouraged. Each committee will meet periodically during each semester to supervise the candidate's progress for the entire period of study. Candidates are required to meet with their committee for an end-of-semester review each term and individual members are to meet at least once with the student during the term. During the candidate's first semester, the candidate will be required to give a presentation of their works in an open-attendance forum.

Upon completion of a minimum of 18 credits, candidates will undergo a first-year oral review organized by their committee and voted on by participating department faculty to determine appropriate progress in their studio work. First-year reviews are scheduled at the end of each spring term. The department's graduate coordinator sets the review dates and times. Successful completion of this review is a prerequisite for continuing as a candidate for the degree.

In the last semester of residency, the candidate will present a graduate exhibition in one of the University galleries. The exhibition will be curated by the M.F.A. candidate and members of the candidate's committee. An oral examination focusing on the candidate's work will take place in the exhibition area prior to the opening. Successful completion of this examination is required for awarding of degree.

The Department of Visual Arts and Art History reserves the right to select work from thesis exhibitions for its permanent collection.

Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art: Computer Art

~~The Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art with a concentration in Computer Art provides graduate study in computer graphics, design and animation for artists who wish to use sophisticated computer software and hardware for artistic expression. The M.F.A. is an advanced creative degree requiring initiative and independence on the part of the student.~~

~~Graduate research and study focuses upon the fine art of 3D graphics and animation in a 60-credit program combination of studio work, creative workshop and seminar discussions. For students unfamiliar with 3D software, study begins with training courses in Alias/Wavefront Maya software. Mastery of software gains students entry to creative workshop critique and the department's extensive video, audio and computer editing suites.~~

Admission Requirements

- ~~1. Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Arts or equivalent degree from an accredited college or university or, for international students, an institution recognized in its own country as preparing students for further study at the graduate level.~~
- ~~2. The minimum University admission requirements are either a "B" average or better in all work attempted while registered as an upper-division student working for a bachelor's degree; or a graduate degree from an accredited institution.~~

3. Graduate admission application submitted online to FAU's Graduate College. Application is available at www.fau.edu/graduate.

4. Official college transcript(s) submitted to FAU's Graduate College.

Applicants must submit the following to M.F.A. in Computer Arts, Department of Visual Arts and Art History, Florida Atlantic University, 111 E. Las Olas Blvd., AT 812, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.

1. Three letters of recommendation.

2. Résumé.

3. Statement of intent. Candidates need to submit a two-page essay describing their creative aims and reasons for graduate study.

4. Portfolio that includes examples of applicant's electronic media, animation and/or 3D modeling work. Candidates must include a project description sheet with their portfolios.

5. Copy of official transcript.

6. Portfolio will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage.

7. Deadline for applications (online and postmarked): October 31st for spring admissions and February 21st for fall admissions.

Completed admission portfolios must be submitted directly to the Department of Visual Arts and Art History. The Graduate College will be notified by the department of the evaluation results and will notify candidates. Only completed portfolios and application packets will be considered.



Computer Art Requirements and Curriculum

The M.F.A. in Visual Art with a concentration in computer art is offered at the Fort Lauderdale campus. This M.F.A. program includes the following distribution of credits:

Course		Credits
Studio in Computer Arts	ART 6688C	16
Creative Workshop in Computer Arts	ART 6692C	16
Computer Arts Seminar in Contemporary Art	ARH 6934	4
Computer Arts Seminar in General Theory	ARH 6932	4
Electives (may be in the concentration)		12
Portfolio/Directed Study	ART 6693C and ART 6907C	8
Total		60

After completing 30 credits and two short animations to demonstrate artistic and technical proficiency, students are eligible for M.F.A. candidacy. Students are then required to complete another 30 credits and two more animations. Awarding of the Master of Fine Arts degree is based upon completion of 60 credits and acceptance of an artistic portfolio that meets the criteria of publishable quality commensurate with professionals in the field of computer arts. Many of the animations created by our graduate students have won international recognition from video festivals, and their work is regularly aired on educational television.

In addition to a residential program, the department offers a distance learning M.F.A. in Computer Arts. This virtual degree is open to accomplished artists with knowledge of 3D software and the ability to study independently. The degree takes approximately three years to complete. At least once a semester, distance learning students participate on campus with the residential students in creative workshop and seminar sessions, including special event seminars and personal critical analysis of graduate student work by professional animators.

The Department of Visual Arts and Art History reserves the right to select work from thesis exhibitions for its permanent collection.

Students from Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia may be eligible to attend the program at FAU at in-state tuition rates through the [Academic Common Market](#).



Master of Fine Arts with Major in Visual Art: Graphic Design

The Master of Fine Arts with Major in Visual Art with a concentration in graphic design engages students in an individual pursuit to expand their knowledge of visual communication design systems with a focus on furthering development toward a career in design education and/or professional practice. Students and faculty from diverse cultural, educational and professional experiences come together to engage in critical discourse that challenges and strengthens each student's understanding of communication theory, research methodology and design problem-solving approaches. Encouraged to identify and expand their own voices as designers, students take a combination of graduate design studios, seminars, art history courses and directed independent study projects, culminating in a graduate thesis project, exhibition and document. Graduate students are expected to take a leadership role in the department and in their interactions with undergraduate students.

Admission Requirements

1. Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Arts or equivalent degree from an accredited college or university or, for international students, an institution recognized in its own country as preparing students for further study at the graduate level. Degrees in graphic design or visual communication design are preferred. Candidates from other curricula will be considered based on abilities demonstrated in portfolio, statement of intent and space available. Two years' experience in the graphic design practice is preferred.
2. The minimum University admission requirements are either a "B" average or better in all work attempted while registered as an upper-division student working for a bachelor's degree; or a graduate degree from an accredited institution.
3. Graduate admission application submitted online to FAU's Graduate College. Application is available at www.fau.edu/graduate.
4. Official college transcript(s) submitted to FAU's Graduate College.

Applicants must submit the following to Graphic Design, Department of Visual Arts and Art History, Florida Atlantic University, 111 E. Las Olas Blvd., AT 314, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.

1. Three letters of recommendation.
2. Résumé.
3. Statement of intent. Candidates need to submit a two-page essay describing their creative aims and reasons for graduate study.
4. Portfolio that includes 20 examples of applicant's graphic design or electronic media work. Each item should be labeled with media, title, name, address and phone number. Portfolios should be submitted on a CD-ROM. Candidates must include a project description sheet with their portfolios. Website examples should list the URL on project description sheet.

5. Copy of official transcript.
6. CD will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage.
7. Deadline for U.S. applicants' applications (online and postmarked): October 31 for spring admissions and February 21 for fall admissions. **For international applicants, the application deadline for spring admission is September 1.**

Completed admission portfolios must be submitted directly to the Department of Visual Arts and Art History. The Graduate College will be notified by the department of the evaluation results and will notify candidates. Only completed portfolios and application packets will be considered.

Graphic Design Requirements and Curriculum

The M.F.A. in Visual Art with a concentration in graphic design is offered at the Fort Lauderdale campus. The graphic design program requires a total of 60 credits of study. It includes the following distribution of credits.

Area of Concentration	Credits
Graphic Design	24-32
Art Electives (may be in area of concentration)	12
History and Theory of Art and Design	12
Free Electives	4
Research Project (Design Thesis and Exhibition)	8
Graduate courses in the graphic design area of concentration are 4 credits each for a total of six required courses. Complete course descriptions are included in this catalog. The courses for the 24-32 credits in Graphic Design are as follows:	
Course	Credits
Design Workshop, Experimental Design Projects, Advanced Study of Graphic Design, Experimental Visual Techniques (special topics, may be repeated)	24
Design Studio	ART 6931 4
Design Seminar	ART 6932 4
Design Thesis/Individual Studio Problems	ART 6971C 4
Graduate Thesis Exhibition	ART 6972C 4

All candidates accepted into the M.F.A. Graphic Design track will be assigned a three-member supervisory committee from the department faculty with at least two members from the Graphic Design area of concentration the first year. Candidates are required to select their own graduate committee upon completion of candidacy review. The committee will be composed of the candidate's major professor (thesis advisor) and two members from the department faculty. An additional member may be from outside the department.

Upon completion of 30 credits, candidates will undergo a candidacy review by their committee to determine appropriate progress in the Graphic Design track. Successful completion of this review is a prerequisite for continuing as a candidate for the degree.

In the last semester of study, the candidate will present a thesis exhibition. The exhibition will be curated by the M.F.A. candidate and members of the candidate's committee. The M.F.A. candidate is required to produce written documentation of research, including a detailed explanation of the thesis exhibition. Copies of thesis documentation must be presented to the committee no less than three weeks prior to the thesis exhibition. An oral examination focusing on the candidate's work will take place directly following the presentation of thesis exhibition. Successful completion of this examination is required for awarding of degree.

The Department of Visual Arts and Art History reserves the right to select work from thesis exhibitions for its permanent collection.

Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art

The M.F.A. in Visual Art is designed to further the conceptual development, aesthetic presentation, technical skill and career goals of the M.F.A. candidates. M.F.A. degrees are offered in the following studio concentrations: Ceramics, Drawing, Painting, Photography, Printmaking and Sculpture (Boca Raton campus), Graphic Design (Fort Lauderdale campus) and Book arts (Boca Raton and Fort Lauderdale campuses). These concentrations are designed to incorporate courses from the range of studio areas should the student desire this type of cross-disciplinary approach and flexibility. Graduates of the programs will be prepared for careers as professional artists. The programs will provide opportunities for students to develop their interests and talents at the terminal degree level.

Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art: Ceramics, Drawing, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Book Arts and Sculpture

Program Requirements and Curriculum²

This full-time M.F.A. program requires a minimum of 60 credits and includes the following distribution of credits. The department admits full-time graduate students in the fall of each year.

Concentration: <i>Drawing, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Book Arts or Sculpture</i>		
Graduate Studio		20
Art History Seminar in Contemporary Art ARH 6481 (required)		12
Professional Practices or approved equivalent course		6
Special Topics or Directed Independent Study		8
Free Electives (4 credits may be taken outside the Art Department)		6
Documentation/Thesis Exhibition (required for all M.F.A. candidates)		
Graduate Documentation	ART 6956C	4
Graduate Thesis Exhibition	ART 6972C	4

Concentration: Ceramics		24-32
Art History: Seminar in Contemporary Art ARH 6481 (required) History of Ceramics (required)		12
Professional Practices or approved equivalent course		4
Art Electives (may be in area of concentration)		8
Free Electives (may be taken outside the Art Department)		4
Documentation/Thesis Exhibition (required for all M.F.A. candidates)		
Graduate Documentation	ART 6956C	4
Graduate Thesis Exhibition	ART 6972C	4

Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art: Graphic Design

Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art: Graphic Design—The Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art with a concentration in graphic design engages students in an individual pursuit to expand their knowledge of visual communication design systems with a focus on furthering development toward a career in design education and/or professional practice. Students and faculty from diverse cultural, educational and professional experiences come together to engage in critical discourse that challenges and strengthens each student's understanding of communication theory, research methodology and design problem-solving approaches. Encouraged to identify and expand their own voices as designers, students take a combination of graduate design studios, seminars, art history courses and directed independent study projects, culminating in a graduate thesis project, exhibition and document. Graduate students are expected to take a leadership role in the department and in their interactions with undergraduate students.

Graphic Design Requirements and Curriculum The M.F.A. in Visual Art with a concentration in graphic design is offered at the Fort Lauderdale campus. The graphic design program requires a total of 60 credits of study. It includes the following distribution of credits.

Concentration: <i>Graphic Design</i>		24-32
Art History History of Graphic Design (required) Seminar in Contemporary Art ARH 6481 (highly recommended)		12
Art electives (may be in area of concentration)		12
Free Electives (may be taken outside the Art Department)		4
Design Thesis/Thesis Exhibition (required for all M.F.A. candidates)		
Design Thesis	ART 6971C	4
Graduate Thesis Exhibition	ART 6972C	4