

Bachelor of Fine Arts

The Department of Visual Arts offers a professional BFA program which is designed to offer our students breadth as well as depth in their chosen area of focus, be it Painting, Graphic Design, Sculpture, Printmaking, Photography, Ceramics, or Art Education. The Department of Visual Arts offers this program of study to provide students with an intensive studio-based degree and a variety of curricular options. Graduates of this program will have begun developing their own style – an indispensable notation or signature formed by the interplay of visual thinking and the study of traditional achievements in the arts. This program was developed to enhance the art student’s career placement opportunities and/or entrance into graduate school.

Program Objectives

- To provide students with the instruction and studio resources appropriate to national expectations;
- To foster students’ mastery and proficiency in media handling and critical thinking in line with professional expectations;
- To encourage students’ development of independent and unique aesthetic visions;
- To increase students’ awareness of diverse artistic trends across history, geography, race, and gender;
- To challenge students to develop and maximize their creative problem solving skills;
- To provide students with professional applications of classroom instruction;
- To mentor students in their creation of portfolios appropriate for professional interviews and graduate school applications, and
- To meet state and regional needs in K-12 arts education by providing well trained Art Education Certified teachers.

Program Goals

Students must meet program objectives by presenting for evaluation portfolios that best exemplify the extent and quality of their artistic accomplishments, most specifically in the areas of 1) original thinking (expression), 2) artistic commitment (media mastery), 3) development of a personal style (creativity), and 4) demonstration of a significant sense of what constitutes a serious design project (professionalism). They shall demonstrate their ability to

- Communicate effectively, orally, in writing, and aesthetically;

- Apply critical thinking skills in problem solving and professional applications;
- Recognize and appreciate artistic contributions of diverse and historical cultures and demonstrate an informed historical perspective;
- Understand and apply terms and professional practices within the discipline;
- Develop skill and proficiency in using materials, tools, and technology central to professional applications in their chosen focus area;
- Develop a commitment to personal achievement through personal/professional growth from the introductory studio level of courses through to advanced studies in the chosen focus area as evidenced by consistently high quality production, and

Establish a concrete frame of reference for continued exploration and life-long interest in the visual arts.