

WSU DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS NEW STUDENT INFORMATION

This information is an overview of the degree requirements in the Department of Fine Arts at Washington State University. Please take the time to read this and understand the different requirements for the degrees we offer.

The University is a collection of Colleges, and the Fine Arts department is a division of the College of Arts and Sciences. Some of the academic course work required for your degree is defined by the whole university, and some by the college. These are called UCORE classes. The rest of the degree requirements are established by the department in which you choose to major, and are called 'program requirements.' The system may seem somewhat regimented at first glance but it can be very flexible if you know how to navigate it. You are expected to read the University Catalog, and to become familiar with the online services offered to students by the Registrar's Office:

www.it.wsu.edu/AIS/SIC/sicintro.htm

The Department of Fine Arts offers three bachelor's degrees. The Bachelor of Arts-Fine Arts degree (BA-FA) is the more general degree, requiring 48 credits in the major. Within this degree, there are two options: a general studio option and an art history option. The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (BFA) is more specialized, usually followed in preparation for post-graduate study leading to the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree. It requires 70 credit hours in Fine Arts; students may focus in a specific studio area, or in a related combination of them.

DECLARING A MAJOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

All new students enter the university as part of a general advisory program, and join a department when they declare a Major course of study. It is a general rule that you must declare this major by the time you have accumulated sixty semester credit hours, but the Fine Arts Faculty encourages students to declare the major as soon as possible in their academic career. You will then be able to pick your academic advisor from your major faculty. Good advising can help make your University experience efficient and enjoyable.

BA in Fine Arts: You may apply any time at the FA office (Room 5072). You should declare the BA-FA major, whether or not you plan to graduate with the BFA degree. Again we advise that you do this as soon as possible to streamline the process.

BFA: To enter the BFA program, you must submit your work for review by the Fine Arts faculty. One day each semester is set aside for this review; classes in the FA curriculum are canceled to allow the department's full attention during the process. To apply, you must be of sophomore standing, and be a declared major in the BA in FA (studio-option) program. Application forms are available in the FA office (Rm 5072).

(see reverse side)

Dates and deadlines will be announced well in advance in your FA classes, and will be posted on the undergrad bulletin board, located on the right-hand side of the staircase in the main foyer of the Fine Arts Center.

It is recommended that you discuss your intention to apply for the BFA with a faculty member as soon as possible during your time in the program. You **cannot** certify during your final semester.

You will be assigned a time and room for certification day, where you will set up your work and meet with faculty members to discuss your interest in the BFA program. This process requires scheduling, so submission deadlines must be met.

GENERAL PRESENTATION GUIDELINES:

Sixteen original works are required for review:

4 (minimum) of drawing

8 indicating an intended major (i.e. painting, sculpture, ceramics, etc.)

4 of your choice of medium

A portfolio is also required in the form of:

- a CD in a format easily viewed (e.g., Powerpoint, Preview)

Your portfolio should be clearly labeled with your name and ID number. A maximum of 16 images should include 4 (minimum) of drawing, and 12 of your best work, preferably from outside your studio classes, but work done from your studio classes is acceptable. This portfolio will be collected during your presentation for use by the faculty when they meet to decide certification.

BFA candidates will be required to enroll in FA 493 during their final semester in the program, and must complete a senior project in the form of a solo exhibition. There are additional requirements for candidates enrolled in the honors program.

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