

Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Studio Art

RECOMMENDED PATHWAY

Studio Art and Graphic Design courses (66 to 69 credits)

Additional credits in Studio Art and Graphic Design courses at the 300–400 level as needed to meet the requirement of at least 66, but not more than 69, credits in courses in the major. Updated 10.2021

Art History and Visual Culture (12 – 14 credits)

University Requirements (34 credits)

General Education Courses (7 credits)

TOTAL OF 120 CREDITS to graduate with a 2.0 overall GPA.
A total of 30 credits must be completed at the 300-400 level.

1st yr

FALL SEMESTER
16 Credits Total

SPRING SEMESTER
16 Credits Total

2nd yr

FALL SEMESTER
15 Credits Total

SPRING SEMESTER
16-17 Credits Total

3rd yr

FALL SEMESTER
15 Credits Total

SPRING SEMESTER
16-17 Credits Total

4th yr

FALL SEMESTER
14 Credits Total

SPRING SEMESTER
12 Credits Total

STA 110
Drawing I
3 credits

STA 113
Color and Design
3 credits

STA 112
Art and Design:
Concepts
and Practices
3 credits

STA 114
Three-
Dimensional
Form
3 credits

HA 101
Western Art
from the
Paleolithic to
Medieval Era
3 credits

HA 102
Western Art
from the
Renaissance to
Contemporary
3 credits

WRA 101
Writing
as Inquiry
4 credits

ISS
Integrative
Studies Soc.
Behavioral
& Ec Sciences
200-level
4 credits

MTH
Mathematics
Course
3 credits

MTH
Mathematics
Course
3 credits

STA
STUDIO ART
DISTRIBUTION /
CONCENTRATION
#1A
3 credits

STA
STUDIO ART
DISTRIBUTION
3 credits

STA
STUDIO ART
DISTRIBUTION /
CONCENTRATION
#1B
3 credits

STA
STUDIO ART
DISTRIBUTION
3 credits

BFA
PORTFOLIO
REVIEW

IAH
Integrative
Studies
in Arts and
Humanities
201-210
4 credits

HA
HISTORY OF ART
ELECTIVE
POST-WWII
3-4 credits

ISB / ISP
Integrative
Studies in
Biological or
Physical
Sciences
3 credits

STUDIO ART
/ OR /
GRAPHIC DESIGN
3 credits

ISB / ISP
LAB
2 credits

IAH
Integrative
Studies
in Arts and
Humanities
211 + Level
4 credits

STA
STUDIO ART
CONCENTRATION
#2A
3 credits

STA
STUDIO ART
CONCENTRATION
#3A
3 credits

STA
STUDIO ART
CONCENTRATION
#2B
3 credits

STA 300/391
Intermediate Drawing
/ OR /
Special Topics
in Drawing
3 credits

STUDIO ART
/ OR /
GRAPHIC DESIGN
3 credits

HA
HISTORY OF ART
ELECTIVE
200 or 400-Level
3-4 credits

ISB / ISP
Integrative
Studies in
Biological or
Physical
Sciences
3 credits

STUDIO ART
/ OR /
GRAPHIC DESIGN
3 credits

General
Education
Elective
3 credits

ISS
Integrative
Studies Soc.
Behavioral
& Ec Sciences
300-level
4 credits

STA
STUDIO ART
CONCENTRATION
#4A
3 credits

STA
STUDIO ART
CONCENTRATION
#5A
3 credits

EXPERIENTIAL
EDUCATION
REQUIREMENT
3 credits

STA
STUDIO ART
CONCENTRATION
#6A
Senior Project
3 credits

STUDIO ART
/ OR /
GRAPHIC DESIGN
3 credits

STA 492
Senior Seminar
&
Pro. Practice
2 credits

STUDIO ART
/ OR /
GRAPHIC DESIGN
3 credits

STA 492A
Exhibition
Practicum
1 credits

General
Education
Elective
2 credits

STUDIO ART
/ OR /
GRAPHIC DESIGN
3 credits

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A first concentration of at least 6 courses in one of the following subdisciplines including one concurrent enrollment in a corresponding Studio Art Senior Project course for at least 3 credits (18 credits):

Ceramics: Studio Art 340, 343, 345, 440.
Electronic Art and Intermedia: Studio Art 380, 384, 385, 491B.
Painting: Studio Art 320, 325, 420, 491A.
Photography: Studio Art 370, 375, 384, 472, 474, 475, 476, 491F.
Printmaking: Studio Art 330, 335, 439, 491B.
Sculpture: Studio Art 350, 351, 354, 355, 450, 491D.

Studio Art Senior Project courses:

Ceramics: Studio Art 440S.
Electronic Art and Intermedia: Studio Art 480S
Painting: Studio Art 420S.
Photography: Studio Art 472S, 474S, 475S, 476S.
Printmaking: Studio Art 439S.
Sculpture: Studio Art 450S.

Updated 10.2021

For further information, visit www.art.msu.edu.



STA 110 Drawing I
3 credits

No Prerequisite
 Fundamental concepts of drawing. Emphasis on observational, descriptive and analytical drawing. Practice of drawing skills using common drawing media.
 FALL + SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

STA 112 Art and Design: Concepts and Practices
3 credits

No Prerequisite
 Theme-based study of aesthetic and conceptual issues surrounding contemporary art and design practices. Art/design vocabulary, critical thinking skills, understanding of diverse social roles of the artist and designer and relationship to visual art within contemporary culture and society.
 FALL OF EVERY YEAR

STA 113 Color and Design
3 credits

No Prerequisite
 Basic elements of two-dimensional design. Principles of organization and the theory and practice of color as a basis for creative solutions for the problems of the artist and designer.
 FALL + SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

STA 114 Three-Dimensional Form
3 credits

No Prerequisite
 Formal elements of three-dimensional form. Application of the principles of organization as a means for producing creative solutions for the artist and designer. Related practical experience with a variety of materials and processes.
 FALL + SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

STA 300 /OR/ STA 391

STA 300 Intermediate Drawing
3 credits

STA 110, STA 112, STA 113, and STA 114
 Observational and imaginative drawing including the human figure. Non-representational drawing. Contemporary drawing systems, concepts, and processes.
 FALL + SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

STA 391 Special Topics in Drawing
3 credits

STA 110, STA 112, STA 113, and STA 114
 Issues of technique, style, and content in drawing.
 FALL + SPRING + SUMMER OF EVERY YEAR

STA 492 Senior Seminar and Professional Practice
2 credits

Completion of Tier 1 writing requirement
 Capstone course for artists and designers. Writing as a mode of issue delineation and definition. **To be taken during the student's last semester at MSU.**
 FALL + SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

STA 492A Exhibition Practicum
1 credit

Completion of Tier 1 writing requirement
 Exhibition experience in studio art. Audience delineation. Conceptualization. Use of space. Evaluation. **To be taken during the student's last semester at MSU.**
 FALL + SUMMER OF EVERY YEAR



Four of the following courses including at least one course from each of the following three areas (12 credits):

Prerequisites for all courses listed here are STA 110 + STA 112 + STA 113 + STA 114
 All courses listed in this section are 3 credits each

STA 491 Selected Topics

2 to 3 credits (a maximum of 6 credits)
 Per approval of department and based on semester offerings, a student may enroll in any of the areas Selected Topics courses in Painting, Printmaking, Ceramics, Sculpture, Photography and Electronic Art & Intermedia.

Two-Dimensional Area

STA 320 Painting I

Representational painting of landscape, figure, and still life imagery. Painting concepts, materials, and techniques.
 FALL + SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

STA 330 Lithography

Basic processes of image-making in lithography, including both traditional and contemporary methods. Fundamentals of drawing and design as applied to printmaking, as well as development of personally innovative imagery and concept. Final independent project explores both two and three dimensional applications of print techniques.
 SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

STA 335 Etching

Aesthetic principles and techniques such as soft ground, aquatint, dry point, transfer ground and crosshatching.
 FALL OF EVERY YEAR

Three-Dimensional Area

STA340 Ceramics: Hand Building

Ceramic processes including handbuilding, with terra cotta clay, low-fire glaze formulation, and kiln firing as a means of cultural and artistic expression.
 FALL + SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

STA 343 Ceramics: Mold Making, Casting, and Serial Production

Design forms for serial production through hands-on experiences. Modeling techniques, plaster mold making, slip casting, glazing, and digital decal processes.
 SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

STA 345 Ceramics: Wheel Throwing

Ceramics processes including wheel throwing with stoneware clay, high-fire glaze formulation, and kiln firing as means of cultural and artistic expression.
 FALL + SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

STA 350 Figure Modeling

Aspects of the human figure studied in relation to artistic media.
 FALL + SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

STA 351 Installation and Expanded Media

Interdisciplinary approach to studio practice. Exploration of artistic and cultural expression using installation and expanded media.
 FALL + SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

STA 354 Casting

Casting concepts and techniques as a means of artistic and cultural expression.
 FALL + SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

STA 355 Construction and Fabrication

Sculptural concepts using methods of construction and fabrication as an approach to artistic and cultural expression.
 FALL + SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

Electronic Art and Intermedia and Design Area

GD 360 Graphic Design 1: Graphic Form

Introduction to form analysis and manipulation, through theory, concept and visual tools, to develop clear formal languages. Traditional and digital craft. Development of verbal articulation.
 FALL + SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

GD 365 Typography 1: Form & Meaning

Formal and communicative properties of typeography. Letterform, font specification, style, meaning, texture, and space. Sequence of analysis from formal aspects, to communicative, to a synthesis of the two.
 FALL + SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

STA 370 Photography I

Introduction to photography as a fine art medium, including the functions and controls of a digital camera; photography as a means of visual art expression, in monochrome and color; the basic aspects of image adjustment software; and, historical and contemporary approaches to both technical and artistic/conceptual practice.
 FALL + SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

STA 380 Electronic Art

Using the computer as a tool for making art. Creation of innovative electronic art and new media projects that introduce students to conceptual as well as technical skill sets.
 FALL + SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

STA 384 Experiments in Digital Video

Introduction to core skills and concepts used in digital video production, with an emphasis on art-making, conceptual thinking, and experimentation.
 FALL EVERY YEAR

STA 385 Intract Environs & Digital Fab

Systems-based approach to design and fabrication of functional experimental art devices, combining principles of mechanical, electronic, software design, robotics, sensors, actuators, and other control devices. Exposure to new paradigms of creative practice and will develop intricate, interdisciplinary group projects.
 FALL + SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

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The Studio Art BFA Portfolio Review is a requirement of all students pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. The portfolio reviews will be held in both Fall and Spring semesters with Studio Art faculty. During this review you will share process work and final outcomes of projects completed in these courses.

Students are eligible to participate in the Studio Art BFA Portfolio Review if they:

- + Have completed all four Studio Art distributions
- + Are in their second semester or later at Michigan State University or equivalent standing at another university
- + Have not yet earned their 30th credit in GD and STA credits combined

Exceptions will be considered for transfer students.

Updated 10.2021

Detailed information on preparing and submitting materials will be shared with students prior to the review period.

For further information, visit www.art.msu.edu.



HA 101 Western Art from the Paleolithic to Medieval Era

3 credits

No Prerequisite

Introductory survey of Western Art from the Paleolithic to the Medieval era. Key works, monuments, and stylistic trends.

FALL OF EVERY YEAR

HA 102 Western Art from the Renaissance to Contemporary

3 credits

No Prerequisite

Formal elements of three-dimensional form. Application of the principles of organization as a means for producing creative solutions for the artist and designer. Related practical experience with a variety of materials and processes.

FALL + SPRING OF EVERY YEAR

At least one of the following History of Art courses or other applicable art history and visual culture course(s) from the Post World War II period approved by the advisor (3 or 4 credits):

- HA 240 Modern Art
- HA 251 History of of Photography
- HA 252 Contemporary Art
- HA 261 Modern Asian Art
- HA 450 Selected Topics *Modern Art*
- HA 452 Selected Topics *Contemporary Art*
- HA 461 Selected Topics *Modern Asian Art*

One additional course in History of Art at the 200 or 400-level (3 or 4 credits)

3 credits

- HA 209 Ancient Art
- HA 210 Medieval Art
- HA 230 Renaissance & Baroque Art
- HA 240 Modern Art
- HA 250 Arts of North America
- HA 251 History of of Photography
- HA 252 Contemporary Art
- HA 253 Native North American Art
- HA 254 Latin American Art
- HA 260 Asian Art
- HA 261 Modern Asian Art
- HA 271 African Art
- HA 291 Topics in Art History

4 credits

See course descriptions for prerequisites

- HA 401 Greek Art and Archaeology
- HA 402 Roman Art and Archaeology
- HA 410 Selected Topics *Medieval Art*
- HA 430 Selected Topics *Baroque Art*
- HA 446 Impressionism
- HA 450 Selected Topics *Modern Art*
- HA 452 Selected Topics *Contemporary Art*
- HA 453 American Art, 1875-1940
- HA 461 Selected Topics *Modern Asian Art*
- HA 462 The Arts of China
- HA 471 Selected Topics *African Art*



Experiential learning helps students gain competencies they need for real-life success. In the liberal arts, the ability to gain these competencies is critical. Experiential learning opportunities available to College of Arts & Letters students include:

<https://excelnetwork.cal.msu.edu/experiential-education-requirement/>

Internships

From a career standpoint, internships are one of the most important parts of your college experience. Completing an internship offers the opportunity to make connections between your major, interests, and career communities.

Combining classroom skills and theories with real life situations and hands on practice, internships are a necessary piece to any undergraduate experience.

Study Abroad

Grounded in the belief that today's students need more global exposure and experience than ever before to compete in the 21st century, the College of Arts & Letters works with the Office for Education Abroad to find high quality learning opportunities abroad.

Through study abroad students gain cultural awareness and the ability to communicate across cultures. They learn adaptability and self-reliance. Students develop skills in problem solving and with foreign languages; gain geographical and historical knowledge; and are exposed to people who process information differently than they do.

Study Away

The College of Arts & Letters offers undergraduate students opportunities to earn academic credit through study away courses and internships in different locations within the United States, particularly during the summer months. These programs allow students to immerse themselves in active learning experiences enhanced by extended exposure to new cultural and residential communities.

Program duration ranges from one to ten weeks. Participants pay a program fee to cover housing and related expenses, and will also enroll for a minimum number of credits associated with the program.

Service Learning & Community Engagement

Service learning is a credit-based opportunity where students connect what they are learning in their coursework to community engagement activities with local schools, nonprofit organizations, and community groups. Service learning courses take place in select study abroad and study away programs as well as classes in East Lansing.

Research & Creative Projects

Undergraduate research offers unique opportunities for faculty-student collaboration while allowing students to experience learning in exciting new ways. Hands-on research makes students better learners and critical thinkers while also applying new knowledge to their studies and beyond.

Approved Courses

The following courses have been approved to satisfy the Experiential Education Requirement. Check course details for prerequisites.

ENG 408 Critical Literacies & Communities

FLM 260 Introduction to Digital Film and Emergent Media

GD 494 Design Center

LIN 499E Senior Thesis

LLT 496 Practicum in Adult English as a Second Language Teaching

PHL 454 Topics in Philosophy of Law

PHL 492 Capstone for Majors

REL 301 Methods and Theories in the Study of Religion

REL 485 Religion and Nonprofit Leadership

THR 300A Theatre Practicum - Production Emphasis

THR 300C Theatre Practicum - Area Emphasis

WRA 455 Portfolio Seminar

XA 466 Experience Architecture Capstone