**MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN ART**

The Master of Fine Arts program in Art provides a dynamic interdisciplinary environment within which students are encouraged to develop their creative practice as professional artists. The School of Art has facilities for printmaking, painting and drawing, sculpture, photography, textiles, digital media and emerging technology, and ceramics. MFA students have access to all of the School of Art facilitates as well as individual and communal MFA studio workspaces. Our faculty are distinguished and professionally active artists and art historians. Students work closely with a graduate advisor/mentor to chart their individual path through the program, including studio seminars, critiques, and individually supervised tutorials. Coursework and seminars in art history and other academic fields complement studio courses, and students are encouraged to develop rigorous research and writing skills to enrich and complement their art practice. All students are provided with individual studio spaces, and there are opportunities for teaching, either as a teaching assistant or instructor of record. Our vibrant visiting artist program introduces students to artists in the Bay Area and beyond, connecting students to the local art community. The M.F.A. degree culminates with a written thesis report and a thesis exhibition in which students exhibit an original body of work. The program may be completed in 2 or 3 years, depending on how many classes are taken each semester. Students should decide before the beginning of their first semester whether they intend to complete the program in 2 or 3 years and meet early on with the graduate coordinator to plan accordingly.

**Admission to Program**

Applications for the M.F.A. program are accepted November 1 through January 15 for admission the following fall.

Applicants are required to file two separate applications, one to the University, and one to the Art Department. Applicants who do not complete both requirements cannot be considered for admission. Both the University’s Graduate Studies Division and the Art Department must accept applicants. Admission to the program is highly competitive and it is not possible to admit all fully qualified individuals.

1. An undergraduate art degree or equivalent preparatory degree, with three units of contemporary art history taken within the last five years. If the applicant does not complete this upon admission to the program, enrollment in a contemporary art history class during the first semester is required.

2. A 3.0-grade point average in the last 60 units completed in the undergraduate degree.

The M.F.A. admission application requirements are listed below. All application materials are submitted to the department electronically through an online application site. Application procedures and the M.F.A. admissions application can be found on the department’s website.

1. A completed Department of Art M.F.A. Admissions Application.

2. One copy of either official or unofficial transcripts from all institutions of higher learning attended. These must be included in your application package. (The department's transcript requirements are in addition to the official transcripts required in the application to the University.) Note that transcripts will not be forwarded to the Art Department from the Graduate Admissions Office and vice versa.

3. One copy of your current resume/CV.

4. A two-page double-spaced Statement of Purpose describing your interests and background in art, reasons for pursuing the M.F.A. degree, and reasons for selecting San Francisco State University.

5. Three letters of recommendation should come from individuals qualified to testify to your capabilities and readiness to enter graduate study in art. Applicants provide email addresses for their references in the application. Referees receive an email with a link to upload a reference letter which is merged with the applicant’s file.

6. Creative work portfolio.

Up to 12 classified graduate units taken while completing a master’s degree in art at any accredited institution may be transferred towards credit for the M.F.A. degree. No more than 12 units (a maximum of 6 units in studio courses) of work taken in unclassified post-baccalaureate status may be transferred towards credit for the M.F.A. degree. All transfer of credit must be approved on a course-by-course basis by a departmental graduate advisor, graduate coordinator, and the Division of Graduate Studies.

A department review of each student’s progress is required at the end of each year in the program.

**Written English Proficiency Requirement**

All students in graduate programs at SF State must demonstrate Level One (entry) and Level Two (exit) writing proficiency in accordance with university, departmental, and or programmatic guidelines.

**Level One**

Level One is satisfied by the successful completion of ARTH 700.

**Level Two**

Level Two is satisfied by the successful completion of ART 706.

**Completion of the Degree**

To complete the M.F.A., students must satisfy all University and Department requirements. Department requirements are described in detail in the M.F.A. General Information Brochure. In addition to satisfactory completion of the course of study, other requirements include satisfactory performance on yearly departmental reviews, a creative work exhibition and review, and creative work documentation (generally in the form of a written thesis report). The department accepts transfer units on a course-by-course basis, only upon advisement, and in accordance with the limits established in the section entitled Transfer of Credit for Previous Graduate Work of the M.F.A. General Information Brochure. If the creative work project is not complete in the final semester of the program, students must enroll in ART 899 in the semester they intend to graduate. Students are required to be enrolled during the semester in which they graduate.

**Art (M.F.A.) — Minimum 60 units**

**Studio Requirements (Minimum 39 units)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ART 704</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Critique Seminar (repeated for a total of 12 units)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 709</td>
<td>Studio Research and Practice Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 780</td>
<td>Art Processes and Practices: Visiting Artists and Scholars (repeated once per semester for a total of six units)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 882</td>
<td>Tutorial in Studio (repeated for a total of 6 units)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Studio Electives  
ART 894  Creative Work Project  3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 700</td>
<td>Contemporary Art History: Practice, Theory, and Criticism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 706</td>
<td>MFA Writing and Research Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART 789</td>
<td>Professional Practices for Visual Artists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic Electives 2  12

1 Nine units by advisement. Suggested courses: ART 704, ART 709, ART 882, ART 780, and undergraduate studio art courses.

2 12 units by advisement may be taken in any department and may include additional academic art courses/seminars in theory, criticism, history, and directed experience. Suggested courses in the School of Art: ARTH 306, ARTH 602, ARTH 701, ART 706, ART 750, ART 850, ART 899, M S 800. See MFA Handbook for list of suggested courses in other departments in the University.