Book Arts, M.F.A.

Graduate study of the book is interdisciplinary. It focuses on book arts as hands-on practice as well as a historical and cultural phenomenon. Its principal objectives are to provide scholarly and aesthetic contexts for the study of book history, arts, and technologies; and to offer a structured program in book-related disciplines for graduate students with a serious interest in book studies.

Requirements

The Master of Fine Arts program in book arts requires a minimum of 60 s.h. of graduate credit, including a thesis. Students complete core courses and work with a faculty advisor to design an individualized curriculum spanning several studio practice disciplines: artist book work, bookbinding, lettering arts, digital book work, papermaking, or letterpress printing. The degree culminates with the successful completion of a thesis.

The program requires the following course work.

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<td>Studio Requirements</td>
<td>Courses from the areas below should be selected in consultation with an advisor.</td>
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Required Core Electives

Three of these (9 s.h.):

- UICB:4205/ BKAT:4205 Bookbinding I: Materials and Techniques 3
- UICB:4300/ ARTS:4300 Letterpress I 3
- UICB:4400/ ARTS:4400 History of Western Letterforms 3
- UICB:4415/ ARTS:4415 Calligraphy I: Foundational Hands 3
- UICB:5110/ BKAT:5110 Islamic/Asian Papermaking History and Technique 3
- UICB:5130/ BKAT:5120 European Papermaking History and Technique 3

Graduate Book Arts Workshop

UICB:6520 Graduate Book Arts Workshop (must be taken three times for a total of 9 s.h.) 9

Book Art Seminar

This course:

- UICB:6510 Book Art Seminar: History, Practice, and Critique 3

Studio Practice Electives

Study practice courses 15

Scholarly Inquiry Requirement

Two of the following, or students may request to use related courses approved by the head of the scholarly inquiry area (6 s.h.):

- UICB:3140/ ENGL:3140 Literature and the Book 3
- UICB:3142/ ENGL:3142 Topics in Book History 3
- UICB:3980/ ARTH:3980 American Print Culture 3

Material Analysis Requirement

This course:

- UICB:4930/ HIST:4430 Topics in Material Analysis 3

Additional Electives

Elective courses (may include 0–6 s.h. of thesis credit; see below) 15

Thesis

Can be taken for a maximum of 6 s.h.:

- UICB:6540 M.F.A. Thesis Hours arr.

Combined Programs

M.F.A./M.A. in Library and Information Science

The Center for the Book and the School of Library and Information Science offer a combined Master of Fine Arts in book arts/Master of Arts in library and information science. The combined degree program allows students with strong interests in the book arts, book history, and material book studies to also gain expertise in library and information science. The degrees provide book artists and librarians with credentials reflecting a depth of skills and knowledge that have been used to secure positions in special collections libraries and archives. Students in the combined program earn both degrees by completing fewer semester hours than if each degree was completed separately.

Separate application to each degree program is required. Applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the combined degree program. For more information, see the M.A. in library and information science in the Catalog.

Admission

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College. Visit Admissions on the Center for the Book website for more information.