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 coursework.

### Studio Requirements

Courses from the areas below should be selected in consultation with an advisor.

#### Required Core Electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three of these (9 s.h.):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UICB:4205/ BKAT:4205</td>
<td>Bookbinding I: Materials and Techniques</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UICB:4300/ ARTS:4300</td>
<td>Letterpress I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UICB:4400/ ARTS:4400</td>
<td>History of Western Letterforms</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UICB:4415/ ARTS:4415</td>
<td>Calligraphy I: Foundational Hands</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UICB:5110/ BKAT:5110</td>
<td>Islamic/Asian Papermaking</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UICB:5120/ BKAT:5120</td>
<td>European Papermaking</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Graduate Book Arts Workshop

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UICB:6520</td>
<td>Graduate Book Arts Workshop (must be taken three times for a total of 9 s.h.)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Book Art Seminar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This course:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UICB:6510</td>
<td>Book Art Seminar: History, Practice, and Critique</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Studio Practice Electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studio practice courses</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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.):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UICB:3140/ ENGL:3140</td>
<td>Literature and the Book</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UICB:3142/ ENGL:3142</td>
<td>Topics in Book History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UICB:3980/ ARTH:3980</td>
<td>American Print Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UICB:4150/ ENGL:4150/ SLIS:4150</td>
<td>Introduction to Book Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UICB:4910/ HIST:4910/ SLIS:4910</td>
<td>The Book in the Middle Ages</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UICB:4920/ HIST:4920/ SLIS:4920</td>
<td>The Transition from Manuscript to Print</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UICB:5600/ SLIS:5600</td>
<td>History of Readers and Reading</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UICB:6100</td>
<td>Book Studies Proseminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Material Analysis Requirement

This course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UICB:4930/ HIST:4430</td>
<td>Topics in Material Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional Electives

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can be taken for a maximum of 6 s.h.:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UICB:6540</td>
<td>M.F.A. Thesis Hours</td>
<td>arr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College on the Graduate College website. Visit Admissions on the Center for the Book website for more information.

Academic Plans

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

Book Arts, M.F.A.

Course Title Hours

Academic Career
Any Semester
60 s.h. of graduate level coursework must be completed; graduate transfer credits allowed upon approval. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website. Work with academic advisor to determine appropriate graduate coursework and sequence.

Hours 0

First Year
Any Semester
Required Core Elective
3
Required Core Elective
3
Required Core Elective
3
Studio Practice Elective
3
Studio Practice Elective
3
Studio Practice Elective
3
Scholarly Inquiry Requirement
3

Hours 21

Fall
UCB:6510 Book Art Seminar: History, Practice, and Critique 3

Hours 3

Second Year
Any Semester
UCB:4930 Topics in Material Analysis 3
Studio Practice Elective
3
Studio Practice Elective
3
Scholarly Inquiry Requirement
3

Hours 12

Fall
UCB:6520 Graduate Book Arts Workshop 3

Hours 3

Spring
Participate in third semester review, usually at the beginning of the fourth semester. Refer to UICB Student Handbook and academic advisor for more details.

UCB:6520 Graduate Book Arts Workshop 3

Hours 3

Third Year
Any Semester
Additional Elective
3
Additional Elective
3
Additional Elective
3
Additional Elective
0
Additional Elective
0

Hours 9

Fall
UCB:6520 Graduate Book Arts Workshop 3

Hours 3

Spring
UCB:6540 M.F.A. Thesis Hours 1 - 6

Exam: Final Exam-Thesis

Hours 1-6

Total Hours 55-60

a Students must complete specific requirements in the University of Iowa Graduate College after program admission. Refer to the Graduate College website and the Manual of Rules and Regulations for more information.
b Choose three courses for a total of 9 s.h. from UICB:4205, UICB:4300, UICB:4400, UICB:4415, UICB:5110, UICB:5130
c Complete a total of 15 s.h. of Studio Practice Elective courses. Work with academic advisor to determine appropriate graduate course and sequence; see General Catalog and department website for specifics.
d Complete a total of 6 s.h. of Scholarly Inquiry courses. Work with academic advisor to determine two appropriate graduate courses and sequence from a select list OR related coursework approved by the head of the scholarly inquiry area: see General Catalog and department website for specifics.
e Choose two courses for a total of 6 s.h. from UICB:3140, UICB:3142, UICB:3980, UICB:4150, UICB:4910, UICB:4920, UICB:5600, UICB:6100
f Must be taken three times for a total of 9 s.h.
g Complete a total of 15 s.h. of Additional Elective courses. Work with academic advisor to determine appropriate graduate coursework and sequence; see General Catalog and department website for specifics. Up to 6 s.h. allowed for thesis credit.
h Hours may be required for this Additional Elective if fewer than 6 s.h. of thesis credits are completed.
i Maximum of 6 s.h. of thesis credit allowed.