

Art, MFA

Requirements

The Master of Fine Arts program in art requires a minimum of 60 s.h. of graduate credit. Students must maintain a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.00. The degree is offered with thesis and with emphases in the following studio art disciplines: ceramics, graphic design, three-dimensional (3D) design, drawing, intermedia and video art, jewelry and metal arts, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture. Students must earn at least 24 s.h. of credit for the degree at the University of Iowa, including approved credit earned for the MA in art.

MFA students must hold an MA in art equivalent to that offered by the University of Iowa. Transfer credit is decided by faculty review. Following completion of the MA, students may be invited into the MFA program.

Required Courses

The 60 s.h. of credit required for the MFA includes at least 24 s.h. in a primary studio art emphasis, at least 12 s.h. in a secondary studio art emphasis, and 6 s.h. in art history and theory of art (if not already taken). Students must earn 8 s.h. in their primary studio art emphasis and 4 s.h. in their secondary studio art emphasis after being granted an MA in art. Students provide five images of their MFA work for the Graduate Archive.

Committee Review

Students must undergo an MFA committee review. They also must complete a written thesis and possibly a studio thesis. Students are reviewed by their committees at the end of the semester prior to the semester they intend to graduate.

Students are responsible for identifying a degree chair by the semester prior to the semester they intend to graduate. Committee members are selected in consultation with the degree chair by Sept. 15 for spring or summer graduation and Feb. 15 for fall graduation. The committee is comprised of the degree committee chair and three members of the graduate faculty at the assistant professor rank or above (two graduate faculty members from a student's primary studio discipline, one graduate faculty member from a student's secondary studio discipline, and an additional member). Adjunct faculty, lecturers, and visiting professors may serve on degree committees with approval of the degree committee chair and a Graduate College petition request (renewable every three years).

MFA students sign up for review through the graduate program coordinator. They obtain a form to be signed by both the degree committee members and a faculty member in the second emphasis studio discipline. These forms must be returned to the office no later than the university's official midterm day by 4:30 p.m.

Thesis

A thesis abstract is given to all degree committee members and is due by Sept. 15 for spring or summer graduation and by Feb. 15 for fall graduation. The thesis chair is responsible for meeting with the student immediately thereafter to direct thesis content and to coordinate meeting with the full committee.

The complete thesis in final form must be given to all committee members at least four weeks prior to the MFA exhibition week. Graduate College regulations covering the specific requirements of the written thesis are found on the Graduate College Thesis and Dissertation website. The thesis must be as complete as possible, including images (may be black and white or color photocopies) of approved figures that are part of the final thesis. The graduate program coordinator provides a student with complete thesis/artist statement procedures, including the Graduate College calendar.

A thesis defense of the MFA work must be scheduled with the candidate's committee during the final semester in residence. The MFA exhibition is considered the final examination and is where the degree committee reviews the thesis and artwork.

The thesis must be submitted by the Graduate College deadline. Committee members receive an email that provides a link to the finalized (post-format review) thesis and prompts them to verify the manuscript electronically; committee verification happens after the Graduate College format review. Any corrections to the thesis required by the graduate examiner or the degree committee should be completed immediately.

Students may earn 1 s.h. for writing a technical or substantial thesis by registering for ARTS:7000 MFA Written Thesis, with approval of the thesis supervisor. Thesis credit earned in an MA program is not applicable to MFA requirements.