

## ART PROGRAM

### Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) Degree

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#### DEGREE INFORMATION

##### Program Admission Deadlines:

**Fall:** January 15  
Fall admission only

**Minimum Total Hours:** 60  
**Program Level:** Masters  
**CIP Code:** 50.0702  
**Dept Code:** ART  
**Program (Major/College):** MFA FA

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

**College:** Visual and Performing Arts  
**Department:** School of Art and Art History

**Contact Information:** [www.grad.usf.edu](http://www.grad.usf.edu)  
**Other Resources:** [www.usf4you](http://www.usf4you)

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#### PROGRAM INFORMATION

The nationally ranked MFA Program in Studio Art has been carefully designed as a course of study that will maximize the student's potential for in depth investigation of his or her chosen artistic ideas, themes and /or media. Students are encouraged to acquire technical and conceptual skills in more than one medium or studio discipline and to work toward developing techniques that best communicate the content of their artistic pursuits.

##### Accreditation:

Accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of College and Schools; National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

#### ADMISSION INFORMATION

Must meet University requirements (see Graduate Admissions) as well as requirements listed below.

##### Program Admission Requirements

- 1) Same as general university requirement:
- 2) Bachelor's degree
- 3) Three Letters of Recommendation
- 4) An Artist's Statement (Not longer than one 8 1/2 x 11" page)
- 5) Slide List on one 8 1/2 x 11" page
- 6) Portfolio (SASE with adequate postage if you want your portfolio returned.) Applicants portfolio should include:
  - a) 2-D and 3-D artwork: A minimum of twenty 35mm slides in an 8 1/2 x 11" slide page. The first 20 slides are placed in slide trays for the final viewing committee. Slides should be sequenced to best show the development and relationship of ideas. Each slide should be numbered and labeled with artist's name, title of work, date, dimensions, materials and an

arrow-indicating top of slide. An 8 1/2 x 11" slide list should be included with the same information. A sentence or two providing additional information is acceptable.

- b) Film, video, kinetic sculpture, installation and/or performance artwork:: NTSC VHS videocassette recorded at the highest quality possible in SP mode. The Admissions Panel will review the first 10 minutes of each tape. If the work from more than longer pieces is submitted, short segments from each piece should be excerpted and compiled on the first 10 minutes of the tape. The longer work in its entirety can follow these short excerpts on the same tape. An 8 1/2 x 11" listing of the works on tape, running times and any additional information that will assist in understanding the submitted works should be included.
- c) CD-ROM is not recommended for any work that can be documented in either slides or video. Only work created as digital media should be submitted on a CD. Anything else submitted on CD will not necessarily be reviewed. Work originating and intended to be viewed as digital media should be submitted on a MAC formatted CD, ideally as a self-contained program / document such as Director "Projector" file. Also acceptable is a "Web Archive" document from Internet Explorer. An accompanying 8 1/2 x 11" sheet of paper with a listing of the works submitted and any additional information is acceptable. Only MAC formatted CD's as stipulated above will be reviewed. Submitting only URLs as documentation of work is not acceptable.

**DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

The M.F.A. degree requires a minimum of 60 hours. Specific program requirements include the following:

ARH 6798 Contemporary Thought (20 <sup>th</sup> Century Art History or its equivalent is a prerequisite to ARH 6798 Contemporary Thought.)	4
ART 6890 Graduate Seminar I (first semester)	3
ART 6891 Graduate Seminar II (second semester)	3
ART 6999 Professional Practices	3
ARH 6798 Seminar in Art History	8
ARH 6897 Critical Writing Seminar	3
ART 6956 M.F.A. Research Project	2

ART 5000 and 6000 Studio and Discretionary Electives - 35 credits (3 hours of electives must be taken from a program other than the School of Art and Art History – 4000 level coursework may be used to satisfy this requirement)

ART 6937 Graduate Instructor Methods 2  
(This course is an elective option for students who have not worked as a Teaching Assistant.)

**M.F.A. total course requirements 60 credits**

20<sup>th</sup> Century Art History is a prerequisite to admission to the graduate program. It may be taken during the first year of graduate school but will not count as part of the 60 credit requirement.

\*All M.F.A. students must take at least one course in non-western art or thought. This course can be taken as an art history course or through another department offering such an emphasis. Course work taken as undergraduate studies in non-western art may substitute but only at the discretion of the Art Faculty.

The rest of the program is discretionary and can be planned with the advice of the Graduate Art Advisor in its initial stages. After faculty acceptance of the student's proposed final MFA project, a Supervisory Committee will be selected and serve in an advisory capacity with the student for planning the rest of their program.

**Transfer Credits.** Requests for use of transfer credits or credits earned as a non-degree seeking student should be made when the student applies to the graduate program. The faculty will decide at the time of admission whether or not such credits will be used toward the MFA degree. Transfer credit is limited to 8 hours.

**S-U GRADES**

A Student may not take any course work for a grade of "S/U" until they have elected a supervisory committee, usually by the fourth semester. All course work taken during the first three semesters must be taken in course work assigning letter grades that designate quality points. Appropriate contract numbers would include graduate level studios such as Sculpture or Painting, and ART 5910 for an area in which a graduate student did not have prior skill, or ART 6940 for studies in an area where prior skill exists but the student requires variable credit or the research does not conform to clear categorization by discipline. ART 6907 Independent Study, and ART 6911 Directed Research offer only the S/U grading option and are not to be used until after the student has elected a supervisory committee.

**FACULTY EVALUATIONS AT THE END OF 1ST, 2ND and 3rd SEMESTER**

At the end of the first, second and third semester, students will receive a written evaluation from a faculty member with whom they are registered in a directed study contract. Students will receive this evaluation from the directed study faculty member no later than 1 week following critiques and reviews. This will indicate whether or not the student is doing satisfactory work, and will give a brief appraisal of the student's strengths and suggestions for improvement. These evaluations are based on faculty consensus, and are not necessarily in accord with grades from individual instructors. Students will receive a S/U grade after their first year in the program and after their 3rd semester in the second year.

A student receiving two "unsatisfactory" grades after the first year and third semester evaluations will be dropped from the program. To continue, the student would need to reapply.

Graduate students are requested to delay registration for courses for future semesters until after they receive their evaluation. This will enable students to consider any special faculty directives concerning individual needs and courses of study. It will be the students responsibility to follow through with directives given by the faculty.

**1ST YEAR STUDENT FACULTY CRITIQUES**

Students are required to present their work in a faculty critique at the end of the fall and spring semesters of their 1st year. Faculty critique participation will be assigned by the MFA Coordinator (one directed study faculty and the rest non-directed study, 4 total); voluntary non-participatory attendance by faculty is allowed; directed study faculty will discuss critique criteria with students before the critique; directed study faculty will discuss critique results with students in a timely manner after the critiques.

## 2nd YEAR STUDENT REVIEW BY FACULTY COMMITTEE

In their third semester, students will receive a formal review by a 3 person faculty committee (including 1 directed study faculty). The review committee will be appointed by the M.F.A. Coordinator in consultation with the faculty. The second year review will help the student assess his/her progress and begin to articulate the terms of the final project proposal.

Directed study faculty will write the evaluation and meet with the student after the review in a timely manner.

## M.F.A. RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSALS

During the fourth semester of a student's program, (s)he will give a 20 minute (maximum) presentation of a proposal for a M.F.A. Research Project. This will be followed by 10 minutes of questions from the faculty. The proposal must include a one page paper that is distributed to the faculty no less than 3 days before the proposal. The student must present a body of work supporting the student's proposed direction. The proposal should be clear, articulate and grounded in past work. It is understood that the proposal is provisional and that changes will occur in the development of the ideas and work. Students are required to meet with their directed study faculty to discuss project proposal preparation. Students are discouraged from soliciting non-directed study faculty to discuss their proposals.

Project proposal presentations will occur during the 11th or 12th week of the spring term and will be scheduled by the M.F.A. Coordinator. All faculty are required to attend. The student's presentation may be in slide or digital format and will be delivered in a formal lecture setting. The faculty will discuss each student after the presentations have concluded and will decide by a simple majority vote whether or not the proposal is satisfactory or unsatisfactory. The student's directed study faculty member will notify the student of the results shortly after the faculty vote. Faculty comments will be submitted to the student in a written report prepared by the directed study faculty member. If a student's proposal is accepted, (s)he will select a graduate supervisory committee to oversee the realization of the research project.

If a student's project proposal is not accepted during the fourth semester of his/her program, another proposal can be presented before the beginning of the following term. A faculty ad hoc advisory committee may be formed in the event the student receives an unsatisfactory vote. This committee will meet with the student to better prepare the student for the re-proposal. The ad hoc committee is not guaranteed and will be formed only if faculty members volunteer to participate on this committee. Students receiving 2 unsatisfactory votes after the Project Proposal and Re-proposal will be dismissed from the program.

## GRADUATE SUPERVISORY COMMITTEES

The Graduate Supervisory Committee consists of a chairperson and two members from the School of Art and Art History Faculty. Faculty Supervisory Committees MUST be formed by the last Friday of classes for the semester during which the M.F.A. Project Proposal is approved by the faculty. Students usually ask three studio art faculty members to be on their committee, selecting one as chair; faculty members accept at their discretion. All studio faculty are limited to 3 supervisory committees and can serve as chair on no more than 2 committees. Students may have Art History faculty members as members of their committee. Students may also have faculty members from other departments/colleges on their committee but as fourth members only.

The role of the Committee Chair is as follows: logistical and procedural organization, carry ART 6956 Research Project credits with the student, scheduling the exhibition, monitor student activity including maintaining active studio usage, submit an exhibition approval form.

Graduate Student Supervisory Committee Appointment (GSSCA) forms must be downloaded. The student will first secure the committee faculty signatures and then submit the GSSCA to the M.F.A. Coordinator. The M.F.A. Coordinator will sign the form and send it to the Associate Dean of the College for signature. Once all the signatures are secured, the GSSCA will be sent to the M.F.A. Coordinator and kept as part of the student's file. The M.F.A. Students not complying with the above will have a "hold" placed on their records and not be able to register for classes in the subsequent semester or schedule their exhibitions. See Addendum VII to download the Graduate Student Supervisory Committee Appointment Form.

Any conflicts between the student and their committee that cannot be resolved by mutual agreement between the committee and the student should be then taken to the M.F.A. Coordinator for review and recommendations.

## CRITICAL WRITING SEMINAR

In the Fall of the third year, M.F.A. candidates are required to take ART 6897 Critical Writing Seminar for three credits. The intent is to ground the student in critical/analytical methodology, to identify the student's place within the broader critical discourse and to prepare the student for a cogent, articulate written documentation of his or her M.F.A. exhibition.

## M.F.A. RESEARCH PROJECT EXHIBITION/ORALS/WRITTEN DOCUMENT

The exhibition, written document and the orals conclude the student's graduate program and take place after all course work is completed. The exhibition is usually during the term the student plans to graduate, typically

the second semester of the third year. M.F.A. Research Project exhibitions cannot be scheduled for the summer term.

•Exhibition

M.F.A. exhibitions are scheduled after the supervisory committee chair signs the exhibition approval form. Signed exhibition approval forms are to be submitted to the M.F.A. Coordinator no later than the 11th week of the semester preceding the student's exhibition.

•Orals

Orals are required of all students. These are held during the exhibition period, normally on Friday afternoons. It is the student's responsibility to select three questioners for his/her orals. These are normally drawn from the faculty. Any non-art faculty questioner must have the approval of the student's committee. Faculty who have agreed to serve as questioners for the orals should receive a copy of the paper two weeks (14 days) before the scheduled orals. Orals are open to the public. Any deviation from this policy must be approved by the student's Graduate Supervisory Committee.

•Research Project Paper

The School requires a written non-thesis research project paper in the belief that such a document helps the student organize and refine his or her thinking about the work (s)he is producing, and facilitates the process of forming and articulating ideas about art in general. The paper is also meant to provide others with access to the ideas which generate the artwork. Research Project Paper templates will be used by all students as a basic guideline for the structure of the paper. An M.F.A. candidate may choose to complete a formal thesis paper rather than the non-thesis research project paper. Any student wishing to do so must notify his/her committee of the intent upon formation of the committee, and will be responsible for adhering to all applicable deadlines and standards established by the USF Graduate Studies Program.

•Completion of the M.F.A. Research Project

Immediately after the orals, the student's Graduate Supervisory Committee meets with the questioners to make a final recommendation on acceptance of the paper, the work and the oral presentation. If these are orally approved, the student is informed of acceptance. If the committee feels it cannot approve some part of the student's presentation, it will confer with the student at once and notify the student what clarifications and alterations need to be made to the exhibition or research project paper. Once the committee accepts the research project, the student must submit documentation of the exhibition and paper to the M.F.A. Coordinator for format check. The M.F.A. Research Project documentation includes the ETD (electronic thesis/dissertation) and the LRC Archive (exhibition documentation). Once the documentation is format checked by the M.F.A. Coordinator, the student must secure a Certificate of Approval signed by the supervisory committee.

Those students who do not submit the ETD, LRC exhibition documentation and Certificate of Approval will be put on an administrative hold. This hold will prevent student transcripts from being issued.

**COURSES**

See <http://www.ugs.usf.edu/sab/sabs.cfm>