Department of Art and Art History

The Department of Art and Art History offers the Master of Fine Arts Degree in Art and the Master of Arts Degree in Art History.

- M.F.A. in Art (p. 1)
- M.A. in Art History (p. 1)

Master of Fine Arts Degree in Art

The Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) degree in Art is the terminal degree in the field of studio art. UTSA is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. The emphasis of the M.F.A. program is on conceptual development and its harmony with formal aesthetic and art historical considerations. The objective of the degree is to provide advanced study in the field of art in preparation for a career as a practicing artist, in higher education, or as a professional in other art enterprises. Students in pursuit of the M.F.A. in Art have the opportunity to study in a wide range of disciplines including: ceramics, painting/drawing, photography, printmaking, sculpture, and video/digital media.

Program Admission Requirements

In addition to satisfying the University-wide graduate admission requirements, applicants are expected to have a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree or the equivalent. Equivalency is defined as completion of a minimum of 45 semester credit hours in studio art and 15 semester credit hours in art history as part of, or in addition to, a bachelor’s degree.

Application

The Graduate School application for the M.F.A. is available online at http://graduateschool.utsa.edu/. A complete application includes the application form, personal contact information, educational background, transcripts, a statement of intent concerning graduate study, an artist's statement about the applicant's work, and three letters of recommendation (forms printable from the online application). The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required as part of the application for the M.F.A.

Portfolio

The portfolio is the most important part of the application for admission. Applicants should submit 20 images that best exemplify their most recent creative work. Do not send original works of art. Ideally, a strong portfolio will suggest a specific direction or overarching thematic interest. Portfolios may be submitted as a PDF document uploaded through the application portal. The PDF should be created as a power point with a white background and each slide should include title, medium, size, and date of completion for each piece in each image. Slides for time-based artworks should include a still image with an additional html link (not embedded) to a YouTube or video site where a video can be viewed or a sound file can be heard for the piece. Artist Statements and Statements of Purpose should be submitted as separate files.

Note: Due to the format of studio laboratory art courses, auditing is not permitted.

Departmental Requirements

All M.F.A. program graduate students are required to accrue a minimum of 60 clock hours of service to the “student-run” UTSA Satellite Space in the form of preparatory duties, Gallery sitting and maintenance on the exhibition space.

Degree Requirements

A minimum of 60 semester credit hours is required for the Master of Fine Arts degree, exclusive of coursework or other study required to remove admission deficiencies. Full-time enrollment of 9 or more semester credit hours during regular semesters is expected of degree-seeking students. In addition to satisfying all University-wide requirements, M.F.A. students must pass a First Semester Review, Semester End Progress Reviews, Advancement Review (available after completion of 24 semester credit hours of the program of study), a Candidacy Review (available in the fourth semester after completion of 36 to 42 semester credit hours of the program of study), and a final M.F.A. Oral Examination. Courses in which a grade of “C” or lower is earned will not count toward the minimum 60 hours required for the M.F.A. degree.

1. A focused program of study in studio art (ART) including ART 6023 30
   Graduate Studio Seminar
2. Art electives outside the student’s specialized area of study 12
3. Free Elective 3
4. Art history and criticism (AHC) including AHC 5123 Seminar in Research Methods and Writing 12
5. ART 6843 Master of Fine Arts Exhibition 3

Total Credit Hours 60

Master of Arts Degree in Art History

The Master of Arts degree in Art History offers the opportunity for advanced study in art history, with an emphasis on pre-Columbian, Latin American Colonial to Modern, and contemporary Latin art in the United States; modern and contemporary art history and criticism in the United States and globally; and the cultural and artistic traditions of San Antonio’s immediate region. The degree is designed to prepare the student for a career as a teacher of art history at the junior-college level, other arts-related professions, or to serve as a basis for entering a Ph.D. program.

Program Admission Requirements

In addition to the University-wide graduate admission requirements, applicants are expected to have completed an undergraduate major (24 semester credit hours) in art history or the equivalent in related fields that combine substantial studies in the humanities and visual arts. Students with no studio background will be required to take one undergraduate studio art course (3 semester credit hours). Students determined as having no studio background and completing a 5000 or 6000 level UTSA Art (ART) studio course offered by a graduate faculty member will fulfill this requirement and this coursework can be utilized to fulfill 3 semester credit hours of free electives under part C of the Master of Arts program of study. Students needing to fulfill this requirement should consult with the Graduate Advisor of Record (GAR) for Art History for advice concerning appropriate courses and instructors.

Application Materials

Application to the program is submitted online through the Graduate School’s website (http://graduateschool.utsa.edu). Students can obtain
information, detailed instructions of what additional material they must submit (three letters of recommendation, Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores, official transcripts, a writing sample, and statement of intent), as well as forms, from the Graduate School’s website. Deadlines for all materials for each term can be found on the same Web site.

Degree Requirements

The minimum number of semester credit hours required for this degree, exclusive of coursework or other study required to remove admission deficiencies, is 36. Students are required to pass a language examination demonstrating a reading knowledge of a foreign language; in most cases, this will be Spanish. The suitability of another language will be determined by the student’s advisor. This test must be completed before the student earns 18 semester credit hours of graduate work in this program. Courses in which a grade of “C” or lower is earned will not count toward the minimum 36 semester credit hours required for the Master of Arts degree in Art History. Students accepted into the Master of Arts degree program in Art History are required to maintain a minimum of 3 semester credit hours of enrollment for all Fall and Spring semesters while and until the degree is completed. Failure to enroll will result in forfeiture of the student’s status as an accepted candidate in the program. Exceptions to this requirement are granted only due to extraordinary circumstances as determined by the review and approval of the Graduate Advisor of Record and the Department Chairperson.

A. 3 semester credit hour required:
AHC 5123 Seminar in Research Methods and Writing (must be taken in student’s first year)

B. 21 semester credit hours of art history electives approved by student’s advisor, selected from the following and distributed across the disciplines offered by the program:
- AHC 5813 Topics in Art History
- AHC 5823 Topics in Mesoamerican Pre-Columbian Art
- AHC 5833 Topics in Spanish Art
- AHC 5843 Topics in Latin American Colonial Art
- AHC 5853 Topics in Contemporary Latin American Art
- AHC 5863 Topics in Contemporary U.S. Art
- AHC 6813 Practicum in Art History and Criticism
- AHC 6833 Art Gallery and Museum Practices
- AHC 6843 Project in Art History
- AHC 6913 Seminar in Art History

C. 6 semester credit hours of free electives
These are courses outside the discipline of art history in any of the supporting fields comprising the College of Liberal and Fine Arts, including art studio, with the selection approved by the Graduate Advisor of Record (GAR) for Art History.

D. 6 semester credit hours of Master’s Thesis or Project
AHC 6983 Master’s Thesis

Total Credit Hours 36

In addition to the semester credit hour requirements set forth above, all candidates for the degree are required to pass the Comprehensive Examination, an image and essay examination designed to test students’ knowledge of the history of European art, art of the Americas, and areas of concentration. The Comprehensive Examination must be taken during or immediately after the semester in which students complete their coursework and before completion of the thesis.