

ART PRACTICES - MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA)

The MFA in art practices is a rigorous program intended for artists committed to pursuing a professional life in the arts and prepares students for careers as practicing artists and arts professionals as well as teachers in colleges, universities and art schools. MFA students in the Department of Art and Art History are given private studio spaces and access to many of the department's facilities in the Visual Arts Complex and are eligible for a variety of awards, assistantships and teaching opportunities.

The MFA is a two-and-a-half-year program. Certain areas allow graduate students to petition the area to stay one extra semester should they be interested in extending their time in the program.

Students focus on one of several areas, including:

- Drawing & painting
- Sculpture and post-studio practice

Tracks

Drawing and Painting

Drawing & Painting (D&P) requires that MFA students enroll in ARTS 5202 Graduate Painting every semester that it is offered; this includes any extra semesters a student remains in the program.

Sculpture and Post-Studio

Sculpture and Post Studio Practice (SPS) requires that MFA students enroll in ARTS 5504 Graduate Sculpture every semester that it is offered. Additionally, SPS strongly recommends that MFA students enroll in ARTS 5444 Art and Environments Field School at least once during their time in the program.

Requirements

Advising

Upon admission, students are assigned a tenured or tenure-track faculty member to serve as an academic advisor in the student's home area.

Required Courses and Credits

A minimum of 54 credit hours (of which 36 credit hours must be taken in residence on the Boulder campus) of acceptable graduate work must be completed beyond the bachelor's degree.

Procedures for transferring credit from other graduate programs are governed by the regulations of the Graduate School. Transfer credit, not to exceed 18 credit hours for studio arts or 9 credit hours for art history, must first be approved by the student's academic advisor, associate chair and the Graduate School.

Students who wish to change their area of concentration after admission must petition the art practices curriculum committee.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses		
ARTS 5117	Graduate Art Seminar (Should be taken in the first semester)	3

ARTS 5118	Visiting Artist Program (should be taken in the second semester)	3
ARTS 6957	Master of Fine Arts Creative Thesis	6
Home Area Courses		12
Painting & Drawing:		
ARTS 5202	Graduate Painting	
Ceramics:		
ARTS 5075	Graduate Ceramics	
ARTS 5095	Special Topics in Ceramics	
Printmaking:		
ARTS 5303	Graduate Relief	
ARTS 5403	Graduate Intaglio	
ARTS 5413	Graduate Lithography	
ARTS 5423	Graduate Screen Printing	
ARTS 5433	Alternative Printmaking 2	
ARTS 5453	Monotype 2	
ARTS 5097	Special Topics-Non-Studio	
Sculpture & Post-Studio Practice:		
ARTS 5504	Graduate Sculpture	
Filmmaking:		
ARTF 5610	Image-makers Graduate Seminar	
Any ARTF course at the 5000/6000 level		
IMAP (Integrated Media Arts Practices):		
ARTS 5126	Digital Art 2	
ARTS 5161	Graduate Photography	
ARTS 5171	New Directions in Photography	
ARTS 5176	New Directions in Digital Art	
ARTS 5246	Graduate Beginning Video Production	
Electives		21
Studio and non-studio; up to 6 credit hours may be taken in an allied field, at the 3000 level and above		
Art History		3
Theory Requirement		3
Additional course in Art History, Theory or Film		3
Total Credit Hours		54

Degree Requirements

First-Semester and First-Year Reviews

In consultation with the advisor, the student will establish the membership of his or her committee, consisting of a minimum of three faculty members and one second-year graduate student, and schedule the first-semester review; its purpose is to give feedback to the student with regard to progress toward the degree. At the end of the first year, the committee is convened for a first year review; its purpose is to evaluate the student's progress in the program and to determine if she or he will continue in the program.

Pre-Thesis Review

At the end of the semester preceding the graduating semester, the pre-thesis review takes place. Its purpose is for the graduate student to present the focus of his or her written thesis and exhibition, to review and evaluate the student's progress in the program, and to determine if the student is ready to register for thesis hours.

Thesis/Exhibition/Defense

The MFA thesis defense must be conducted while the student's work is on view during the MFA Exhibition. The MFA thesis must be submitted in its final draft form to all the thesis committee members two weeks prior to the scheduled thesis defense. After the defense, two copies of the thesis, with the required signatures on the signature sheet, must be turned into the graduate program coordinator. One of these is cataloged in the Norlin Library, and a digital copy is submitted to CU Scholar, Norlin Library's digital repository.

Time Limit

It is expected that the MFA program be completed within two-and-a-half years. Under certain circumstances and in consultation with the candidate's primary area and advisor, a candidate may petition for an additional semester of study.

Graduation

Before registering for thesis hours, ARTS 6957 Master of Fine Arts Creative Thesis, students must have a pre-thesis review with their faculty advisor and thesis committee. Art practices thesis work must take the form of original creative work of acceptable professional standards. The oral defense exam must be done in conjunction with the thesis exhibition, and the candidate must provide a critical written statement (creative thesis) concerning the work. The candidate's written creative thesis becomes part of Norlin Library's digital repository (https://scholar.colorado.edu/art_mfa/), and digital documentation of thesis work is housed within the department's Visual Resources Center (<https://www.colorado.edu/artandarthistory/vrc/>) digital image collection.

For further information see MFA guidelines (https://www.colorado.edu/artandarthistory/degrees/mfa-art-practices/#mfa_degree_requirements-193) on the department's website.

Tracks

Sculpture and Post-Studio

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses		
ARTS 5117	Graduate Art Seminar	3
ARTS 5118	Visiting Artist Program	3
ARTS 6957	Master of Fine Arts Creative Thesis	6
	Art History course	3
	Additional course in Art History, Theory or Film	3
	<i>Home Area Course</i>	12
Options include:		
ARTS 5504	Graduate Sculpture	
ARTS 5154	Metalsmithing 1	
<i>Electives</i>		
	Studio and non-studio; up to 6 credit hours may be taken in an allied field, at the 3000 level and above	24
Total Credit Hours		54

Drawing and Painting

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses		
ARTS 5117	Graduate Art Seminar	3
ARTS 5118	Visiting Artist Program	3
ARTS 6957	Master of Fine Arts Creative Thesis	6

Art History course	3	
Additional course in Art History, Theory or Film	3	
<i>Home Area Course</i>		
ARTS 5202	Graduate Painting	12
<i>Electives</i>		
Studio and non-studio; up to 6 credit hours may be taken in an allied field at the 3000 level and above	24	
Total Credit Hours		54

Plan(s) of Study

Year One

Fall Semester	Credit Hours	
ARTS 5117	Graduate Art Seminar (must be taken in the first semester. May count towards the theory requirement)	3
	Graduate seminar in home studio (major area)	3
	Graduate-level elective	3
	First-semester review	
Credit Hours		9

Spring Semester

ARTS 5118	Visiting Artist Program (must be taken in the second semester)	3
	Graduate seminar in home studio (major area)	3
	Graduate-level elective	3
	Graduate-level elective	3
	First year review	
Credit Hours		12

Year Two

Fall Semester	Credit Hours	
	Graduate seminar in home studio (major area)	3
	Graduate-level art history seminar (ARTH 5000 or 6000 level course)	3
	Graduate-level elective	3
	Graduate-level elective/ or course outside of the department at the 3000 level or above	3
Credit Hours		12

Spring Semester

	Graduate seminar in home studio (major area)	3
	Graduate-level seminar in art histor, theory, or film (ARTF 5000 level)	3
	Graduate-level elective	3
	graduate-level elective/ or course outside of the department at the 3000 level or above	3
	Pre-thesis review	
Credit Hours		12

Year Three

Fall Semester	Credit Hours	
ARTS 6957	Master of Fine Arts Creative Thesis	6
	Graduate-level elective	3

Thesis defense

Credit Hours	9
Total Credit Hours	54

Learning Outcomes

- To encourage depth and refinement of students' artistic practices.
- To expose students to varied modes of contemporary art practice and thinking through coursework and individual study.
- To prepare students for careers as practicing artists and arts professionals, as well as teachers in colleges, universities and art schools.

Dual Degree Program

MBA/MFA in Art Practices

To support the university's mission of advancing knowledge across disciplines and in recognition that business education and training has relevance to many academic fields, the Leeds School of Business (<http://leeds.colorado.edu/>) and the Department of Art and Art History endorse a dual degree program in which both MBA and MFA degrees are awarded. This opportunity will appeal to students with career aspirations in gallery or museum management, or in starting entrepreneurial ventures combining their business and artistic talents. This three-year program offers students the opportunity to earn both degrees together in less time than if the degrees were earned sequential.

Students must apply to and meet the application requirements for each program separately. Please see the MFA degree requirements page (https://www.colorado.edu/artandarthistory/degrees/mfa-art-practices/#mfa_degree_requirements-193) and MFA application page (<https://www.colorado.edu/artandarthistory/apply/mfa-art-practices-application/>) for more information on satisfying the MFA application and degree requirements. Admitted students spend their first year in one of the two programs, the second year in the other program, and the third year is a combination of the two. Both degrees must be awarded simultaneously. To learn more, visit the department's MBA/MFA (<https://www.colorado.edu/artandarthistory/apply/mamba-or-mfamba/>) webpage.