ART PRACTICES - MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA)

The art practices areas include ceramics, painting and drawing, IMAP (Interdisciplinary Media Arts Practice: photography, video, digital arts and integrated arts), film (in collaboration with the Film Studies Program), printmaking and sculpture.

Concurrent Degree Program

BA/MFA in Film Studies and Art Practices (Film Track)
The film studies/art practices bachelor of arts/master of fine arts critical studies degree gives highly motivated BA students the opportunity to earn an MFA degree using an accelerated undergraduate program in combination with a fifth year of study.

Program Description

The BA/MFA degree in film studies (FS) is a critical studies track under the auspices of the art practices MFA program. This collaboration between the Film Studies Program and the Department of Art and Art History is an extension of our common interests in visual art. The Film Studies tenured and tenure-track faculty also have graduate faculty standing within Art and Art History.

The BA/MFA track prepares students for professional careers in teaching and criticism, from the perspective of innovative critical approaches and in preparation for a PhD track at another university. The aim of the BA/MFA film program is to aid in the advancement of the scholarly understanding of film art, with emphasis on theoretical and research approaches and their role in academia. The BA/MFA will, therefore, prepare its graduates to assume the responsibilities of the academic study of cinema as one of the fine arts and to pursue careers in teaching, research, curating and the overall advancement of the study of cinema as art.

The program offers studies leading to the MFA in the areas of film criticism and theory. Advanced students are encouraged to explore interdisciplinary approaches as well as to enhance their program of study with cognate courses in other departments such as history, comparative literature, anthropology, English, women's studies, ethnic studies, Spanish and Portuguese, French and Italian, Germanic and Slavic languages and literatures and others. Film studies offers a broad selection of seminar topics on their current faculty research interests and in response to student demand. The Visiting Film Artist program brings additional distinguished, innovative film and video artists and critics to campus and Portuguese, French and Italian, Germanic and Slavic languages and literature, anthropology, English, women's studies, ethnic studies, Spanish and Portuguese, French and Italian, Germanic and Slavic languages and literatures and others. Film studies offers a broad selection of seminar topics on their current faculty research interests and in response to student demand. The Visiting Film Artist program brings additional distinguished, innovative film and video artists and critics to campus and students are encouraged to register for their seminars.

Admission to the Program

- Admission to the program occurs during the second semester of the junior year. Applicant should have a cumulative GPA of 3.3 and have completed all MAPS deficiencies. All applicants will provide a copy of their (internal) CU transcript. (Please note: Applicant should specify on the on the form that they are applying for the spring term, BA/MFA degree, major codes AS-FLM2 and GR-ART).
- After completing the top portion of the form, the student should make an appointment with the Director, Professor Ernesto Acevedo-Muñoz (www.colorado.edu/filmstudies/ernesto-acevedo-munoz (http://www.colorado.edu/filmstudies/ernesto-acevedo-munoz)).
- The sole application deadline is the second Monday in October. Please submit the standard BA/MA application form (http://www.colorado.edu/GraduateSchool/academics/_docs/Concurrentapplication.pdf) with your package. Note: Applicants should specify on the form that they are applying for the spring term, BA/MFA degree, major codes AS-FLM2 and GR-ART.
- Students will secure the sponsorship and/or advisory commitment of a Film Studies faculty member at the rank of assistant professor or higher. The applicant will include a brief letter or statement from the Faculty member attesting to the advisory relationship.
- Applicants will submit a one-page prospectus detailing a possible research topic for an MFA thesis. The prospectus must include a minimum bibliography of 10–15 items.
- “October Surprise”: Applicants must successfully complete a writing assignment in the form of a 10–12 page analytical/theoretical or historical argument paper on a film determined by the faculty. Students will pick up a DVD and a “prompt” or question in the Film Studies office at 4 p.m. on the Friday before the application is due. Over the weekend, the applicants must watch the movie, do some research, make an argument, and write the paper, which will be handed in with the application Monday at 9 a.m. The “October Surprise” portion of the application process is designed to have students demonstrate their writing skills and their ability to find, define, and argue a topic in a fairly sophisticated manner for an aspiring master’s student.
- Only currently enrolled, University of Colorado Boulder students, may be considered for admission to the program. Transfer students must complete at least 24 credit hours as a degree-seeking student before applying to the program.
- Student enrolled in the BA/MFA track cannot pursue a double major or double degree of any kind.

Requirements

Prerequisites

The following are required for admission to the graduate program:

- Bachelor's degree from an approved college or school of art with a minimum grade point average of 2.750.
- Minimum of 34 credit hours of acceptable work in art; 12 credit hours in fine arts history is preferred.
- Submission of a portfolio, including 20 images, representing creative work, a written statement of goals and objectives and an artist statement.
- Applicants interested in IMAP/Video or film track should submit their portfolios on DVDs, for screening by the IMAP and film committees.

Advisor

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

Course Requirements

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 nine 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.

**Required Courses and Semester Credit Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home studio (major area)—min. 12</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives (student and non-studio; up to 6 credit hours may be taken in an allied field, at the 3000 level and above)</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art history, theory or film critical studies</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting Artist Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Art Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credit Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>54</strong></td>
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**Film Track**

ARTF 5030 is allowed as a substitute for ARTS 5118.

**Program 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 catalogued in the Norlin Library.

**Time Limit**

It is expected that the MFA program be completed within two-and-a-half years.

**Graduation**

Before registering for ARTS 6957, students must have a pre-thesis review with their faculty advisor and thesis committee. Studio arts 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 is housed with the Art and Architecture Collection in Norlin Library, and 10-15 digital images (representing work in the exhibition) become part of and are housed with the departmental Visual Resources Center. The committee may request a contribution of original work.