

Department of Fine Arts

New Student Information

This information is an overview of the degree requirements in the Department of Fine Arts at Washington State University. We hope that you will take the time to read this and to understand it so that you and your advisor will be able to tailor your schedule to fit your personal goals.

The University is a collection of Colleges, and the Fine Arts department is a division of the College of Sciences and Arts. Some of the academic course work required for your degree is defined by the whole university, and some is defined by the college. These are called General Education Requirements (GERs). The rest of the degree requirements are established by the department in which you choose to major, and are called 'program requirements'. The system may seem somewhat regimented at first glance, but it can be very flexible if you know how to navigate it. You are expected to read the University Catalog, and to become familiar with the online services offered to students by the Registrar's office:

(<https://www.it.wsu.edu/AIS/SIC/sicintro.htm>).

All new students enter the university as part of a general advisory program, and join a department when they declare a Major course of study. It is a general rule that you must declare this major by the time you have accumulated sixty semester credit hours (the total required for the Bachelor's degree), but the Fine Arts Faculty encourages students to declare the major as soon as possible in their academic career. You will then be able to pick your academic advisor from your major faculty. Good advising can help make your University experience enjoyable.

DECLARING THE FINE ARTS MAJOR

The Department of Fine Arts offers two bachelor's degrees. *The Bachelor of Arts - Fine Arts* degree (BA-FA), is the more general degree. The *Bachelor of Fine Arts* degree (BFA) is more specialized, with a focus in a specific studio area, usually in preparation for post-graduate study leading to the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree.

The minimum course work you must have before you declare your major is the successful completion of **three** of the following courses (all FA):

FA102 or FA103 Studio Foundations Courses

FA110 Drawing

FA111 Figure Drawing

FA320 Painting

FA350 Sculpture

And **one** art history course:

FA201 or FA202

You may be enrolled in two of the above courses during the semester that you declare the major. The only other requirement for acceptance to the BA program is a 2.0 cumulative grade point in Fine Arts courses, and you may apply any time at the FA office (Rm 5072). You should declare the BA-FA major, whether or not you plan to graduate with the BFA degree.

BFA CERTIFICATION

To enter the BFA program, you must submit your work for judgment by the faculty in a process called certification. A certification day for the BFA program will take place each semester, and classes in the FA curriculum will be canceled to allow the department's full attention during the process. To apply, you must have finished the above course work, or already be a declared BA candidate. Application forms are available in the FA office (Rm 5072). Dates and deadlines will be announced well in advance in your FA classes, and will be posted on the undergrad bulletin board, located on the right-hand side of the staircase in the main foyer of the Fine Arts Center. It is recommended that you discuss your intention to apply for the BFA with a faculty member, as soon as possible during your time in the program. You cannot certify during your final semester.

In addition to the course work required for the BA-FA, you must have six credit hours of classes in your intended major area (Ceramics, Drawing, Electronic Imaging, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture). You will be assigned a time and room for certification day, where you will set up your work and meet with faculty members who may question you about your interest in the BFA program. This process requires scheduling, so submission deadlines must be met.

Approximately 16 original works are required for review:

- 4 (minimum) of drawing
- 8 indicating an intended major (i.e. - painting, sculpture, ceramics, etc.)
- 4 of your choice of medium

A slide portfolio is also required:

Please provide a properly loaded carousel projector tray in a box clearly labeled with your name and ID number. Ask your advisor about proper loading of slides if you are in doubt (if they're upside-down, we will not fix them). A maximum of 16 slides should include 4 (minimum) of drawing, and 12 of your best work, preferably from your studio classes, but work done outside of class is acceptable. Digital media may be substituted for the slide portfolio if your advisor consents. This portfolio will be collected during your presentation for use by the faculty when they meet to decide certification.

BFA candidates will be required to enroll in FA493 during their final semester in the program, and must complete a senior project in the form of a solo exhibition. There are additional requirements for candidates enrolled in the honors program.

TRANSFER STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

A maximum of 18 semester hours of fine arts transfer credits may be applied to the program requirements for WSU Fine Arts degrees.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Five absences from a fine arts class during the course of a semester constitutes grounds for the student to receive a grade of "F" for that class.