Art (Photography), BFA

The photography program in the ASU Herberger Institute School of Art is considered one of the finest programs in the country. Our graduate photography program has ranked in the top 10 in the country by U.S. News & World Report since 2002.

Program Description

Students in the BFA program in art with a concentration in photography are offered an education in the creation and analysis of photographs as a form of creative expression. Students work in a wide range of photographic media including specialized 19th-century processes, traditional black-and-white and state-of-the-art digital output.

The internationally recognized photography faculty at ASU are diverse, representing and encouraging a wide range of approaches to the creation of photo-based art. Students learn to be self-disciplined and self-directed to understand complex ideas around how images function in their work and to develop a strong sense and control of the craft of photography. The Northlight Gallery engages students and provides opportunities to learn about gallery and museum practice through mounting exhibitions and working with artists and the collection.

A portfolio submission is required for a BFA with a concentration in photography. Students are not able to register for upper-division photography courses until their portfolio has been submitted and reviewed (typically submitted during the second year of study). To be eligible to submit their portfolio, a student must have completed two courses: ART 201 and ART 204 OR ART 205 (transfer credit applicable).

At a Glance

• **College/School:** Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts
• **Location:** Tempe campus
• **Additional Program Fee:** Yes
• **Second Language Requirement:** No
**First Required Math Course:** MAT 142 - College Mathematics
OR MAT 117 OR MAT 119

**Math Intensity:** General

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**Required Courses (Major Map)**

2019 - 2020 Major Map
Major Map (Archives)

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**Admission Requirements**

**General University Admission Requirements:**

All students are required to meet general university admission requirements.

**Freshman** | **Transfer** | **International** | **Readmission**

**Additional Requirements:**

All art students are admitted to ASU into the Bachelor of Arts (art studies) program. They must complete a series of requirements that include foundational coursework to be eligible for study in one of the school's Bachelor of Fine Arts degree programs, which include upper-division coursework in the studio. There is no portfolio review process for admission to the School of Art.

**Students in their second year who are interested in studio art and art education obtain a signed BFA declaration form after completing the core requirements and during completion of the last of the 12 hours of 200-level art requirements.** Students interested in art history or museum studies submit a major declaration form in the semester in which they complete 30 credit hours. The student's major is changed upon successful completion of the major declaration form. Students may choose to remain in and complete the Bachelor of Arts (art studies).

**Transfer Admission Requirements:**

Transfer students who have completed the foundational core and pre-art requirements may submit a major declaration form before they have been admitted to ASU. To complete an undergraduate degree in four years, it is recommended that community college transfer students, who are completing a two-year degree and have completed the foundational core and pre-art requirements, apply and submit a declaration form in the semester they are completing their community college degree or the semester before they plan to enter Arizona State University.

Direct transfer of courses from other accredited institutions to the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts are subject to the existence of parallel and equal courses in the college's curriculum and subject to departmental or school evaluation of studio courses with respect to performance standards.
Every candidate for the bachelor's degree must earn a minimum of 30 credit hours in resident credit at ASU. Transfer students enrolled in the college must complete a minimum of 15 credit hours of resident credit in the major as approved by the faculty.

**Change of Major Requirements**

An ASU student who would like to change majors to one offered by the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 (scale is 4.00 = "A").

Students should refer to [https://changingmajors.asu.edu/request](https://changingmajors.asu.edu/request) for information about how to change a major to this program.

**Transfer Options**

ASU is committed to helping students thrive by offering tools that allow personalization of the transfer path to ASU. Students may use the [Transfer Map search](https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/pathway-programs) to outline a list of recommended courses to take prior to transfer.

ASU has transfer partnerships in Arizona and across the country to create a simplified transfer experience for students. These pathway programs include exclusive benefits, tools and resources, and help students save time and money in their college journey. Students may learn more about these programs by visiting the admission site: [https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/pathway-programs](https://admission.asu.edu/transfer/pathway-programs).

**Global Opportunities**

**Global Experience**

With over 250 programs in more than 65 countries (ranging from one week to one year), study abroad is possible for all ASU students wishing to gain global skills and knowledge in preparation for a 21st-century career. Students earn ASU credit for completed courses, while staying on track for graduation, and may apply financial aid and scholarships toward program costs. [https://mystudyabroad.asu.edu/](https://mystudyabroad.asu.edu/)
Career Opportunities

A degree in the arts offers students a pathway to a rich and varied choice of careers. Students with a photography degree may work as independent studio photographers or contract for commercial work for firms, museums, galleries, individuals and other artists. Though this is not a commercial degree program, some students apply their skills post-graduation by doing product photography, portraits or event photography. Students have also started their own successful art galleries.

Photo skills hone a particular sensitivity to issues of representation and a heightened sense of time, among many other life-enhancing attributes. These critical and creative sensitivities can be brought to bear in life after graduation whatever career path a student chooses. The bachelor’s degree is essential for advanced study leading to the terminal MFA. This advanced degree offers opportunities in:

- curatorial work in galleries, museums and historical collections
- history or studio areas
- nonprofit arts organization management
- university teaching

Career examples include but are not limited to those shown in the following list. Advanced degrees or certifications may be required for academic or clinical positions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>*Growth</th>
<th>*Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animator</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>$70,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Director</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>$92,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art Professor</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>$66,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio-Visual Technician</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>$42,190</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camera Operator</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>$53,550</td>
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<tr>
<td>Craft Artist</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>$34,940</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fine Artist</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>$49,520</td>
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<tr>
<td>High School Teacher</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>$59,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographer</td>
<td></td>
<td>$32,490</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talent Agent</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>$64,940</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Data obtained from the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) under sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA).

☀ Bright Outlook ☀ Green Occupation
Contact Information

Schedule an advisor appointment
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