Art, MFA

Ranked in the top 20 art schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, the ASU School of Art supports a diverse community of artists and scholars that foster global relevance, leadership, social responsibility and self-expression.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MFA Art

The ASU School of Art's highly ranked MFA program provides artists with both a formal and a conceptual foundation in contemporary art. Situated in the context of a public research university renowned for innovation, students work closely with distinguished art faculty to develop the skills to produce culturally relevant work and sustain a lifelong creative practice. Students are encouraged to work across disciplines and select a focus from a range of media including animation, ceramics, intermedia, metals, painting and drawing, photography, printmaking, sculpture, textiles and woods.

In addition to the expansive curriculum, students benefit from visiting artist and scholar lecture series, professionalization workshops, teaching opportunities and pedagogical training. Students also supplement their arts curriculum by taking advantage of the vast resources afforded by a Research 1 university, engaging with world renowned researchers or taking courses in a variety of departments. The ASU Museum offers vital opportunities for students to learn from and connect with artists and curators.

Graduate students are provided world class individual studio space at Grant Street Studios (https://art.asu.edu/galleries-and-facilities/grant-street-studios), located in the cultural hub of downtown Phoenix. This facility is also home to two galleries and enhanced resources including a common wood shop, printmaking presses, photography darkroom, ceramics kilns, computer lab and 3D print lab. Students also have access to the vibrant community of museums, galleries, businesses and cultural organizations in Phoenix as well as in nearby Los Angeles, Santa Fe and Denver.

The Master of Fine Arts program culminates in a solo thesis exhibition in one of the School of Art's galleries (Step Gallery, Northlight Gallery, Harry Wood Gallery). In addition to offering one of the most affordable MFA programs nationally, students benefit from various funding opportunities, including teaching assistantships as well as scholarships and awards supporting student travel and research. Current special initiatives in the School of Art, including the Global Art School Futures and Arizona Artists' Oral History Project, add dynamic opportunities for the professionalization, collaboration and immersive learning essential to being an artist in the 21st century.
At a Glance

- **College/School**: Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts
- **Location**: Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

60 credit hours and an oral comprehensive exam (defense of MFA exhibition)

The 60 hours of graduate credit are subject to committee approval and must include:

ART 680 Practicum, resulting in an MFA exhibition (10-15 credit hours)
graduate studio (18-27 credit hours)
graduate-level academic coursework (at least 6 credit hours)
graduate-level ART seminars (9-18 credit hours)
required courses in contemporary art theory (3) and cross-practice critique (3) (6 credit hours)

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. current resume or curriculum vitae
4. portfolio
5. statement of intent
6. three letters of recommendation
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency via a TOEFL score regardless of current residency: https://admission.asu.edu/international/graduate/english-proficiency.

Admission is a two-step process. Although applicants fill out one application through the online graduate application process, they must be admitted into both the MFA program and to the Graduate College.

The portfolio should be 20 images, sized with a maximum dimension of 1024 pixels; video files less than 60MB each; and accompanied by an image list and the statement of intent (this is not to exceed 1,000 words) that addresses the applicant's artistic interests, reasons for applying to graduate school in general and the ASU School of Art in particular as well as professional goals.

The three letters of recommendation should be from faculty members with whom the applicant has studied or from recognized professionals in the field. All the instructions for letters of recommendation must be followed when submitting them with the application to the Graduate College.

The method for submitting the resume or vitae, portfolio, statement of intent and letters of recommendation is online via SLIDEROOM: https://asuherberger.slideroom.com. Applicants may upload images (.jpg), video (.mov, .wmv, .flv), music (mp3) or PDF documents.

Applicants should see the program website for application deadlines.

Contact Information

School of Art | ART 102
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Admission Deadlines