

# STUDIO ART, MFA

## Program Description

A Master of Fine Arts is a distinguished terminal degree that prepares students to excel as professional practicing artists in a global context and for careers in higher education. It is the highest academic degree awarded in Studio Art.

The MFA in Studio Art at TAMU-CC is a comprehensive three-year program designed to guide students toward expertise in studio art practices, aesthetics, and scholarly inquiry while expanding proficiency in art history, criticism, and theory. Students have additional opportunities to acquire experience in classroom instruction and pedagogy and gallery practices. Applicants must have a Bachelor of Fine Arts or graduate degree in Studio Art for consideration. Admission is competitive and based upon a comprehensive evaluation of application materials by full-time faculty members in the Department of Art & Design.

Full-time MFA candidates in good academic standing receive in-state tuition, an assistantship, a stipend, and health insurance. Accepted candidates may be selected during the evaluation process for a competitive SAGE Fellowship that waives tuition and mandated university fees. This voucher is renewable for up to three years.

## Student Learning Outcomes

The student's thesis project will:

- Reflect conceptual cohesiveness, creativity, originality, and contemporary contribution to the chosen area(s) of specialization.
- Exhibit a professional breadth of competence in chosen media, materials, and processes.

The student's thesis paper will:

- Clearly and critically synthesize techniques, aesthetics, concepts, and/or theories that are essential to the work presented in the exhibition.
- Articulate how the work aligns with a historical/contemporary context and/or explain the relevance to major cultural, theoretical, or aesthetic models.

The student's oral defense will:

- Clearly communicate mastery level knowledge of techniques and concepts presented in the exhibition and paper.
- Effectively articulate an independent artistic ability, intellectual judgments, and professional decision-making pertaining to the exhibition, paper, and area(s) of specialization.

## Course Prerequisites

Candidates must have completed at least 6 semester hours of upper-division undergraduate course work in a field or the specific course prerequisite to enroll in 5000-level courses in that field. Additional undergraduate prerequisite coursework may be required by the specific graduate program.

## Transfer of Credit

Subject to the recommendation of the graduate faculty and a portfolio review, Candidates may have up to 15 semester hours (not including exhibition) of graduate credit applied to the Master of Fine Arts program.

The credits must have been earned as degree-eligible post-baccalaureate work. Credit that is more than ten years old will not be counted toward the MFA degree.

## For Additional Information

**Website:**

<https://www.tamucc.edu/samc/art-and-design/master-of-fine-arts/index.php> (<https://www.tamucc.edu/samc/art-and-design/master-of-fine-arts/>)

**Campus Address:**

Center for the Arts (CA), Room 105  
Phone: (361) 825-2317

**Mailing Address:**

Department of Art, Unit 5721  
School of Arts, Media, & Communication  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
6300 Ocean Drive  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5721

## Admission Requirements

In addition to meeting university criteria for admission to graduate studies, an applicant must meet the following requirements for admission to the MFA program:

1. Earned Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, earned a bachelor's degree relative to Graphic Design, or earned a graduate degree in art from an institution accredited by one of the six regional accrediting associations.
2. Earned at least 15 hours of upper-level Studio Art or Graphic Design coursework.
3. Submit a completed Graduate School Admission application via the Graduate Admissions website.
4. Submit a 300-500 word typed essay written by the applicant, explaining their interest and objectives for graduate studies via the Graduate Admissions website.
5. Provide three letters of recommendation from faculty or persons familiar with the applicant's interest and ability in art via the Graduate Admissions website.
6. Provide (20) examples of the applicant's artwork via current submission requirements and/or via email to the Department of Art & Design Graduate Coordinator including title, media, dimensions, and year for each artwork (jpg image files, 1920 pixels on the longest side, at least 150 dpi).

A Candidate wishing to enroll in graduate courses as a non-degree seeking student must first submit a letter requesting admission from the Department of Art & Design faculty, a portfolio representing their artwork, and a 300-500 word essay. The Department of Art & Design faculty will review all applications for admission and consider the applicant's transcripts, essay, letters of recommendation, and portfolio. College graduates who do not meet the above admission requirements may petition to enter the MFA program by conditional admission. The faculty reserves the right to interview Candidates seeking conditional admission to the program. Candidates who have been conditionally admitted will have their first 9 semester hours of coursework critiqued by the graduate faculty to determine whether they qualify to continue in the program.

The deadline to apply for the MFA in Studio Art is listed on the Department of Art & Design Website.

## Program Requirements

### Course Requirements

Candidates must complete 60 semester hours in art with a minimum 3.0 GPA. No more than two grades of C earned at this university will be accepted as credit for this degree.

### MFA Studio Art Program Requirements with a concentration in Ceramics, Painting and Drawing, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture, or Interdisciplinary Art

Requirements	Credit Hours
Studio Art	36
Art History/Theory & Methods/ Research Topics	12
MFA Seminar	6
MFA Project and Thesis	6
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>60</b>

The distribution of credit hour requirements is as follows:

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Studio Art</b>		
Select an area of concentration:		36
<i>Concentration in Ceramics, Painting and Drawing, Photography, Printmaking, or Sculpture</i>		
18-24 semester hours focused on a primary concentration in one discipline <sup>1,2</sup>		
12-18 semester hours of Studio Art electives outside of concentration area		
<i>Concentration in Interdisciplinary Art</i>		
Select 36 semester hours in Studio Art or Design courses in any Studio Art program area across the department <sup>1,2</sup>		
<b>Art History/Theory &amp; Methods/Research Topics</b>		
Select 12 hours from the following courses:		12
ARTS 5392	Art Theory and Methods	
ARTS 5393	Seminar in Art History and Aesthetics	
ARTS 5394	Directed Research (research topic)	
Graduate-level research course beyond the Department of Art & Design <sup>3</sup>		
<b>MFA Seminar</b>		
ARTS 5191	Graduate Professional Practices Seminar (repeat 3 times) <sup>4</sup>	3
ARTS 5192	Graduate Critique Seminar (repeat 3 times) <sup>5</sup>	3
<b>MFA Project and Thesis</b>		
ARTS 5398	MFA Project	3
ARTS 5395	MFA Thesis	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>60</b>

<sup>1</sup> Enrollment in Graphic Design is subject to the approval of the Graphic Design faculty. If deemed necessary, the faculty may require the Candidate complete up to 9 hours of leveling coursework as a prerequisite to enrollment

<sup>2</sup> Up to 6 semester hours can be completed in graduate level creative-based courses beyond the Department of Art & Design in consultation between the Graduate Coordinator and area of concentration faculty, or Thesis Committee.

<sup>3</sup> Graduate level research-based course beyond the Department of Art & Design in consultation with Graduate Coordinator (see MFA Handbook for list of options)

<sup>4</sup> This seminar covers professional development and academic pedagogy.

1 semester hour course taken each Fall - Candidates from all three years are enrolled

<sup>5</sup> This course supports preparation for the first year review, second-year review, and Oral Defense.

1 semester hour course taken each spring - Candidates from all three years are enrolled together

### MFA in Studio Art with a concentration in Graphic Design with separate tracks in Professional Practices or Academic Appointment

Requirements	Credit Hours
Graphic Design	36
Open Electives	6
Art History/Theory & Methods	6
MFA Project and Thesis	12
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>60</b>

The distribution of requirements is seen in the following outline:

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Graphic Design</b>		
Select 30 semester hours of Graphic Design in area of concentration		30
ARTS 5314	MFA Studio in Art: Graphic Design	
Select 6 semester hours of Graduate Teaching Assistant Practicum in area of concentration		6
ARTS 5397	Graduate Teaching Assistant Practicum	
<b>Open Electives</b>		
Select 6 semester hours of graduate electives		6
<b>Art History/Theory &amp; Methods</b>		
ARTS 5392	Art Theory and Methods <sup>1</sup>	3
ARTS 5393	Seminar in Art History and Aesthetics <sup>1</sup>	3
<b>MFA Project and Thesis</b>		
ARTS 5398	MFA Project	6
ARTS 5395	MFA Thesis	6
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>60</b>

<sup>1</sup> The 6 semester hours can both be in Art History and Criticism courses with varying topics.

### Special Requirements

First-Year Review and Second-Year Review

The Department of Art & Design faculty will review each candidate's work following completion of 20 semester hours or the first year of graduate study, and following completion of 40 semester hours or the second year of graduate study before permitting advancement toward completion of an MFA Project and MFA Thesis.

## Exit Requirements

In addition to meeting the university requirement of a 3.0 GPA or greater, candidates for the MFA in Studio Art must meet the following exit requirements according to the concentration and emphasis of the candidate's respective degree plan.

Upon approval of advancement toward an MFA Project and MFA Thesis via the Second-Year Review process, it is the MFA Candidate's responsibility to adhere to forms and deadlines required by the College of Graduate Excellence.

The MFA Project and MFA Thesis are graded on a credit/noncredit basis. Candidates who fail to complete the exit requirements during the semester will be given an "IP" (In Progress) until the Thesis and Project are completed.

After the exit requirements are submitted to the Candidate's thesis committee for review, the Candidate will "pass," or "fail." The Thesis Committee will administer a comprehensive Oral Defense of the Candidate's final MFA Thesis and MFA Project before the degree can be conferred. A failed Defense may be repeated once. A second failure will result in dismissal from the program.

### Exit Requirements for the MFA in Studio Art Program with a concentration in Ceramics, Painting and Drawing, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture, or Interdisciplinary Art program

#### MFA Project

The MFA Project (ARTS 5398 MFA Project (3 sch)) concentrates on the creation and execution of creative scholarship as related to the Candidate's discipline, concentration area(s), and research. The creation and execution of those criteria require the following:

- Planning meeting with the Director of University Galleries and Galleries Manager one semester before the Exhibition
- Completion of MFA Exhibition Proposal the semester before the Exhibition
- All communication, advertisement, and marketing leading up to the Exhibition in cooperation with SAMC Events Specialist and TAMU-CC Marketing and Communications Department
- Installation of artwork
- Posted artist statement and labels
- Oral Defense scheduled within the exhibition dates structured with a minimum of 3 rounds of questions posed by members of the Thesis Committee
- Deinstallation of artwork
- Cleanup/repairs necessary to gallery/exhibition space

#### MFA Thesis

The MFA Thesis (ARTS 5395 MFA Thesis (3 sch)) concentrates on research and writing in creative scholarship as related to the Candidate's discipline, concentration area(s), and research. The Thesis must include the following:

- 5,000-7,000-word written Thesis (exclusive of apparatus)
- Discussion of subject matter
- Discussion of techniques used
- Historical, theoretical, philosophical, and contemporary context for the project

- Bibliography formatted according to The Chicago Manual of Style
- Photographic documentation of the MFA Project Exhibition
- List of Figures
- Institutionally mandated front matter
- A bound copy submitted to the Mary and Jeff Bell Library, as per institutional mandate
- A bound copy and digital copy of the written Thesis and Exhibition documentation submitted to the Graduate Coordinator

### Exit Requirements for the MFA in Studio Art with a concentration in Graphic Design with separate tracks in Professional Practices or Academic Appointment

The MFA Project and MFA Thesis in Graphic Design is completed over the course of two semesters. Typically, a Candidate will enroll in three semester hours of MFA Project (ARTS 5398 MFA Project (3 sch)) and three semester hours of MFA Thesis (ARTS 5395 MFA Thesis (3 sch)) during the fall semester. The Candidate would then complete their exit requirements during the spring semester by enrolling in three semester hours of MFA Project (ARTS 5398 MFA Project (3 sch)) and three semester hours of MFA Thesis (ARTS 5395 MFA Thesis (3 sch)).

#### MFA in Studio Art with a concentration in Graphic Design track in Professional Practices

##### MFA Project

A multi-media campaign project (ARTS 5398 MFA Project (3 sch)) for their client of choice will be presented in a professional format as either a bound printed deck or digital website, to include:

- Campaign Overview
- Client Research
- Creative Strategy
- Implementation Strategy
- Creative Development
- Asset Development
- Future Exploration
- Conclusion
- Additional Considerations Unique to Project
- Public Presentation and Oral Defense of Final Project

##### MFA Thesis

A 5,000-7,000-word written Thesis (ARTS 5395 MFA Thesis (3 sch)) will serve as the foundational context for the Candidate's multi-media campaign, to be developed for their client of choice. It will discuss applicable research that supports their proposed design solutions, consider the client's market and category competitive analyses, review target audience behaviors and demographics, and defend technical and conceptual methodologies of the proposed campaign content.

#### MFA in Studio Art with a concentration in Graphic Design track in Academic Appointment

##### MFA Project

The Candidate's MFA Project (ARTS 5398 MFA Project (3 sch)) will demonstrate advanced critical thinking in analyzing industry history, theory, criticism, and practices to support their research. The Candidate will present and defend their final Project during a scheduled public Defense. Additionally, the Candidate will adapt their self-promotional materials for application to positions in Education to include a Teaching

Philosophy, Statement of Research, and Student Work samples under the department's Portfolio and Professional Practices Course.

MFA Thesis

A written Thesis (ARTS 5395 MFA Thesis (3 sch)) suitable for publication as outlined by the Candidate's Thesis Committee.

## Courses

### **ARTS 5191 Graduate Professional Practices Seminar** **1 Semester Credit Hour**

A graduate seminar devoted to professional practices, in a contemporary context, for artistic production and academic pedagogy in Studio Art. Professional practices covered may include but are not limited to development of artist statements, teaching philosophy statements, curriculum vitae, websites, and application dossiers for galleries, grants, and residencies along with the investigation into non-profit organizations, the role of the arts in civic economic development, and curatorial practices for a range of arts institutions from artist-run to museums.

This course receives one hour of credit per semester. The course may be repeated three times for credit .

### **ARTS 5192 Graduate Critique Seminar** **1 Semester Credit Hour**

An interdisciplinary graduate seminar in Studio Art devoted to the critique of artistic production in a contemporary cultural context. This course consists of structured peer-centered critiques. Students will become adept in both the language of critique and critique structures. Works are examined in an interdisciplinary context allowing students to comprehend their work through multiple perspectives while also providing opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration. This course receives one hour of credit per semester. The course may be repeated three times for credit.

### **ARTS 5301 Workshop in Art** **1-6 Semester Credit Hours (1-6 Lecture Hours)**

Current trends and approaches in art with emphasis on contemporary processes and techniques in studio work. May be repeated when topics vary. Offered on sufficient demand.

**Co-requisite:** SMTE 0097.

### **ARTS 5312 MFA Studio in Art: Ceramics** **3 Semester Credit Hours**

Individual study and direction in ceramics.

**Co-requisite:** SMTE 0097.

### **ARTS 5314 MFA Studio in Art: Graphic Design** **3 Semester Credit Hours**

Individual study and direction in graphic design.

### **ARTS 5315 MFA Studio in Art: Painting and Drawing** **3 Semester Credit Hours**

Individual study and direction in painting and drawing.

**Co-requisite:** SMTE 0097.

### **ARTS 5316 MFA Studio in Art: Photography** **3 Semester Credit Hours**

Individual study and direction in photography.

**Co-requisite:** SMTE 0097.

### **ARTS 5317 MFA Studio in Art: Printmaking** **3 Semester Credit Hours**

Individual study and direction in printmaking.

**Co-requisite:** SMTE 0097.

### **ARTS 5318 MFA Studio in Art: Sculpture** **3 Semester Credit Hours**

Individual study and direction in sculpture covering a wide range of interdisciplinary approaches.

**Co-requisite:** SMTE 0097.

### **ARTS 5392 Art Theory and Methods** **3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)**

The course will cover key developments in the evolution of art historiography, aesthetic theory and methods. Students will be engaged in discussions related to the practice of art history from an historiographical perspective and will conduct verbal and written analyses in connection with primary and secondary sources derived from canonical scholarship. The course will include discussion of theoretical and methodological texts from antiquity and the Middle Ages, to the early Modern period, the Enlightenment, the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, to postmodernity and the contemporary era. These analyses will consider notions of aesthetics, historiography, deconstruction, authorship, various modes of identity formation, and globalization. Students will become proficient in a wide range of aesthetic, historiographical, theoretical, and methodological practices related to fine arts disciplines.

### **ARTS 5393 Seminar in Art History and Aesthetics** **3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)**

Study in specific areas of art history and aesthetics. May be repeated when topics vary.

### **ARTS 5394 Directed Research** **3 Semester Credit Hours**

This course entails a faculty-led research project as related to selected Studio Art and Design topics, focused on reading and writing. Students will conduct research utilizing relevant archival material and databases along with direct contact with contemporary artists, art historians, critics, curators, and other cultural professionals as appropriate. Students can enroll in this course in any semester within the MFA program with the approval of the graduate student's thesis committee. The course is offered during any semester upon request by the student and with the consent of the instructor.

### **ARTS 5395 MFA Thesis** **3 Semester Credit Hours**

This course concentrates on research and writing in creative scholarship as related to the Candidate's discipline, concentration area(s), and research. The MFA Candidate is responsible for a written Thesis that provides textual support for their Exhibition or Project, executed under the MFA Project course. Candidates can enroll with the approval of the Thesis Committee. A specific syllabus for the Candidate's chosen discipline and concentration(s) will be provided to them under this course. This syllabus is a binding contract between Professor and the MFA Candidate. It is the Candidate's responsibility to thoroughly read and understand all rules, expectations and guidelines.

**Co-requisite:** SMTE 0097.

### **ARTS 5396 Individual Study** **1-3 Semester Credit Hours (1-3 Lecture Hours)**

A carefully planned special study on an academic topic not offered as part of the regular graduate curriculum. Directed Individual Study (DIS) is a tutorial, directed and evaluated by a member of the graduate art faculty. Enrollment is restricted to graduate students who have demonstrated both academic ability and the capacity for independent work. Complete applications must be filed and approved by a committee of the graduate art faculty and the Dean of Liberal Arts in advance of registration.

**Co-requisite:** SMTE 0097.

**ARTS 5397 Graduate Teaching Assistant Practicum****3 Semester Credit Hours**

Practical training in instruction for MFA graduate students under the declared Graphic Design discipline. This course is designed for graduate students to assist an assigned program faculty mentor and their undergraduate students. As a practicum course, the graduate student will spend the majority of their time in the classroom when class is in session. The graduate student, in the role of lead instructor, is expected to deliver course content and lectures designed by the program faculty mentor and to assist undergraduate course students in obtaining course learning objectives.

**ARTS 5398 MFA Project****3 Semester Credit Hours**

This course concentrates on creation and execution in creative scholarship as related to the MFA Candidate's discipline, concentration area(s), and research. Candidates can enroll with approval of their Thesis Committee. A specific syllabus for the Candidate's chosen discipline and concentration(s) will be provided to them under this course.

**Co-requisite:** SMTE 0097.

**ARTS 5399 Gallery and Museum Practices****3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)**

Study of the functions of galleries and museums: curating, preparation, grantsmanship, crating, documentation, and publicity. Visits to galleries and museums will be made around South Texas as well as Houston.

**Co-requisite:** SMTE 0097.