

# **MFA**

## **A PROGRAM GUIDE**

### **For Students & Faculty**

This guide is intended to clarify the requirements and responsibilities of both students enrolled in the program and faculty teaching in the program.

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#### **Objective of the proposed degree major program.**

The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) is a professional degree which incorporates a comprehensive background in the fine arts as well as advanced development in patterns of studio specialization. The combined studio and academic experience provides students with the opportunity to synthesize information at a higher level, while engaging in original research and developing a significant body of creative work. The degree also offers studio students advanced course work in art history, critical theory and practiced criticism.

Students wishing to pursue a career in college level studio teaching will gain valuable guidance and experience during the first year of residency in the graduate level internship course, and in the second and third year with part-time teaching assignments for the highest qualified students.

#### **In implementing this program, specific objectives for the MFA degree are:**

1. To provide to a qualified select group of individuals a professional studio experience based on advanced technical skills, creative thinking, and critical analysis of one's work.
2. To provide opportunities for highly qualified students to earn the necessary experience and terminal degree to prepare them for a career in college level teaching and professional studio practice.
3. Serving the increasing needs within our service area by providing students the opportunity to pursue this specialized degree at a university within their community, and providing students with the opportunity of participating in a community of artists within a unique setting.
4. To offer a degree matriculation pattern (Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, and Master of Fine Arts) that best utilizes the existing resources and faculty expertise within the Department of Art & Art History, and serves the full spectrum of student need.
5. Providing opportunities for the advanced development of individuals with the potential to solve contemporary problems in all aspects of art and to explore and address new questions and issues.

## **ADMISSION, RESIDENCY AND CONTINUATION REQUIREMENTS**

1. Students will be accepted to the program at the Conditionally Classified level unless supporting faculty recommend Classified Status due to advanced qualifications.
2. An undergraduate degree, equivalent to a BA degree in Art Studio from CSU, Chico, is required. No graduate credit is given to classes taken to make up any undergraduate deficiencies.
3. On the approval of the Graduate Advisor and faculty of student's pattern area, up to 18.0 units of accredited graduate level work may be transferred from another institution toward this 60 unit program. Applicants holding an MA degree in Studio Art from an accredited institution may transfer and count toward the MFA up to 27 units from their previous degree program upon review and recommendation by the graduate advisor and the faculty members in the pattern area, and within the seven-year time limit. No course work from another degree program other than a master's in Studio Art may be applied toward the MFA requirements.
4. The Slide Portfolio Review with all voting faculty present (Art Studio and Art History) convenes in late February. All faculty have access to the submitted material for evaluation for a period of two weeks prior to the review. Final outcome of the voting is determined by ranking all qualified applicants in the order of their faculty support and then accepting the top-ranked applicants until a predetermined quota has been met.
5. All students in the program must form their graduate advisory committees by the end of their first semester of residence (one chair and two members are recommended.) The Chair of the committee must be from the student's pattern area. Students may elect to select committee members from faculty outside the department and proven professionals from outside the University with final approval by the graduate advisor and graduate dean.
6. Students in the program are required to demonstrate competency to their committee at the end of each semester while in the program. Students must receive a grad of B or higher in all coursework applied to the degree and maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or higher in all coursework taken subsequent to admission.
7. Graduate students wishing to qualify for the teaching associate pool must submit their teaching evaluation form and supporting class documents from ARTS 389. Graduate Internship, with their application materials to the Teaching Associate Pool.
8. Advancement to Candidacy, which allows eligibility for ARTS 699 Master's Study, generally occurs during the end of the fifth semester. Advancement occurs upon successful completion of a progress review; the Advancement to Candidacy Portfolio Review, administered by the student's graduate committee and the graduate advisor.

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Applicants are required to file two separate applications, one to the University Office of Graduate Programs and the other to the Department of Art & Art History. Applicants must meet all University Graduate Programs admission requirements.

The Department of Art & Art History will review applications once a year:

**Deadline for spring entry:** October 4th

**Deadline for fall entry:** March 1<sup>st</sup>

All material must be submitted to the Department of Art & Art History office by 5:00 pm. Late or incomplete review packets will be returned unprocessed.

Department Application Procedure (the following items are required):

1. A completed Department MFA admission form.
2. Transcripts (official or unofficial) from all institutions of higher learning attended. These must be submitted with the MFA application. (The department transcript requirements are in addition to the official transcripts required in the application to the University.)
3. A two-page, double-spaced Philosophical Statement of Intention.
4. Three letters of recommendation from individuals qualified to testify to the applicant's capabilities and readiness to enter graduate study in studio art. These letters are to be sent directly by the recommender to the Department of Art & Art History.
5. Creative work portfolio (submit only completed work): 20 slides in a Kodak 80 carousel, and/or work samples in VHS videotape or Macintosh compatible CD-ROMs. Graphic files should be viewable with a web browser. Video and audio files should be in QuickTime format. A self-running computer-based portfolio is acceptable provided it is compatible with Macintosh operating systems.
6. An annotated list for non-print material submitted indicating name, title, media, and date of completion.
7. Return postage (stamps) & packaging labels if not picked up in person.

## **SPECIFIED DEPARTMENT COURSES REQUIRED**

60 Unit Total (60% must be in 600 level classes)

36 units, Studio  
15 units, Academic Studies in Visual Media  
    9 units, Art History  
    6 units, Seminars  
6 units, Electives  
3 units, Thesis Project

Students have the option to select up to six units of electives from university offerings in other departments provided they are applicable to the student's course of study and meet the approval of the student's graduate advisory committee.

## **REQUIRED COURSES**

ARTS 695 Interdisciplinary Grad Studio-Seminar	3.0 units
ARTS 696 Seminar in Contemporary Art (taken twice)	6.0 units
ARTS 699 Master Study (exhibit & thesis)	3.0 units

Students must develop an approved program in consultation with their graduate committee and the graduate advisor. Normally, 24 units in a studio pattern (includes ARTS 695) and 12 units from other studio areas are recommended. Students planning to pursue a career in teaching should enroll in ARTS 689, Graduate Internship, during their second and/or third semester.

Studio patterns are identified as: Ceramics, Glass Design, Painting/Drawing, Photography, Printmaking, and Sculpture. The following serves as an example of a student's three year course plan for the Sculpture Pattern:

### **Fall Semester (1)**

(3) **ARTS 670**, Grad Studio Sculpture  
(3) **ARTS 604**, Prob. In Intern'l Art: Contemporary  
(3) **ARTS 630**, Grad Studio Printmaking  
(3) **ARTS 696**, Seminar in Contemporary Art  
12 units (Form Committee)

### **Spring Semester (2)**

(3) **ARTS 670**, Grad Studio Sculpture  
(3) **ARTS 603**, Prob. In American Art  
(3) **ARTS 689**, Grad Internship  
(3) **ARTS 461**, Advanced Ceramics  
12 units

### **Fall Semester (3)**

(3) **ARTS 670**, Grad Studio Sculpture  
(3) **ARTS 695**, Interdisciplinary Grad Stu-Sem  
(3) **ARTS 696**, Seminar in Contemporary Art  
(3) **ARTS 425**, Advanced Drawing  
12 units (Teaching Associate Possible)

### **Spring Semester (4)**

(3) **ARTS 670**, Grad Studio Sculpture  
(3) **ARTS 612**, Prob. in Amer. Indian Art  
(3) **ARTS 695**, Interdisciplinary Grad Stu-Sem  
9 units (Teaching Associate Possible)

### **Fall Semester (5)**

(3) **ARTS 670**, Grad Studio Sculpture  
(3) **ARTS 640**, Grad Studio Photography  
(3) **ARTS 450**, Adv Electronic Media  
9 units (Teaching Associate Possible)

### **Spring Semester (6)**

(3) **ARTS 670**, Grad Studio Sculpture  
(3) **ARTS 699**, Master Study (exhibit & thesis)  
6 units

NOTE: ARTS 695 is an “umbrella” studio/seminar course and can count towards the 24 unit pattern requirement in all areas of concentration. May be taken for a maximum of 12 units.

### **CATALOG DESCRIPTION FOR NEW CLASSES**

**ARTS 695** Interdisciplinary Graduate Studio-Seminar 3.0 units Fa/Sp

Prerequisites: Graduate standing. Advanced studio practice for graduate students of diverse media specialization. Projects may include both independent works and interdisciplinary collaboration. Emphasis on the development of cross-media vocabulary in the realization of conceptual problems. Course focus will vary with instructor. This course may be applied towards the Studio Pattern requirement. 6.0 hours activity. You may take this course more than once for a maximum of 12.0 units.

**ARTS 689** Graduate Internship 1.0-3.0 units Fa/Sp

Prerequisites: Graduate standing. Other prerequisites may be determined by the nature of the proposed internship experience. Supervised out-of-the-classroom work experience or teaching associate experience, i.e., gallery or museum practice, professional studio practice, or teaching associate experience. Students interested in teaching should consider a teaching internship during the second or third semester of residency, which will qualify MFA students for the Department’s teaching associate hiring pool. You may take this course more than once for a maximum of 6.0 units.

### **Explanation of special characteristics of the proposed degree program:**

1. Entrance to the program is by full department faculty review (Art Studio and Art History) of portfolio material.
2. Students are required to meet on a regular basis with committee members, and at the end of each semester. The committee chair will submit a progress evaluation report to the Graduate Advisor.
3. **ARTS 689**, Graduate Internship, provides students with two distinct options. The first is a supervised studio-based professional internship with professional artists, businesses or public/nonpublic organizations. Student responsibilities will vary according to the internship contract. The second is a teaching-based supervised internship with a college or university faculty member. The student will be responsible for the development of a wide variety of course material, leading specific class and studio activities, and participating in processes for the evaluation of the student’s classroom progress. The faculty of record will be responsible

for completing an evaluation report that must accompany the student's application to the Department's Teaching Associate Pool.

4. ARTS 699, Master's Project for Studio, requires the student to mount a public exhibition of studio work and submit a written component (project) that is intended to articulate an understanding of the student's considered aesthetic stance that goes beyond catalog and/or descriptive statement of the work.
5. In addition to the Master of Fine Arts Project, all candidates for the MFA degree must satisfactorily complete an oral examination by the faculty prior to the exhibition.