

Student ID: _____
 Student Name: _____
 Advisor Name: _____

Catalog: 2026-2027 Undergraduate Catalog
 Program: Art Major, B.F.A.
 Minimum Credits Required: _____

Art Major, B.F.A.

Department of Art
 College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

Available Program Format(s): In-Person

About the Program

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art prepares students to be critical, creative thinkers and makers. Students often become practicing artists who exhibit their work in professional settings and might continue their research in graduate studies. The Department of Art and MSU Denver are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (N.A.S.A.D.).

Student Outcomes

1. Make artworks that show evidence of intellectual inquiry and curiosity;
2. Convey ideas that are consistently reinforced through the execution of cohesive work(s) that are the result of the process of making;
3. Use effective and eloquent oral, written, and visual communication of enduring ideas.

General Degree Requirements

To earn a degree, students must satisfy all requirements in each of the four areas below, in addition to their individual major requirements.

- Completion Requirements for Degrees and Certificates
- General Studies Requirements
- Ethnic Studies & Social Justice Graduation Requirement
- Senior Experience Graduation Requirement

Program Requirements

- A total of 120 semester hours are required for graduation.
- A grade of C- or better is required for each course in this program to count toward the bachelor's degree. Students should note that programs differ in the minimum grade required.
- Art majors who elect to take a minor may not minor in Studio Art.
- Art History, Theory and Criticism is a distinct academic discipline from Art, Art Education, or Communication Design, although all reside within the Department of Art and share common foundational requirements.
- All students entering the department wishing to pursue the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) in Art will be admitted under the B.A. in Art. Entrance into the B.F.A. program is contingent on passing a formal portfolio review upon completing 21 credits in ART, CDES, or ARTH, inclusive of the 18 hours of foundations courses required for all students in the department. Students must earn a minimum of a 2.75 G.P.A. in this coursework in the major at the time of portfolio review and have completed the Written Communication, Oral Communication, and Quantitative Literacy General Studies requirements.
- Students who are not admitted to the B.F.A. degree may reapply up to three times.
- At least 33 upper-division credits hours in the major are required.

General Studies Requirements: 33 credits

Students should consult the General Studies Requirements for a list of courses that fulfill the General Studies Requirements for degree completion.

- Written Communication (6 credits)
- Oral Communication (3 credits)
- Quantitative Literacy (3 credits)
- Arts and Humanities (6 credits)
- Historical (3 credits)
- Natural and Physical Sciences (6 credits)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (6 credits)
- Global Diversity (0 or 3 credits**)

*** Students will fulfill the global diversity requirement by taking an approved course within one of the following categories: arts and humanities; historical; natural and physical sciences; or social and behavioral sciences.*

Ethnic Studies & Social Justice Requirement: 0 or 3 credits

- Students should consult the Ethnic Studies & Social Justice Graduation Requirement for a list of courses that fulfill the ESSJ Requirement for degree completion.
- Many programs include courses that meet this requirement. Students should consult with their advisor to determine what program courses may fulfill this requirement.

Art Foundation Requirements: 18 credits

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
-------------	----------	------------	-------	--------

ART 1101 - Art Studio: 2D	Credits: 3			
ART 1501 - Art Studio: 3D	Credits: 3			
ART 1531 - Art Studio: 4D	Credits: 3			
ARTH 1600 - Art of the Ancient World	Credits: 3			
ARTH 1700 - Art of the Medieval and Early Modern World	Credits: 3			
ARTH 1800 - Art of the Modern and Contemporary World	Credits: 3			

Post-foundation Courses Required for all B.F.A. in Art Majors: 12 credits

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
ART 3101 - Professional Practices I	Credits: 1			
ART 3701 - Professional Practices II	Credits: 2			
ART 4101 - Advanced Interdisciplinary Studio	Credits: 3			
ARTH 4480 - Art Theory and Criticism	Credits: 3			
ARTH XXXX - Upper-division Art History Elective Credits: 3*				

Studio Emphasis: 15 credits

Complete 9 credits in one of the studio areas listed below

Complete an additional 6 credits in a complementary studio area. If the emphasis is in a two-dimensional area, the complementary area would be one of the three-dimensional areas; if the emphasis is in a three-dimensional area, the complementary area would be one of the two-dimensional areas. Students may select Digital and Emerging Art Practices for either a 2D or 3D area, but not both.

Students must take at least two intermediate studio courses: one in the emphasis and one in the complementary studio area.

Please note that all intermediate level studio specific area courses require you to have completed the following as prerequisites:

- ART 1101: Studio Foundations: 2D
- ART 1501: Studio Foundations 3D
- ART 1531: Studio Foundations 4D
- A beginning level course in that specific studio area
- ARTH 1800: Art of the Modern and Contemporary World
- ARTH 1600 or 1700 (please note that both must be taken prior to enrolling in ART 4101: Advanced Interdisciplinary Studio)

Two-dimensional Studio Areas

- Drawing
- Painting
- Photography
- Printmaking
- Digital and Emerging Arts Practices

Three-dimensional Studio Areas

- Ceramics
- Jewelry
- Sculpture
- Digital and Emerging Arts Practices

Studio Emphases: Two-Dimensional

Digital and Emerging Art Practices

The following courses are required for the emphasis (9 credits total). ART 3632 is repeatable and will be taken twice for a total of 6 credits. Students will learn new content each time they take ART 3632.

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
ART 2631 - Beginning Digital and Emerging Art Practices	Credits: 3			
ART 3632 - Intermediate Digital and Emerging Art Practices	Credits: 3			

Drawing Emphasis

The following courses are required for the emphasis:

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
ART 2641 - Color Drawing: Wet and Dry	Credits: 3			
ART 2643 - Figure Drawing: Wet and Dry	Credits: 3			
ART 3642 - Intermediate Drawing	Credits: 3			

Painting Emphasis

The following courses are required for the emphasis (9 credits total). ART 3662 and ART 3664 are repeatable and can be taken twice for a total of 6 credits. Students will learn new content each time they take ART 3662 and 3664.

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
ART 2661 - Beginning Painting	Credits: 3			
Take 2 of the following. Both are repeatable.				

ART 3662 - Intermediate Painting	Credits: 3			
ART 3664 - Variable Topics in Intermediate Painting	Credits: 3			

Photography Emphasis

The following courses are required for the emphasis (9 credits total). ART 3672 is repeatable and will be taken twice for a total of 6 credits. Students will learn new content each time they take ART 3672.

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
ART 2671 - Beginning Photography	Credits: 3			
ART 3672 - Intermediate Photography	Credits: 3			

Printmaking Emphasis

The following courses are required for the emphasis (9 credits total). ART 3682 is repeatable and will be taken twice for a total of 6 credits. Students will learn new content each time they take ART 3682.

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
ART 2682 - Beginning Printmaking	Credits: 3			
ART 3682 - Intermediate Printmaking	Credits: 3			

Studio Emphases: Three-Dimensional

Ceramics Emphasis

The following courses are required for the emphasis:

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
ART 2611 - Beginning Ceramics: Handbuilding	Credits: 3			
ART 2613 - Beginning Ceramics: Wheelthrowing	Credits: 3			
One of the following:				
ART 3612 - Intermediate Ceramics	Credits: 3			
ART 3614 - Variable Topics in Intermediate Ceramics	Credits: 3			

Digital and Emerging Art Practices

The following courses are required for the emphasis (9 credits total). ART 3632 is repeatable and will be taken twice for a total of 6 credits. Students will learn new content each time they take ART 3632.

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
ART 2631 - Beginning Digital and Emerging Art Practices	Credits: 3			
ART 3632 - Intermediate Digital and Emerging Art Practices	Credits: 3			

Jewelry Emphasis

The following courses are required for the emphasis (9 credits total). ART 3652 and ART 3654 are repeatable and can be taken twice for a total of 6 credits. Students will learn new content each time they take ART 3652 and 3654.

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
ART 2651 - Beginning Jewelry and Metalsmithing	Credits: 3			
Take 2 of the following. Both are repeatable.				
ART 3652 - Intermediate Jewelry and Metalsmithing	Credits: 3			
ART 3654 - Variable Topics in Intermediate Jewelry	Credits: 3			

Sculpture Emphasis

The following courses are required for the emphasis (9 credits total). ART 3692 is repeatable and will be taken twice for a total of 6 credits. Students will learn new content each time they take ART 3692.

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
ART 2691 - Beginning Sculpture	Credits: 3			
ART 3692 - Intermediate Sculpture	Credits: 3			

Integrated Media Courses: 12 credits

The Art Department offers a pool of interdisciplinary, thematic-based courses under the designation "integrated media." These courses explore new approaches and technologies, and cross the boundaries between media. The B.F.A. in Art requires 12 credits of integrated media courses, and all students are encouraged to take advantage of these innovative offerings.

The following courses are designated as integrated media:

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
ART 3235 - Video Art	Credits: 3			
ART 3236 - Experimental Animation	Credits: 3			
ART 3301 - The Artist's Book	Credits: 3			
ART 3391 - Fiber Structures	Credits: 3			
ART 3393 - Electronics and Experimental Systems	Credits: 3			

ART 3591 - Digital Fabrication	Credits: 3			
ART 3613 - Pattern Networks	Credits: 3			
ART 3637 - Socially Engaged Art	Credits: 3			
ART 3639 - Performance Art	Credits: 3			
ART 3640 - Installation Art	Credits: 3			
ART 3678 - Environmental Art	Credits: 3			
ART 3920 - Variable Topics in Integrated Media	Credits: 3			
ARTH 3780 - Experimental Cinema: Histories and Criticism	Credits: 3			
CDES 2222 - Fundamentals of Communication Design	Credits: 3			
CDES 2302 - Interactive Systems	Credits: 3			
CDES 2602 - Interface Design and Development	Credits: 3			
CDES 3101 - Community-Based Design	Credits: 3			
CDES 3300 - Data-Driven Design	Credits: 3			
CDES 3602 - Interactive Design I	Credits: 3			
CDES 3625 - Animation Practices	Credits: 3			
CDES 4251 - Designing the Human Experience	Credits: 3			

Departmental Electives: 18 credits

18 additional hours in ART, ARTH, ARTE or CDES classes need to be completed as a component of this degree. At least 9 of these should have an ART prefix. 6 of the 18 must be upper division.

Senior Experience: 3 credits

Course Name	Credits:	Term Taken	Grade	Gen Ed
ART 4701 - Studio Art Senior Experience: Exhibition and Thesis	Credits: 3			

Summary of Requirements

General Studies Requirements	33 credits
ESSJ Requirement	0-3 credits
Art Foundation Requirements	18 credits
Post Foundation Requirements	12 credits
Studio Emphasis	15 credits
Integrated Media Courses	12 credits
ART Major Electives	18 credits
Senior Experience	3 credits
Unrestricted Electives	6-15 credits
Total for the Art Major, B.F.A.	120 credits

Required courses for the major may also count for General Studies and ESSJ requirements, so the total credits listed may be greater than the number required to complete the degree. Therefore, it is important that you work with your advisor to make sure you are meeting requirements for your degree.

Notes: