ART AT MSU DENVER

Portfolio Review • BFA in Art & Art Education

MSU DENVER DEPARTMENT OF ART

Why is a portfolio review necessary?

When you are admitted to MSU Denver, you initially declare a B.A. in Art (ART) or a B.A. in Art History, Theory, and Criticism (ARTH) degree. If you intend to major in the Art or Art Education B.F.A., you must apply, submitting a portfolio for review.

What to know?

What is a successful B.F.A. entrance portfolio?

The portfolio is a collection of your best artwork created approximately in the last 5 years and should reflect your emerging interests, skills, and willingness to explore, experiment, and express yourself. We are most interested in how you communicate ideas and demonstrate your concept, process, and use of a variety of media. We encourage you to take risks in your artwork, be inventive in how you solve problems, and be transparent about your process. The ideal portfolio demonstrates that you are in a developing stage and ready to pursue the BFA degree with the above qualities in mind. All applicants are encouraged to meet with a faculty advisor who can answer your questions, review your statement before submission, and support you during your application process.

Who can submit?

All students who are intending to major in Art can submit a portfolio.

When do I submit?

Submit your portfolio **before the end of the 6th week** of the fall or spring semester. An email will go out to all students with submission deadlines and dates of the BFA portfolio application information sessions. We strongly encourage you to attend one of these sessions. All dates will be posted outside the Art Department Office.

Where do I submit?

Submit electronically to **https://www.msudenver.slideroom.com.**
You can upload and edit content as much as you want before submitting. However, once you press submit you cannot access your application.

BFA Portfolio Application Requirements

1. Complete or transfer all 12 credits (four classes) of Level I general studies: Written Communication (6 credits), Oral Communication, and Quantitative Literacy.

2. Complete or transfer all 15 credits of Art Foundations; ART 1101, ART 1501, ART 1531, 2 of the following (ARTH 1600, ARTH 1700, ARTH1800.)

3. Complete 3 additional credits (one class) in ART, ARTH, ARTE, or CDES for a total of 18 credits in the major.

4. Have a minimum of a 2.75 G.P.A. in coursework in your "major in BA Art" at time of submission.

*See a faculty advisor if there are questions about any of these criteria.

DEADLINE Due by the end of the 6th week of every semester.

Submission Materials

VISUAL CONTENT

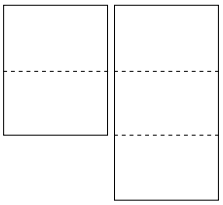
9 total images/slides

- Ideally formatted for landscape orientation.
- 300 dpi, 2000 pixels on longest side.
- Under 5mb each.

If your project does not fit

- Artworks requiring multiple views should be saved as multi-page PDF files.

Scrolling JPEGs do not work, scrolling files must be PDF.



Video, audio, or animation content can be uploaded to SlideRoom if they are under 250 megabytes (250MB) or shown in an image-based storyboard format. Links to the videos or animations hosted on Youtube or Vimeo can be put in the project description.

Submissions must include:

8 examples of your best, most recent completed works, in any media.
At least half of these works should be from studio course assignments at MSU Denver or transfer institutions. You are required to show a range of materials and media with the works selected.

1 example of ideation, research and/or sketches for an artwork in your portfolio OR a new or speculative project still under development. This might include: drawings, mindmaps, poetry, video, etc. and can be uploaded in any format that best represents your ideation process.

WRITTEN CONTENT

Writing is a very important component of being an artist and designer. We will be looking closely at the manner in which you utilize text as a tool. We are interested in finding out more about you, why you do what you do, and why you are a strong candidate for the B.F.A. program.
It is in students' best interest to write the Statement of Intent and Project Descriptions ahead of time in a text editing application, spellcheck and proofread, or even make an appointment with the writing center.
Written content needs to be entered into the SlideRoom interface. Do not add written content onto your images/slides.

Statement of Intent

In 250 words or less, based on your participation in the BFA Portfolio Review Workshop, in your own words what is the difference between the BA and BFA and why are you motivated to apply for the BFA? How will the BFA help you achieve your creative, personal and professional goals?

Artist Statement

In 250 words or less, please provide an Artist Statement. You might consider some of the following questions:

- What are the motivations behind your artmaking (theory, artists, writers, philosophers, popular culture, currents events, history, politics, etc.)?
- How does your curiosity and inquiry influence your artmaking?
- How are the materials and media you work with in support of the concepts you are exploring in your artwork?

Project Descriptions

In all applications, students write a short description with every separate image. This gives the evaluators a context in which to understand the artwork. Comments should include concepts, idea development, reason for materials, influences, and your research. Simply stating the art media and size dimensions is not adequate. If the project is an assignment, please name the class it was completed for, describe the assignment and explain how and why you came up with your creative solution.

Evaluation: How is your portfolio evaluated?

Jury

A faculty jury will review portfolios without the student being present.

Evaluation categories

Portfolios are evaluated on: Research, Execution, and Articulation. For explanations of these categories, attend a portfolio workshop.

Scoring

Portfolios are scored on a scale of Not Proficient, Proficient, and Accomplished. For admittance, applicants must receive a majority of scores of Proficient or higher in all three categories.

How will I know if my portfolio submission was accepted?

You will receive an emailed letter of acceptance or non-acceptance from the Art faculty jury.

When will my B.F.A. status be official?

After you receive your letter of acceptance, you will meet with an Art faculty advisor. With them, during that meeting, you will sign a "Change of Major" form. After this form is approved by the Art Department Chair, your new status as a B.F.A. major will take effect.

What if my portfolio submission is not accepted?

You may reapply for review the following semester after you meet with an Art faculty advisor for guidance about revision. You may apply up to 3 times. If you are not admitted after 3 attempts, you can complete the B.A. in Art.

Special Conditions

Transfer Student

Transfer students must meet with advisors well in advance of submitting their portfolio. This includes meeting with advisors in the Art Department to resolve the transfer of Art, Art History, or Communication Design coursework and possibly meeting with relevant departments overseeing General Studies courses for General Study course transfers.

Art Education Student

Art Education students may register for education and art education classes before entrance into the BFA, if needed. Art Education students start out with a B.A. in Art and must apply to the B.F.A. degree in Art and submit a portfolio for review. The degree is the B.F.A. in Art Education. Post-Baccalaureate Art Education students, applying for licensure only, must submit a portfolio for review, but a GPA requirement does not need to be met since the previous degree has been completed successfully.

Access Center – Accommodating Students with Disabilities

Metropolitan State University of Denver is committed to providing an accessible and inclusive learning environment for all students, including those with disabilities. Students with a diagnosed condition/disability which may impact their BFA portfolio application or ability to meet the BFA Portfolio requirements should contact the Access Center, located in the Plaza Building, Suite 122, 303-615-0200, accesscenter@msudenver.edu. The Access Center is the designated department responsible for coordinating accommodations and services for students with disabilities. If warranted, students may provide an Accommodation Notification Letter obtained from the Access Center to the Chair of the Portfolio Review Committee.
Information pertaining to a student's disability is treated in a confidential manner; however, all members of the BFA review committee, which includes the Chair of the Department of Art, will be furnished a copy of any relevant academic documentation by the Chair of the Portfolio Review Committee.
Further information is available by visiting the Access Center website www.msudenver.edu/access.

*This form was last updated for the Fall 2026 review cycle.