

**DEPARTMENT OF ART  
MASTER of FINE ARTS  
PROGRAM POLICIES**

**I. The Master of Fine Arts degree program**

The Department of Fine Arts and Visual Communications offers individually planned programs leading to the Master of Fine Arts degree. The program offers study to outstanding candidates with backgrounds in ceramics, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture. The MFA program prepares students for professional careers in a studio field. The expectation is for students to attend full-time over a two-year period.

**II. Admission requirements and procedures**

Application requires presentation of a comprehensive portfolio in addition to general admission procedures. Applicants must select one of the following concentrations: ceramics, painting, photography, printmaking, or sculpture. Admission is selective and competitive based on the number of well-qualified applicants and the limits of available faculty and facilities. Those who meet stated minimum academic requirements are not guaranteed admission, nor are those who fail to meet those requirements necessarily precluded from admission if they offer other appropriate strengths.

Applicants should send the completed application, transcripts, and application fee, resume, personal statement, and three letters of recommendation to the Office of Graduate Studies. In addition, the applicant should send 15 to 20 slides of their most recent work to the Department of Art, Graduate Admissions Committee, University of Delaware, 104 Recitation Hall, Newark, DE 19716. Plastic slide sleeves are encouraged. (Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope in which to return the slides.) The department's application deadline is January 15 with decisions regarding admission.

**III. Academics**

**Degree requirements:**

Art Concentration.....	36 credits
Critique.....	12
Graduate Seminar in Art.....	6
Non-art Academic.....	3
MFA Supporting Paper and Exhibition.....	3

**TOTAL CREDITS..... 60**

In some instances, the department's Graduate Admissions Committee may establish additional requirements to be met by the individual student. The MFA candidate's progress will be reviewed by committee at the end of each semester.

**Substitutions and transfers of credit**

Students may petition the graduate committee for variance in degree requirements such as course substitutions. This should be done in writing (email is acceptable) to the Graduate Coordinator.

### **English language expectation**

Students are expected to have a sufficient level of oral and written English communication skill to be successful in department coursework. Those students with an assistantship that involves teaching should have a sufficient level of English oral communication skill to be comfortably understood by the students they teach.

### **Progress towards the degree**

Students should enroll full time and are expected to complete the MFA degree in two years. The Graduate Faculty as a group will meet with students at the end of each semester to determine each student's progress and determine what course of action, if any, should be undertaken.

Students will be evaluated according to one of the following: Pass, Pass with warning, Fail. "Pass with warning" indicates probationary status for the subsequent semester; failure to meet expectations during the probationary term will result in dismissal from the program. "Fail" indicates dismissal from the program.

### **Supporting Paper requirements and procedures**

MFA candidates must present a written supporting paper in completion of their respective degree requirements. The content and length of the paper will be determined by the artist and her/his graduate committee but must meet the following criteria:

1) The paper should articulate the artist's intentions relative to her/his work and in relation to the broader context of contemporary art. In other words, why is the work important?

2) The artist should demonstrate an understanding of pertinent work, literature, and ideas, and position her/his work as contributing to an ongoing dialogue in their chosen field.

3) The paper should represent rigorous critical thought and revision in the writing process. Writing should be pursued with regular feedback from the candidate's graduate committee; the number of revisions to be determined by the graduate committee in consultation with the artist, in accordance with this general timetable:

- First draft – due by spring break
- one week later - remarks and recommendations from graduate committee
- subsequent intervals to be determined—relevant revisions

3) The paper should be presented coherently and professionally. While publication need not be a goal, the paper should meet expectations of quality as held by professional, peer-reviewed journals.

4) A minimum of 12 pages is highly recommended to satisfy the above criteria.

### **IV. Funding Policies/Financial aid**

The MFA Degree at the University of Delaware is usually a two-year program. Funding is awarded to applicants and continuing students on a competitive basis.

1. Incoming students are awarded funding on the following qualifications:
  - a. Quality of artistic work, artist statement
  - b. Letters of recommendation
  - c. Transcripts
  - d. Departmental priorities (including teaching and studio coordination)
  - e. Recommendation of the Graduate Faculty and Coordinator
2. Continuing second year students are awarded funding on the following qualifications:
  - a. Performance in the first year of the MFA Program
    - 1) Quality of artistic development and vision
    - 2) Successful completion of the 30-hour review
    - 3) Teaching evaluations when applicable
  - b. Recommendation of the Graduate Faculty and Coordinator
  - c. Departmental priorities (including teaching and studio coordination)
  - d. Adherence to University, Department and studio policies

The Department does not award 3<sup>rd</sup>-year funding to students who do not complete the program in the initial two years.

#### **V. Departmental operations**

Upon matriculation, students are expected to provide up-to-date address, telephone, and email information to the Department of Art office staff and to update them as necessary throughout the time they are enrolled in the degree program. It is especially important that students activate their University of Delaware email account, and arrange for messages to the UD email account to be forwarded to email accounts with other providers (i.e. yahoo or hotmail), if the student uses the outside account as his/her main email account.

Also, at the start of each semester, MFA students with teaching responsibilities and who maintain facilities in the department undergo OHS training appropriate to their areas.