**ART PROGRAM**

**Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) Degree**

**DEGREE INFORMATION**

**Program Admission Deadlines:**

**Fall:** January 15

Fall admission only

**Minimum Total Hours:** 60

**Program Level:** Masters

**CIP Code:** 50.0702

**Dept Code:** ART

**Program (Major/College):** MFA FA

**Approved:** 1967

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**College:** The Arts

**Department:** School of Art and Art History

**Contact Information:** [www.grad.usf.edu](http://www.grad.usf.edu/)

**Other Resources:** www.art.usf.edu

**PROGRAM INFORMATION**

The nationally ranked MFA Program in Studio Art has been carefully designed as a course of study that will maximize the student’s potential for in depth investigation of his or her chosen artistic ideas, themes and /or media. Students are encouraged to acquire technical and conceptual skills in more than one medium or studio discipline and to work toward developing techniques that best communicate the content of their artistic pursuits.

**Accreditation:**

Accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of College and Schools; National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

**ADMISSION INFORMATION**

Must meet University requirements (see Graduate Admissions) as well as requirements listed below.

**Program Admission Requirements**

* A Bachelor’s degree or equivalent from a regionally accredited university or art school
* Meet at least one of the following criteria
* Earned a “B” (3.00 on a 4.00 scale) average or better in all upper division studies as an undergraduate student.
* Earned a graduate degree from a regionally accredited institution.
* Approved portfolios are required for admission into the M.F.A. Studio Art Program (see program website).

**DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

**Total Minimum Program Hours: 60 credit hours**

**Core Requirements - 19**

ARH 6798 4 Seminar in Art History: Critical Perspectives in Contemporary Art

**OR**

ARH 6055 4 Art History

*(Prerequisite: 20th Century Art History or its equivalent)*

ART 6895 3 Graduate Seminar I

ART 6896 3 Graduate Seminar II

ART 6816 3 MFA Professional Practices

ARH 6798 4 Seminar in Art History (various specialized topics)

ART 6956 2 M.F.A. Research Project

**Electives – 41 credits**

ART 5000 and 6000 Studio and Discretionary Electives

(3 hours of electives must be taken from a program other than the School of Art and Art History)

ART 6937 1-4 Graduate Instruction Methods

(This course is an elective option for students who have not worked as a Teaching Assistant.

**M.F.A. Research Project**:

Exhibition/Orals/Written Document

**Other Requirements:**

* A course in 20th Century Art History should have been successfully completed at the undergraduate level prior to entering the M.F.A. program. If not, new students must enroll in the USF course during the first semester of graduate study. The School of Art and Art History highly recommends that all students seeking an advanced degree in Art take a minimum of one course in Electronic Media.
* The remainder of the program is discretionary and is designed by the student with the guidance of the Graduate Art Advisor, during the first three semesters, and with the student’s Graduate Supervisory Committee thereafter.

**Directed Studies**

As part of the student's studio and discretionary electives, he/she may register with a faculty member under a Directed Study Contract. All M.F.A. students are required to take coursework for a grade until they have formed their Supervisory Committees.

The descriptions for Directed Study are as follows:

ART 6940, Selected Topics in Art, Grading option Regular (For a grade), 1-4 credits

Suitable for coursework by contract in an area in which the student has prior skill.

ART 5910, Research, Grading option Regular (For a grade), 1-4 credits

Suitable for coursework by contract in an area in which the student has little or no prior skill.

ART 6907, Independent Study, Grading option S/U, 1-19 credits.

Suitable for graduate level coursework in any area for which the student does not wish a letter grade, or which justifies more than 4 hours of credit.  May be used only after the student’s Supervisory Committee is formed. (See S/U Grades)

ART 6911, Directed Research, Grading option Regular (For a grade)1-19 credits.

Suitable for graduate level coursework in any area that justifies more than 4 hours of credit.  May be used only after the student’s Supervisory Committee is formed.

As noted, ART 6907 and ART 6911 are not for use by M.F.A. students who have not yet established their Supervisory Committees.  The other, media specific, course numbers such as Sculpture or Painting are not often used as they are fixed at 4 credit hours.

**Transfer Credits**

Requests for use of transfer credits or credits earned under non-degree seeking student status should be made when the student applies to the graduate program. The faculty will decide at the time of admission whether or not transfer credits and credits earned will be used toward the requirements for the M.F.A. degree. Transfer credit and credit earned as a non-degree seeking student to be used toward the students' M.F.A. degree is limited to 8 semester hours.

**S-U Grades**

A Student may not take any course work for a grade of "S/U" until they have elected a supervisory committee, usually by the fourth semester. All course work taken during the first three semesters must be taken in course work assigning letter grades that designate quality points. Appropriate contract numbers would include graduate level studios such as Sculpture or Painting, and ART 5910 Research for an area in which a graduate student did not have prior skill, or ART 6940 Selected Topics for studies in an area where prior skill exists but the student requires variable credit or the research does not conform to clear categorization by discipline. ART 6907 Independent Study offers the S/U grading option and is not to be used until after the student has elected a supervisory committee.

**Graduate Supervisory Committees**

The Graduate Supervisory Committee consists of a chair and two members from the Studio Art faculty. The Supervisory Committee must be approved by the MFA Program Coordinator. Exceptions only with approval of the MFA Faculty Coordinator and the Director of the School.

**Faculty Evaluations at the end of first, second, and third semesters**

At the end of the first, second and third semesters, students will receive a written evaluation from a faculty committee regarding their progress in the program based on a presentation of their work. A student receiving “unsatisfactory” evaluation for any two of these three semester reviews will be dropped from the program. The full faculty will review a student with two unsatisfactory evaluations before they can be dismissed from the Program.

**M.F.A. Research Project Proposals**

During the fourth semester students will present a proposal for their MFA Research Project. The student must form and meet with their Graduate Supervisory Committee before the conclusion of their second year. The student must present a body of work and written paper supporting the student's proposed direction.

If a student's proposal is satisfactory, he/she will select a graduate Supervisory Committee to oversee the realization of the research project. If a student's project proposal is not satisfactory, another proposal can be presented before the end of the fourth semester. If the student’s proposal and re-proposal are voted unsatisfactory the student will be dismissed from the program.

**M.F.A. Research Project**

**Exhibition/Orals/Written Document**

The exhibition, written document and the orals defense conclude the student's graduate program and take place after all course work is completed. The exhibition is usually during the term the student plans to graduate, typically the second semester of the third year. M.F.A. Research Project exhibitions cannot be scheduled for the summer term. Information regarding the exhibition, the written document and the orals defense will be distributed to students prior to the final semester.

**COURSES**

 See [www.ugs.usf.edu/course-inventory](http://www.ugs.usf.edu/sab/sabs.cfm)