Visual Art
Master of Fine Arts

The Master of Fine Arts degree program in Visual Arts is a strongly studio-oriented professional preparation in the major emphasis areas of ceramics, drawing, metal smithing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and mixed media art. Within and outside the visual arts areas there are many opportunities for balanced study in art history, graphic design, fibers, photo, time-based media and supporting disciplines.

The mission of the Department of Art and Design’s graduate M.F.A. program is to provide quality educational experiences to the students that promote critical thinking and creative visual skills based upon the history of art, contemporary trends and theories, and technical skills in the fine art disciplines. Graduates will be prepared to be active artist/researchers who are engaged in a dialogue, which critically examines the larger culture of which the visual arts play an integral role. Graduates will be prepared to enter the professional art world as self-directed practitioners/artists, educators, or occupations in art museums and galleries. These goals are accomplished through a curriculum that includes hands-on studio experience and academic seminars as a vehicle for the investigation into visual expression.

Goal 1: Students will refine technical skills, with materials, techniques, and equipment specific to the production of their visual art.

Goal 2: Students will refine oral and written skills as a means to communicate the conceptual basis of their visual research and to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the cultural, theoretical, and rhetorical issues in the history of art.

Goal 3: Students will develop skills to refine their critical thinking and the conceptual basis for their art work and contextualize their work within the history of art and/or contemporary trends and theories.

Goal 4: Students hone professional skills as artists needed to promote their creative research and to advance within their chosen careers.

Admission Requirements
Applicants who are seeking admission to the School of Graduate Studies must meet all of the minimum general School of Graduate Studies admission requirements identified in the graduate catalog. In addition, the prospective students must fulfill the requirements for admission to the graduate program in Visual Arts.

1. Admission to Approved Status requires a BA or BFA degree with at least 63 semester hours in studio courses plus a minimum of 12 semester hours in art history from a regionally accredited college or equivalent.
2. A cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.75 for all undergraduate work or a GPA of at least 3.0 for the junior and senior years of undergraduate work (based on A= 4.00).
3. Satisfy the School of Graduate Studies' English Language Proficiency requirements as published in the graduate catalog.
4. Image portfolio of twenty (20) clearly identified images representative of the student’s recent work and/or documentation in cd/dvd format. Images should be submitted at 72 dpi with the longest side not to exceed 1280 pixels in length. The work samples should be submitted to the Department of Art and Design’s Graduate Committee and accompanied by a list containing the viewing sequence, titles, date of completion, dimension (duration), and media.
5. Artist Statement supporting the image portfolio or other documentative application information in cd/dvd format.
6. For students who have earned graduate credit in art or hold an MA degree, a maximum of 15 credits may be accepted towards the MFA degree. Of those 15 credits, up to 6 credits in Art History may be accepted towards the 9-credit art history requirement.

The graduate program in visual arts operates on a rolling admissions basis. Applicants are advised to apply by March 1 for fall admission or October 1 for spring admission. Acceptance as well as financial support is considered pending availability of resources.

Degree Requirements
Students seeking the Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of North Dakota must satisfy all general degree requirements set forth by the School of Graduate Studies as well as particular requirements set forth by the Department of Art and Design.

Apply online: http://graduateschool.und.edu
Deadlines apply. See our website for more details.
1. The program consists of 60 credits in the following areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major Emphasis Area (Ceramics, Painting, Drawing, Metalsmithing, Printmaking, Mixed Media, or Sculpture)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art History and Theory (See #6 under Admission Requirements)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives (including at least 12 credits in art)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Exhibition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. At least one-half of the credits must be at or above the 500-level.

3. A maximum of one-fourth of the credit hours required for the degree may be transferred from another institution.

4. A critique of each MFA candidate’s work will be conducted by the entire faculty at the end of their first and second semesters in the program. MFA candidates in subsequent years of the program are expected to attend and participate.

5. After the formation of the candidate’s graduate thesis committee two formal reviews of the MFA candidate’s work will be conducted. See candidacy for degree requirements.

6. Prerequisites to graduation include:
   a) Preparation and presentation of a Professional Exhibition, which will be a formal presentation of creative work.
   b) Supplementary exhibition materials including artist’s statement and exhibition announcements.
   c) An image portfolio and/or documentation in cd/dvd format of the Professional Exhibition must be submitted to the Department of Art and Design for its permanent files. Images should be submitted at 72 dpi with the longest side not to exceed 1280 pixels in length.
   d) Successful completion of ART 510 Art History: Issues in Contemporary Art.

Residence Requirement
The MFA degree requires at least two semesters, or one semester and two summer sessions taken within a three-year period, in residence.

Professional Exhibition and Artist Lecture
All MFA candidates are required to register for Art 599—Professional Exhibition (three credits). The intention is to give candidates a summary experience as they near the end of their formal training, which will serve as a benchmark in their career development. The presentation and format of the catalog may vary with what the candidate and committee deem appropriate and complimentary to the work to be presented in the exhibition. The artist’s statement may include such things as a critical statement on the candidate’s work, its development, its cultural, philosophical and historical context, and/or reference to the artist’s procedures and techniques. The candidate will present an Artist Lecture that will be open to the public. The candidate’s graduate thesis committee will then examine and evaluate the student’s performance in the Professional Exhibition and Artist Lecture, and report the results to the School of Graduate Studies on the form titled “Final Report on Candidate” by the deadline specified in the academic calendar. The advisor and department chairperson will certify receipt of a copy of the Exhibition Catalog and an image portfolio of the Exhibition.

Faculty and Areas of Expertise
• Kim Fink, M.F.A., Printmaking
• Lucy Ganje, M.F.A., Graphic Design
• Suzanne Gonzalez-Smith, M.F.A., Photography
• Todd Hebert, M.F.A., Painting
• Arthur Jones, Chair, Ph.D., Art History
• Patrick Luber, M.F.A., Sculpture
• Wesley Smith, M.F.A., Ceramics
• Donovan Widmer, M.F.A., Metalsmithing

Contact Information
Wesley Smith
Hughes Fine Arts Center
Department of Art & Design
University of North Dakota
3350 Campus Road, Stop 7099
Grand Forks, ND 58202
P: 701-777-3362
F: 701-777-2903
E: wesley.smith@und.edu
http://arts-sciences.und.edu/art-design

Apply online: http://graduateschool.und.edu
Deadlines apply. See our website for more details.