

Art (Fine Arts)-1

Art: Fine Arts Major (ARTA)—BFA Degree

Also see: Art Department Overview; Art-Art History; Art-Art Education; Art-Digital Arts; Art-Graphic Design

Coordinator: Liselot van der Heijden

The Fine Arts curriculum consists of an intensive foundation in drawing, 2D and 3D design, color theory, digital arts, a variety of studio disciplines, and a core of Art History courses. It culminates in the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. The Fine Arts program offers a flexible course of study in which students may follow a specific advanced curriculum in the major fine arts, or may design their own advanced curriculum through faculty advisement and critique. The senior year includes two capstone courses which result in an exhibit of senior thesis work. The senior capstone courses stress critical thinking, writing and research through short sequential written assignments and semester-long investigations culminating in a senior thesis paper and exhibition.

The Fine Arts program takes advantage of the College's proximity to major museums, galleries, and collections in New York, Philadelphia, and Washington to broaden students' exposure to current trends and traditional concepts and techniques. Students begin to focus on the professional aspects of their careers early in their program of study and are encouraged to exhibit work throughout the College campus as well as in the annual student exhibit and other venues.

Advanced studio courses may be repeated for credit to gain the desired depth in the studio areas. Independent study is available to upper-level art majors with three courses in a studio or lecture area in which they have earned a minimum 3.33 GPA. A minimum of 12 course units must be taken in the Art Department at The College of New Jersey. Personal advisement and portfolio preparation counseling are available to those students who wish to prepare for graduate school.

Enrollment in Department of Art Courses

All Art History courses (AAH) are open to all students. Art courses which have specific liberal learning approval are open to all students. A non-major who wishes to enroll in major courses that are not liberal learning courses must obtain permission from the chair of the department or advisement coordinator.

Art minors must report to the advising coordinator or academic advisor for advisement and registration for art courses.

Studio Art Major General Requirements

All studio art majors are required to take AAH 105 and/or 106; AAH 215, AAH 216 or AAH 217; and AAH 250; AFA 111, 112, 113, 118; and ADA 180.

While the department supplies many materials, students are required to purchase materials in most studio courses. Art history and studio courses may require field trips at students' expense.

Students who receive a grade of C- (1.67) or lower in a major required course must repeat the course.

Attendance Requirements

Participation is considered essential to the learning process. Therefore, more than two unexcused absences per course may be detrimental to the student's final grade.

Art (Fine Arts)-2

Program Entrance, Retention, and Exit Standards

Every major program at the College has set standards for allowing students to remain in that program, to transfer within the College from one program to another, and to graduate from a program. The following are the standards for art programs. Minimum grades are noted in parentheses:

- Retention in the art studio majors (Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Digital Arts, and Art Education) is based on the following performance standards in these “critical content courses”: AFA 111 (B), AFA 118 (B), and AFA 113 (B).
- Transfer into the art studio majors from another program within the College is based upon the following performance standards in this “foundation course”: AFA 111 (Drawing) (B).
- Graduation requires a GPA of 2.0 in courses for the program and earning a minimum grade of C in the following courses: all major courses.

Course Requirements

Major Core:

AFA 111/Drawing I
AFA 112/Conceptual Art Studio
AFA 113/Color Theory/2D Design
AFA 118/3D Design
ADA 180/Digital Arts: Imaging I

Major Requirements: (one course unit each unless otherwise indicated)

ADA 278/Digital Arts: Imaging II
AFA 201/Figure Drawing
AFA 211/Painting
AFA 202/Printmaking
AFA 230/Sculpture I
AFA 280/Photography I
AAH 105/Art History I: Caves to Cathedrals or AAH 106/Art History II: Renaissance to Revolution
AAH 215/Arts of South Asia, AAH 216/Arts of East Asia, *or* AAH 217/Arts of the Islamic World
AAH 250/Contemporary Art
Fine Arts Advanced Studio (4 courses)
AFA 498/Fine Arts: Theory and Practice
AFA 499/Fine Arts Thesis Project

Recommended First-Year Program of Study

First Semester

FSP	First Seminar	1 course unit
AFA	111/Drawing I	1 course unit
AFA	118/3D Design	1 course unit
AFA	113/Color Theory/2D Design	1 course unit

Second Semester

AFA	112/Conceptual Art Studio	1 course unit
ADA	180/Digital Arts: Imaging I	1 course unit
AAH	105/Art History I	
<i>or</i>		
AAH	106/Art History II	1 course unit

Art (Fine Arts)-3

WRI 102/Writing (if not exempted)* 1 course unit

**It is recommended that students exempted from this course take another liberal learning course.*

Total for year 8 course units

Recommended Second-Year Program of Study

First Semester

AFA 230/Sculpture I 1 course unit

AFA 201/Figure Drawing 1 course unit

AAH 250/Contemporary Art 1 course unit

Liberal Learning 1 course unit

Second Semester

AFA 280/Photography I 1 course unit

AFA 211/Painting I 1 course unit

AAH 215/Arts of South Asia, AAH 216/Arts of East Asia,
or AAH 217/Arts of the Islamic World 1 course unit

AFA 202/Printmaking 1 course unit
Sophomore Review

Total for year 8 course units

Recommended Third-Year Program of Study

First Semester

ADA 270/Digital Arts: Imaging II 1 course unit

AFA 301/Advanced Drawing 1 course unit

Liberal Learning 1 course unit

Liberal Learning 1 course unit

Second Semester

AFA 330/Advanced Sculpture 1 course unit

AFA 311/Advanced Painting 1 course unit

AFA 381/Photography II 1 course unit

Liberal Learning 1 course unit

Total for year 8 course units

Recommended Fourth-Year Program of Study

First Semester

AFA 498/Fine Arts: Theory and Practice 1 course unit

AFA Fine Arts Advanced Studio Concentration 1 course unit

AFA Fine Arts Advanced Studio Concentration 1 course unit

Liberal Learning 1 course unit

Second Semester

AFA 499/Fine Arts: Thesis Project 1 course unit

AFA Fine Arts Advanced Studio Concentration 1 course unit

Art Elective 1 course unit

Liberal Learning 1 course unit

Art (Fine Arts)-4

Total for year

8 course units

Fine Arts Minor Concentration Options

Requires a portfolio review and permission of the department chair or academic advisor. A minimum of 4 course units must be taken with The College of New Jersey Department of Art.

AAH 106/Art History II	1 course unit
AFA 111/Drawing I	1 course unit
AFA 113/Color Theory/2D Design	1 course unit
AXX XXX/Art Studio	1 course unit
AXX XXX/Art Studio	1 course unit

Total required

5 course units

COURSES

AFA 101/Experiencing Art

1 course unit

(studio)

(every semester)

Three four-week modules that explore different media and different goals in the process of making and looking at art: 1) two dimensional; 2) three dimensional; and 3) digital imaging. The curriculum will be introductory in nature, offering a conceptual explanation of and hands-on experience with fundamental concerns of understanding and creating works of art. Students will be rotated through the different modules. In each module, they will be presented with a theoretical context and receive instruction and practice in each.

AFA 111/Drawing I

1 course unit

(studio)

(every semester)

The purpose of the course is to cultivate the student's ability to express ideas visually and to develop confidence in drawing a variety of subjects with diverse materials. Exercises cultivate skill in determining composition, rendering geometric shapes, depicting perspective and three dimensional illusion, fashioning light, shade, proportion, scale, surface and textures as well as arranging still life composition. Field trip(s) required.

AFA 112/Conceptual Art Studio

1 course unit

(studio)

(every semester)

Conceptual Studio initiates investigation into current forms of artistic production. At the heart of Conceptual Art lies the question "What is Art?" Conceptual Art challenges the traditional status of the art object as product and refocuses artistic creativity in the process of art making, the ideas invoked, and the meaning of cultural production. Among the approaches to art making that will be researched and put into practice will be the readymade, public intervention, performance and ephemeral works, language and the use of signifiers.

Art (Fine Arts)-5

AFA 113/Color Theory/2D Design

1 course unit

(studio)

(every semester)

This course provides essential concepts and skills necessary to function as a visual artist (graphic designer, digital artist or traditional fine artist). Strong emphasis is placed on the visual component of art; how to apply the elements of art (line, shape, color, texture and space) in order to accomplish one's subjective goal. Color, as a visual element, is singled out in this course because of its complexity, importance in our visual environment, and the limited knowledge entering students have regarding the subject.

AFA 118/3D Design

1 course unit

(studio)

(every semester)

Focuses on projects that explore the fundamentals of forms and space and investigates the properties of materials, structure, mass, scale, light and motion.

AFA 201/Figure Drawing

1 course unit

(studio)

(annually-fall)

Prerequisite: AFA 111

This studio course is designed to cultivate skills necessary to reproduce the human figure on a two-dimensional surface and to appreciate the figure's influence in the visual arts. By means of figure drawing exercises to isolate the form and incorporate lighting and focus on detail, students explore personal characteristics of body type, age and gender. Assignments address the uniqueness of the human body's capacity to communicate nuance through gesture and position. Field trip(s) required. May be repeated.

AFA 202/Printmaking

1 course unit

(studio)

(every semester)

Prerequisites: AFA 111, AFA 112, and AFA 113

A studio investigation of fine art printmaking techniques. Print production, the making of etchings, aquatints, engravings and collage prints will be explored through creative projects. Emphasis on exploring experimental, contemporary developments of printmaking techniques.

AFA 211/Painting

1 course unit

(studio)

(every semester)

Prerequisites: AFA 111, AFA 112, and AFA 113

An introductory studio investigation of the concepts and techniques of painting, and the major historical painting styles. Emphasis is on the development of painting as a foundation for the development of a personal visual language. Acrylic or oil media may be used.

AFA 220/Jewelry Design

1 course unit

(studio)

(occasionally)

A studio investigation of jewelry design. Emphasis on the creative use of materials, tools, and techniques necessary to express an idea through wearable adornments. Technical concentration on fabrication techniques, piercing, smithing, forging, etching, surface treatment, and stone setting.

Art (Fine Arts)-6

AFA 226/Ceramics

1 course unit

(studio)

(annually-spring)

A studio investigation of clay as an artistic medium. Emphasis on the properties and potential of clay and glazes for use in personal expression, and the evolution of pottery as form, color, and decoration.

AFA 230/Sculpture I

1 course unit

(studio)

(annually-fall)

Students work on projects that explore a range of fundamental conceptual and material processes that generate production. Intention, form, materiality and context are the subject of general class discussion.

AFA 280/Photography I

1 course unit

(studio)

(every semester)

Photography I introduces students to traditional photographic equipment and practice using light to create art. With an emphasis on personal vision, this course is designed to develop art-related technological skill, personal aesthetics, an awareness of the history of photography, and critical thinking. At the introductory level, the student will become proficient in using a manual 35mm camera to create photographic prints.

AFA 281/Documentary Photography

1 course unit

(studio)

(annually-spring)

This course will focus on understanding and creating documentary photography while exploring its history, traditions and role in contemporary society. The photograph will be investigated as evidence, especially its application to scientific and anthropological proofs and the documentary image's potential within a broader program of social reform. Readings and lectures will explore how photojournalists greatly expanded the boundaries of documentary photography through new mass media publications and how documentary photography also made its first significant inroad into the world of fine art. The course will focus on the idea of the documentary as an approach inseparable from the photographer's particular viewpoint and aesthetic concerns.

AFA 301/Advanced Drawing

1 course unit

(studio)

(annually-fall)

Prerequisites: AFA 111, AFA 201, or permission of instructor

Continued studio investigation of drawing as a means of personal expression. Emphasis on a more intense employment of a variety of drawing media applied to creative, personal visual expression. May be repeated.

AFA 302/Advanced Printmaking

1 course unit

(studio)

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: AFA 202 or permission of instructor

Specialization in one printmaking medium: lithography, serigraphy, intaglio, relief, collography, etc. Emphasis on exploring a creative, contemporary application of these techniques. May be repeated.

Art (Fine Arts)-7

AFA 305/Art Photography

1 course unit

(studio)

(annually-fall)

Prerequisite: AFA 280

This course explores advanced photography with traditional and alternative-process techniques. Students will be challenged to investigate and explore their own creative direction. Students are expected to complete this course with technical proficiency and to have a fuller understanding of photography's critical context in contemporary art. May be repeated.

AFA 311/Advanced Painting

1 course unit

(studio)

(annually-spring)

Prerequisite: AFA 211 or permission of instructor

Continued studio investigation of the medium of painting as a means of personal expression. Emphasis on the development of advanced technical and stylistic original work, and the creative processes artists use in the development of a painting. May be repeated.

AFA 315/Watercolor

1 course unit

(studio)

(occasionally)

Prerequisites: AFA 111, 112, 113, 201, 211

A studio investigation of watercolor as a painting medium. Emphasis on the uniqueness of watercolor as a transparent painting medium, historical developments, and the development of personal expression. May be repeated.

AFA 320/Advanced Jewelry Design

1 course unit

(studio)

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: AFA 220

Continued studio investigation of jewelry-making techniques and materials. Emphasis on the refinement of fabrication skills, problem-solving techniques, and the development of personal expression through unique wearable adornments. May be repeated.

AFA 321/Fiber Art

1 course unit

(studio)

(occasionally)

An introductory studio investigation of the media of fiber and fabric. Emphasis on the various techniques of stitching, stuffing, knotting, dyeing, weaving, and creative problem solving.

AFA 325/Puppetry—A Creative Approach

1 course unit

(studio)

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: One fine arts course

A studio investigation of puppet theater as a form of artistic visual communication. Emphasis on the techniques used to create and manipulate puppets, culminating with performances by student puppeteers.

Art (Fine Arts)-8

AFA 326/Advanced Ceramics

1 course unit

(studio)
(occasionally)

Prerequisite: AFA 226 or permission of instructor

A continued studio investigation of fine art ceramic techniques and methods. Emphasis on techniques of wheel-throwing and hand assembly, creative ceramic design, historical pottery perspectives, and empirical glaze chemistry and calculation. Students develop their own glazes and clay bodies, culminating in completed creative sculptural or utilitarian forms. May be repeated.

AFA 330/Advanced Sculpture

1 course unit

(studio)
(annually-spring)

Prerequisite: AFA 230

This course helps students to develop projects related to their own vision and ideas. Research and development will be given equal weight with finished work. A broad range of conceptual and material processes, intention, form, materiality, and context are the subject of general class discussion. May be repeated.

AFA 365/Book Arts

1 course unit

(studio)
(annually-spring)
(same as AGD 365)

An introduction to Artist books, designed to bring together students with differing backgrounds who approach this art in their own unique ways. This is a projects-oriented course that involves students in the discussion, critique, planning, and design of books in a range of book-production media. The course introduces terms, formats, book genres, design concepts, and production practices. Examples of projects include wearable books, alternative book structures, Japanese bindings and Japanese design, Coptic binding, tunnel books, and creating books with foldouts. In addition, the final project gives each student the opportunity to plan and execute a book design project that reflects his or her particular interests.

AFA 370/Topics in Art

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisites: One art course and permission of instructor

Offered as either a studio and/or lecture class with a differing focus (e.g., current trends in art, the creative process and visual art, etc.) each time. May be repeated.

AFA 381/Photography II

1 course unit

(studio)
(annually-spring)

Prerequisite: AFA 280

Photography II introduces students to the operation of 4x5 view cameras while building upon the foundations of photography that students learned in Photography I. The course provides a hands-on experience and studio practice while emphasizing the study of studio works by photographic masters. Working in the medium of color photography, students will be challenged to explore their own unique photographic voice through a variety of assignments and group critiques.

Art (Fine Arts)-9

AFA 391/Independent Study

1-2 course units

(every semester)

(May not be taken as a substitute for any other course)

Prerequisites: Enrollment as an upper-division fine arts major; student must have taken a minimum of three courses in the fine arts. These courses must be completed with a 3.33 average. Preregistration with signed approval of an art faculty sponsor and of department chair required.

Independent study is for students engaged in advanced work only, and is an opportunity to develop personal interests and strengths within the major field. Emphasis is on individual, self-guided work under the supervision of a faculty advisor and/or committee. May be repeated.

AFA 393/Independent Research in Photography

variable units

This course can be fulfilled by completing an internship (at a photography related business, organization or institution) or by creating a comprehensive project proposal.

The Program Coordinator and Art Department Chair must approve the project proposal or internship.

AFA 399/Internship

1-2 course units

(every semester)

Prerequisites: Enrollment is limited to upper-division program majors or minors with at least a 3.0 GPA in that program. See Internship Application Form for individual program requirements and details. Pre-registration with Internship Application Form and signed approval of the program coordinator, the department chair, and an art faculty sponsor.

The primary purpose of the college-level internship experience is the development of occupational or professional competence in the actual occupation setting after the student's education has been completed. Other purposes (income, career exploration, learning-by-doing, on-the-job training, etc.) cannot be the primary purpose, although they may occur as a secondary result of the internship experience.

AFA 498/Fine Arts: Theory and Practice

1 course unit

(capstone)

(annually-fall)

Prerequisites: Open only to students with senior standing in the fine arts major or by permission of the fine arts coordinator

The course is designed to develop the student's understanding of theoretical material and issues in contemporary fine arts. The course will be composed of readings, seminar discussion, field investigations, and class and faculty critique. Field investigations will include gallery visits, meetings with curators, and visits to artists' studios. This exposure will enhance the student's knowledge and understanding of issues related to the art profession. Students will be required to research a relevant topic in contemporary art and present this material to the class and instructor. Student research will be guided by individual, class, and faculty critiques in the initial development of their Senior Thesis Project. This will culminate in a Senior Thesis Exhibit in AFA 499, the sequel to this course.

AFA 499/Fine Arts: Thesis Project

1 course unit

(capstone)

(annually-spring)

Prerequisite: AFA 498 or by permission of fine arts coordinator

Intensive research and study within a studio concentration which culminates in the public presentation of the senior exhibit. Students will be required to prepare and present this body of work, their visual thesis, for critical review to an Art Faculty Committee prior to its public presentation in the Senior Fine Arts Exhibition. Additionally, students will be required to present a written component to the visual thesis which describes in full the processes and the outcomes of the senior research.