

# ART, MFA

## Overview

Our Master of Fine Arts in Art is designed to give you a well-rounded education that combines traditional techniques with innovative approaches to art making and research. You'll have the opportunity to explore various media, processes, and concepts while engaging with other disciplines and the local, national, and international community. We're committed to embracing diverse ideas and fostering an experimental attitude, in line with contemporary art practices. The department encourages and supports engagement beyond traditional boundaries to help you grow as an artist and professional.

Request Info (<https://uwm.edu/arts/request-information/>) | Visit (<https://uwm.edu/arts/visit/>) | Apply (<https://uwm.edu/arts/apply/>)

## Faculty and Staff

Our inspirational faculty and staff make sure students feel welcome and empowered to think outside the box and explore all possibilities of making art at UWM. Visit the Peck School of the Arts directory (<https://uwm.edu/arts/directory/>) to meet these artists, explore their biographies and engage with recent work.

## Scholarships and Aid

Financial constraints shouldn't hinder your artistic dreams. Our comprehensive range of scholarships and aid programs (<https://uwm.edu/arts/students/scholarships-aid/>) is designed to empower and support artists like you.

## Study Abroad

We believe that a complete education in the arts should take you beyond the classroom and the local community. By studying abroad, you'll gain more than a change of scenery. You'll embark on a transformative educational experience and bring a global perspective to your field of study. Explore upcoming trips (<https://uwmilwaukee.studioabroad.com/?FuseAction=Programs.AdvancedSearch>) offered in partnership with the Center for International Education.

## Admission Requirements

Graduate applicants must meet general Graduate School admission requirements (<https://uwm.edu/graduateschool/students/admission/>) in addition to specific program requirements found on the Peck School of the Arts apply page (<https://uwm.edu/arts/apply/#tab-bqoh-graduate>).

To learn more, request a remote audio or video appointment (<https://uwm.edu/graduateschool/request-an-appointment/>) with the UWM Graduate School.

## Application Deadlines

Application deadlines vary by program, please review the application deadline chart (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines/>) for specific programs. Other important dates and deadlines can be found by using the One Stop calendars (<https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines/>).

## Admission

An applicant must meet Graduate School requirements plus these departmental requirements to be considered for admission to the program:

1. An undergraduate major in art, or a related field, including at least 40 studio credits and at least 45 academic credits outside the major.
2. Submission of a digital portfolio with 20 images of original work.
3. Submission of a written personal statement of the proposed program of study.
4. Three (3) letters of recommendation.

See the department's website for more details, including required file formats and submission process for application materials.

At the completion of 30 graduate credits (minimum 18 credits studio art, 3 credits Art History, 3 credits of graduate-level coursework in a discipline related to the student's research interests, and 6 credits graduate art seminar), the MFA candidate is required to complete a mid-program review. The mid-program review consists of a written reflection on the first 30 credits of study in the program, a plan of action for the final 30 credits and MFA Thesis Exhibition, and a presentation (to the student's Thesis Committee) of a body of work completed during the first 30 credits. After the Thesis Committee approves this mid-program review, the student may proceed to the final 30 graduate credits, MFA Thesis and oral and written qualifying examinations.

If the applicant already holds the Master of Science or Master of Arts degree, the applicant must submit graduate transcripts in addition to the digital portfolio, personal statement, and three letters of recommendation. If the MS or MA degree is approved by the UWM Graduate School and the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Art & Design (in consultation with the Graduate Faculty), the MFA candidate will complete 30 credits toward the MFA degree.

Applicants may be admitted to the program with specific program-defined course deficiencies.

The student is expected to satisfy deficiency requirements within three enrolled semesters. The Office of Graduate Studies in the Department of Art & Design monitor the deficiencies. Deficiency course credits may not be applied towards the degree.

## Credits and Courses

Minimum degree requirement is 60 graduate credits for MFA candidates who do **not** hold an MA or MS degree. Sixty-credit degree candidates plan a program of studies that includes the following:

Code	Title	Credits
Select 36-42 credits in studio art		36-42
Select 3 credits in Art History		3
ART 901	Seminar in Art-Philosophy and Concepts	3
Select 6 additional credits in graduate art seminar		6
Select 6-12 credits in graduate-level coursework in a discipline related to the student's research interests		6-12
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>60</b>

## MFA Candidates Holding Previous MA or MS Degrees

Minimum degree requirements for MFA candidates holding a previous MA or MS degree is 30 graduate credits. 30-credit degree candidates plan a program of studies that includes the following:

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits in a graduate art seminar		3
Select 18-24 credits in studio art		18-24
Select 3 credits in a graduate-level course in a discipline related to the student's research interests		3
Select 0-6 credits in areas related to student's research interests		0-6
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30</b>

All graduate students must be enrolled full-time for at least one semester, earning a minimum of 8 credits during that semester. Graduate students with a PA or TA appointment are considered full-time earning a minimum of 6 credits per semester.

## Additional Requirements

### Major Professor as Advisor

Upon admission, the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Art & Design in consultation with the Graduate Faculty will assign the incoming graduate student to a First Year Advisory Team. The head Advisor will contact the student and the Advisory Team at the beginning of the student's first semester to arrange a schedule for meetings to discuss course enrollment and the first-year studio research agenda.

By the end of the student's second semester in the program, the student must select a Major Professor, and in consultation with the Major Professor, assemble their Graduate Thesis Committee. The committee consists of three or more members (usually not larger than four). At least three members must be UWM graduate faculty, and at least two must be from the Department of Art & Design. At least one member of the committee must be a faculty member in the student's area of focus. If a student desires, the fourth member of the committee may be from outside the university. The student's Major Professor will serve as the Chair of the student's Graduate Thesis Committee.

A student who wishes to change their designated area of focus must first apply and be accepted into the new focus. The student would make this decision in consultation with their Thesis Committee and the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Art & Design. If the student is accepted into the new area of focus, they will assemble a new Thesis Committee and select a new Major Professor, if necessary.

If the student's Major Professor takes a leave of absence or leaves the University, the student should contact the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Art and Design for advice in selecting a new Major Professor and notify the Director of subsequent changes to the student's committee.

### Comprehensive Examination

The student must pass a final oral and written examination.

### Graduate Review

MFA candidates must participate in at least one Graduate Review each academic year.

## Thesis Exhibition

Upon recommendation of the major professor the student presents a thesis exhibition of work executed since admission to the program. The exhibition is held during the semester in which the student completes the coursework for the degree.

### Time Limit

The UWM Graduate School requires that the student complete all degree requirements within a specific time limit. A student in the 60-credit MFA program must complete all degree requirements within seven years. A student in the 30-credit MFA program must complete all degree requirements within five years.

### Transfer of Credits

Upon admission, an applicant may be permitted to transfer a maximum of 12 graduate credits earned at another institution. However, the student must apply to the Graduate School for an evaluation of such credits to determine if they are acceptable for transfer to the MFA program.

### Graduate Advising

Individual Peck School of the Arts graduate advisors are assigned upon admission. Your advisor will work closely with you during your time here. To connect with your graduate program representative, please visit the Graduate tab on the Peck School of the Arts apply page (<https://uwm.edu/arts/apply/>).

## Art, MFA Learning Outcomes

Students graduating with the MFA in Art from the Art & Design Department will be able to:

- Develop strategies, approaches, and methodologies to support a sustainable, self-directed artistic practice.
- Conceptualize and communicate orally and in written form, a breadth of understanding in contemporary art and/or design.
- Integrate and synthesize information associated with practice in their area(s) of specialization.
- Apply critical skills pertaining to meaning and concept and assess their work from a variety of perspectives.
- Contextualize their work historically and/or theoretically and within contemporary practices and conceptual concerns.
- Demonstrate depth of knowledge through the presentation of a body of work and a sustained written engagement with a body of work through an MFA Thesis.
- Engage actively in visual arts culture and community (local, regional, national, or international) and present in exhibition/s in public galleries or other cultural venues.

## Policies & Regulations

Please review the Graduate School policies and regulations (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/graduate-policies/>) and refer to each specific program for any additional items.

### Contact Information

**Advising & Student Services**  
Theatre Building, Room 120

<https://uwm.edu/arts/contact/>