

Fine Arts

The study of visual art encompasses a variety of creative means to express human thoughts, interests, attitudes, emotions and ideas. Visual artists generally fall into one of two broad categories: designers or fine artists. Fine arts students in the School of Art may concentrate in ceramics, fibers, metalwork and jewelry design, mixed media, painting and drawing, photography, printmaking, scientific illustration, sculpture, or general studies.

The study of art at the University of Michigan provides a professional education within the framework of a liberal arts program. The primary emphasis of the professional part of the curriculum is on promoting the development

of skills, concepts, and sensitivities essential to all artists. The successful art student achieves a high level of technical competence, a broad knowledge of art and art history, sensitivity to artistic style, and insight into the role of art and design in society.

Fine arts students may use their education and training in a variety of career areas or as a foundation for further study. Listed below are some characteristic skills and representative occupational opportunities for students majoring in fine arts. Skill areas and occupational opportunities for graphic artists are listed in a separate Industrial and Graphic Design Career Guide.

SKILLS & ABILITIES

Specific skills and abilities developed by artists depend to some degree upon their area of creative interest. However, many of the skills learned may be applied to employment in a variety of sectors and occupational groups.

For example, understanding formal elements such as color, line and space is important for an art teacher, museum curator, display designer or independent artist.

Artistic

Seeing, drawing and understanding form
Visualizing shapes and relationships
Mastering use of color, space, and line
Thinking creatively
Problem solving
Relating abstract ideas and visual forms
Utilizing theories of composition
Understanding contemporary art issues

Technical

Knowing the qualities and limitations of each medium
Working in a variety of media
Attaining a high level of craftsmanship
Photographing work
Presenting and displaying work

Communication

Communicating visually
Speaking and writing effectively
Using other communication media
Preparing a portfolio
Marketing

Organizational

Collaborating with others
Networking among artists
Planning and installing exhibitions
Developing appropriate business skills
Understanding economic and legal issues

OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

School of Art graduates in fine arts are prepared to succeed in a wide range of occupational areas. The following list compiled from data on University of Michigan gradu-

ates, as well as from national information, offers an idea of the types of opportunities available. Those occupations marked with a • usually require further education.

Fine Arts

Independent artist/
craftsperson
Illustrator
Photographer
•Restorer/conservator
•Medical illustrator
Film/video producer
Textile designer
Jewelry designer
Cartoonist
Police/courtroom artist
Web site designer

Arts Administration

•Museum curator
Exhibition specialist
Arts programs coordinator
Art salesperson
Artists' agent
Arts fundraiser
Gallery director

Communications

Art reporter/critic
Photo journalist
Computer graphics
specialist
Book designer
•Museum publications
director
Web site administrator
Market researcher

Education

•Professor
•Teacher (K-12)
•Art historian
Artist-in-residence
Adult educator
Media specialist
•Art therapist

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

The Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) curriculum is designed to provide maximum flexibility and freedom of choice. The 128 credits required for the degree must be divided among studio art classes; liberal arts courses, including English and art history; and electives taken in either art or non-art classes. Recommended electives vary according to one's focus of study. Students may concentrate in any of the

following areas: Fine Arts — ceramics, fibers, metalwork and jewelry design, mixed media, painting and drawing, photography, printmaking, scientific illustration, sculpture, and general studies; Design — graphic design and industrial design. (Please see the Industrial and Graphic Design Career Guide.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about choosing a career, about graduate or professional school, internships or job descriptions; and for library resources:

The Career Center
3200 Student Activities Building
764-7460
www.careercenter.umich.edu

For information about the fine arts concentrations and degree requirements:

School of Art
Registrar's Office
2040 Art and Architecture Building
764-0527
www.art-design.umich.edu