The BFA is a professional degree. To this end all students in the BFA program are required to choose a specific area of emphasis in order to focus their program of study. The BFA program at Ohio State is open enrollment, however, in order to fulfill the status conferred by a professional degree, all students continuing in the BFA beyond four semesters are required to pass an Emphasis Area Review in their chosen area of concentration. The seven areas of concentration offered are: Art & Technology, Ceramics, Glass, Painting & Drawing, Photography, Printmaking, and Sculpture.

To apply to any emphasis area in the BFA you must first submit your written application form, your formal application / artist statement, a current copy of your advising report, and a completed area program plan to the Department of Art office in 254C Hopkins Hall. You will be scheduled to meet with at least two regular faculty to review your application portfolio and discuss your goals as an artist. These reviews will take place in the studio facilities of the emphasis area to which you are applying and will provide a limited amount of time for all applicants to appropriately hang, lay out, install, load on computer, or otherwise prepare work for the review.

You will be notified of the outcome of the review by written letter and email from the Undergraduate Chair during the following week. For those accepted into an emphasis area, your letter will include information about contacting your new art faculty advisor. For those not accepted into the emphasis area, you will be provided additional information about your options.

**YOU MUST APPLY FOR AN EMPHASIS AREA WITHIN 4 SEMESTERS OF ENROLLMENT IN THE BFA.**

**When to Apply:** The application process begins the first week of the semester of the intended review. The written portion of the application is due in 254C Hopkins the first Friday of the first week of the semester (actual dates are on the website). Each applicant presents his or her portfolio to the faculty near the end of the semester. Notification of the review outcome will be received by the end of the semester.

**Requirements for Application:** BFA Emphasis Area applicants must first complete the Foundation series of courses, the bulk of the Core series, and up to two courses in their intended emphasis area. Your faculty advisor will help you decide on an appropriate time to apply. Applicants must have a 2.25 minimum GPA in the Art major courses and a 2.0 minimum overall GPA. Your application consists of three parts:

1. The application packet (you must submit 3 copies)
2. Your portfolio
3. Your interview

Your application packet is four pages and includes the application form (see attached), your written statement (see below), a copy of your advising report, and your program plan.

Your written statement consists of three paragraphs (*not more than 500 words, 12 pt. Arial font, 1.5 spacing*):
Paragraph 1 is background information, i.e. who you are, how you became interested in art, and why you decided to study at Ohio State
Paragraph 2 includes the reasons why you are applying to your particular area of emphasis
Paragraph 3 recounts the strengths and challenges you have identified in your artwork to date

The quality of writing and thinking presented in your written statement will be a consideration in the application outcome.

Your portfolio must include examples of work consistent with the advice of your emphasis area. Generally it is expected that you will present 12–15 pieces. Select your very best work; include at minimum 4 to 8 pieces that are reflective of your interest and ability in your proposed area(s) of concentration. Depending on the area, you may
want to include either actual pieces or documentation of your artwork. Acceptable documentation includes photographic prints, color printouts, or slides in a slide page (will not be projected). Documentation intended for viewing on a computer must be on a CD that will run on a Mac and in an appropriate presentation form such as PowerPoint or QuickTime. Please check with the area to which you are applying for specific guidelines.

Each emphasis area has specific courses they will recommend you complete before applying and may also have additional advice about the amount and range of work from the core courses to present, which is generally two courses at the 2500 level or above. Again, check with your specific area for guidelines.

You will have approximately one hour to prepare your portfolio presentation in the designated space provided by the emphasis area. Be sure to plan for all your needs and bring any tools, computer or AV, electric cords, hangers, tape, pins, etc. with you. Any exception will have to be negotiated with the area coordinator prior to review day. Some areas may have specific computers for you to use with your own files.

The interview will take place with the faculty of the area in the portfolio viewing space. Those students not currently presenting work will be asked to wait outside. The faculty will have looked at your written materials prior to the portfolio interview. Be prepared to present your work and to answer questions about your written materials.

Removal of your work will begin as soon as all interviews have concluded in that area. Please restore the area to its original configuration on that day.

Official notification will come from the Undergraduate Chair by letter.

**How your application will be evaluated:** Each team of faculty will evaluate the works in your presented portfolio in combination with the written statement and interview. This synthesized evaluation will ensure that each element of the portfolio and interview process reflects a solid knowledge base and the potential for success in the rigorous professional preparation that is expected of each student in a BFA course of study at The Ohio State University.

A successful application to your chosen area of emphasis will be evidenced by your aesthetic and conceptual potential, focus and commitment beyond the minimum course requirements as presented in your portfolio, the clarity and depth of your written statement, and your capacity to participate fully in the interview process.

Please note: Although individual course grades and your cumulative GPA at Ohio State will be taken into consideration, they are not the sole basis for this review.

**Transfer Students:** Students who transferred to Ohio State with studio art credits from another educational institution will need to schedule an interview with the Undergraduate Chair through Marthe Grohman (254C Hopkins Hall). At this meeting a student’s standing in the BFA program will be determined and a faculty advisor assigned.

**Non-Acceptance:** If you are not accepted into your emphasis area you will meet with the Undergraduate Chair to decide upon a course of action. In consultation with the Undergraduate Chair you may petition to reapply to the same or different emphasis area, pursue the BA degree in Art, or pursue a minor in Studio Art. Students who reapply will have one semester from the date of their first emphasis review to reapply. Students who are not admitted after their second application will not be permitted to pursue a BFA at Ohio State.

**Questions:** Please contact Marthe Grohman at 292-3311.
BFA EMPHASIS AREA REVIEW APPLICATION FORM
(This is a 4-page application; please submit 3 copies)

Name: 
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Date: 
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Emphasis Area: 
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Faculty Art Advisor: 
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Time of scheduled classes or work schedule on Fridays: 
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MAILING ADDRESS FOR NOTIFICATION:

Street: 
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City: 
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

State / Zip: 
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OSU Email: 
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Phone: 
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BE SURE TO ATTACH:

(3 COPIES) Application Form
(3 COPIES) Your written statement
(3 COPIES) Your current one-page advising report
(3 COPIES) Your current Art Program Plan