



DEPARTMENT OF ART

Graduate Handbook

Graduate Program Handbook
Master of Fine Arts Degree
2022-2023

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I. General Information

A. Department of Art Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Art is to champion the value of the visual arts in the culture and intellectual life of the University and contemporary society. By training the eye, hand, and mind in traditional and new media forms, we nurture creative expression and instill appreciation of the central importance of the arts to dynamic, innovative lives.

B. Graduate Studies at The Ohio State University

The Graduate School provides strategic leadership for graduate education at The Ohio State University. The Graduate School is comprised of university faculty, a representative advisory body (Graduate Council), and the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School and administrative staff. Each graduate student should become familiar with the contents of the Graduate School Handbook, as it contains the rules, policies, and guidelines applicable to the graduate community at Ohio State.

Local Graduate Studies Committees, within each graduate program, are charged with the responsibility for conducting specific graduate programs within the context of the policies and rules established by the Graduate School. Graduate Studies Committees serve as the primary liaison between Graduate Faculty and the Graduate School. The Graduate School handbook (<https://gradsch.osu.edu/handbook>) provides a summation of the responsibilities of Graduate Studies committees.

C. Graduate Studies in the Department of Art

The Department of Art, along with other units in the Arts, is part of the Division of Arts and Humanities within the College of Arts and Sciences. The Department consists of approximately 14 full-time studio faculty members. The Department sponsors short-term seminars, visiting artists, and workshops throughout the year.

Each graduate student is responsible for becoming familiar with the rules and policies in this Department of Art Graduate Program Handbook, the Graduate School handbook (<https://gradsch.osu.edu/handbook>), and with the specific requirements and deadlines for their particular program area.

It is the student's responsibility to keep an accurate record of the distribution of their earned credit hours and to make certain these conform

to the MFA program requirements. Appendix B of this handbook provides a checklist for record keeping.

II. Department Committees

A. Graduate Student Participation

The university and the Department of Art incorporates graduate student representation in multiple major faculty governing bodies. Early in autumn semester, the Graduate Program Coordinator organizes the election of graduate students to serve in specific capacities.

B. Graduate Studies Committee

The Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) is responsible for clarifying policies and putting into practice the guidelines of the Graduate School and The Department of Art graduate program. GSC acts as an intermediary body between the Graduate School and the Department of Art.

The GSC (1) makes recommendations for fellowships (2) approves Review/Thesis Committee selections and any subsequent committee changes (3) hears grievances and requests for exceptions to policy, and (4) makes recommendations for the assignment of specific faculty to teach Graduate Seminars one semester to a year in advance.

1. The GSC consists of four graduate faculty members (one of which is a voting Chair) and two graduate students.
2. The graduate faculty elects the GSC faculty members. The Chair of the Department of Art appoints the Graduate Chair, who serves for a maximum term of three years, from the current membership of the GSC.
3. Two graduate student members are elected at the end of the spring semester by the graduate student body. These student representatives must come from different areas within the Department of Art, one entering their second year and the other entering their third year. Student representatives may serve one or two year terms, which do not extend through the summer term.

III. [Faculty Members](#)

Studio Area	Core Faculty	Email
Art & Technology	Amy Youngs - Associate Professor	youngs.6@osu.edu
Ceramics	Steven Thurston – Associate Professor	thurston.14@osu.edu
Painting & Drawing	Dani ReStack- Assistant Professor	restack.1@osu.edu
	Laura Lisbon – Chair and Professor	lisbon.1@osu.edu
	George Rush – Associate Professor	rush.172@osu.edu
	Suzanne Silver – Associate Professor	silver.22@osu.edu
Photography	Jared Thorne – Assistant Professor	thorne.82@osu.edu
	Gina Osterloh – Assistant Professor	osterloh.2@osu.edu
Printmaking	Sergio Soave – Professor	soave.1@osu.edu
Sculpture	Carmel Buckley – Professor	buckley.7@osu.edu
	Alison Crocetta – Associate Professor	crocetta.1@osu.edu
	Todd Slaughter – Professor	slaughter.1@osu.edu
General Art Faculty	Roger Beebe –Professor	beebe.77@osu.edu
	Carmen Winant – Associate Professor	winant.1@osu.edu
Visiting Assistant Professors (VAP)	Illya Mousavijad—VAP	mousavijad.1@osu.edu
	Christopher Stackhouse—VAP	stackhouse.43@osu.edu
Regional Campus Faculty	Scot Kaplan – Associate Professor	kaplan.96@osu.edu
	Kate Shannon – Assistant Professor	shannon.112@osu.edu
	John Thrasher – Professor	thrasher.1@osu.edu

IV. [Facilities](#)

A. Department of Art Facilities

Studio facilities, exhibition spaces and lending programs are housed in two buildings which are easily accessed on foot or by the campus bus system.

Hopkins Hall (HC) Columbus Campus		
Houses five of seven Department of Art studio disciplines as well as its administrative offices, graduate studios, faculty offices, and studio classrooms supporting the education of a large population of undergraduate students.		
Location	What is it?	Equipment available/Uses
Ground floor	Ceramics	Glaze laboratory, clay working machinery, a plaster shop, electric and gas firing kilns and other advanced support technologies. A. E. Baggs Memorial Library and collection of historical works.
1st floor	Experimental use space	1500 sq. feet for events and exhibitions
1st floor	Art & Design Projects Facility	Woodshop and fabrication
1 st floor	Art & Technology	Computer-mediated arts including interactive installation; robotic and kinetic sculpture; digital video; 3D modeling; animation and digital imaging; holography; web-based work, and sound.

2 nd floor	Art administration offices	Chair, department manager, graduate program coordinator, undergraduate program coordinator, undergraduate advisor
2 nd floor	Printmaking	Computer imaging, intaglio, lithography, relief, and screen-printing.
3 rd floor	Photography	Large digital printing and color gang-labs, enlargers/view cameras through 8 X 10 and a generously equipped lighting studio
HC 346	Open technology lab	Computers, scanning, and video editing
4 th floor	Painting and Drawing	Studio spaces

Hoyt L. Sherman Studio Art Center (SSAC) West Campus		
Houses studios and facilities for Glass and Sculpture areas.		
Location	What is it?	Equipment available/Uses
SSAC	Glass	Cold finishing glass shop, a warming glass studio; and shop for working molten glass.
SSAC	Sculpture	Metal-working shop with welding equipment, a metals foundry, and a well-equipped woodworking lab
SSAC	Experimental use space	1500 sq. feet for exhibitions

Hayes Hall (HA) Columbus Campus contains foundations studio classrooms on the third floor. Faculty and GTA's may borrow audio/visual equipment and materials for teaching from Classroom Services <https://odee.osu.edu/equipment-loan>.

B. Related OSU Facilities

Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design (ACCAD) Columbus campus has an extensively equipped computer facility offering graduate level courses in computer technology.

Fine Arts Library houses over 40,000 volumes plus an art related journals collection.

Visual Resource Library (VRL) Columbus Campus, maintains a collection of online digital media resources representing world art, archaeology, and architecture from prehistoric periods to the present.

Hopkins Hall Gallery functions as a flexible exhibition, curatorial and innovative learning space for professors, students and visiting artists.

Urban Arts Space (Downtown Columbus) Located in the heart of downtown Columbus, the OSU Urban Arts Space functions as an arts laboratory for Ohio State faculty and community artists and serves as a professional launching pad for Ohio State students.

Wexner Center for the Arts (Columbus campus) This internationally renowned contemporary arts center is a research laboratory for all the arts that emphasizes commissions for new work and artist residencies. Its multidisciplinary programs encompass performing arts, exhibitions, and media arts (film/video) that focus on cutting-edge culture from around the globe.

V. Program Guide

Master of Fine Arts Degree

The MFA degree in the Department of Art is currently offered through seven, studio-based areas:

- Art and Technology
- Ceramics
- Glass
- Painting and Drawing
- Photography

Printmaking
Sculpture

The MFA degree is a three-year program, or a minimum of six semesters, designed to support a concentrated effort in a student's field of specialization. The degree is widely recognized as a terminal degree for college teaching. The MFA permits a wide range of educational options, and every effort is made to arrange the program and courses to fit the individual's interests and needs.

The Department of Art supports cultural and geographic diversity in the graduate studies program. Guiding each MFA student through their studies will be a major advisor. The major requirements in the MFA process include the satisfactory completion of five formal reviews plus a final master's examination/oral exam; participation in an MFA group exhibition; and completion of a written thesis.

A. Advising

Each graduate student is responsible for becoming familiar with the rules and policies in the Department of Art Graduate Program Handbook, the Graduate School Handbook, and with the specific requirements and deadlines for their particular program area.

It is the student's responsibility to keep an accurate record of the distribution of their earned credit hours and to make certain these conform to the MFA program requirements. Appendix B in this handbook provides access to the MFA checklist for recording keeping.

1. First-year Advisor

Before arriving, each graduate student is assigned a first-year advisor by their major area of study. The advisor orients the new student to their major studio program and plans a course schedule for the first and second semesters of study.

Each student determines their first semester course schedule in consultation with their first-year advisor and then completes the registration process through their Buckeye Link <https://buckeyelink.osu.edu/>

Before completing the registration process each subsequent semester, all students are expected to review their current course load with their major advisor.

2. Major Advisor

The major advisor plays a vital role in guiding the graduate student through completion of the MFA process. This guidance may be in the form of taking studio hours, suggesting course work, informing the student of the process and requirements for each review, and overseeing development of the written thesis.

The Major Advisor is most often selected from within the student's program area. Area non-affiliated faculty may be selected as a Major Advisor providing at least one member of thesis review committee is from the student's program area. In rare cases, with the approval of faculty from the student's program area and the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC), a student may be allowed to form a thesis review committee with no faculty from their area of study.

Any student wishing to change their major advisor must write a petition stating the reasons for their request to the GSC. If the request is approved, the GSC Chair notifies the Graduate School of the change.

B. Studio space

Private or semi-private studio space is provided for each Department of Art student accepted into graduate studies.

1. MFA students and/or candidates may hold a studio space for no more than six semesters (summer terms not included).
2. May 31st of each year is the deadline for the changeover of studio spaces, unless otherwise approved by the Chair of the Department of Art and the student's major area coordinator.
3. If a student has been granted special permission to graduate in summer term, July 31 will be the deadline to vacate the studio space.

Allocated graduate studio spaces are managed by the Graduate Program Coordinator for the exclusive use of the graduate students. Any exception must be approved by Chair of the Department of Art. It is the graduate student's responsibility to maintain their studios in good condition and in accordance with fire code and other regulations.

C. Residency requirement

It is expected that graduate faculty and graduate students will have a continuous and substantive dialogue about creative professional and academic issues. In order to ensure that this dialogue occurs, all graduate students are required to enroll at least two consecutive semesters (autumn and spring) each year as full-time students in residence. Each student's final two semesters must be completed in close consultation with their MFA thesis committee. Exceptions to this standard must have prior approval from the Graduate Studies Committee.

D. Off-Campus study

The university sponsors an active and growing international studies program along with membership in the [Big Ten Academic Alliance](#). Under certain circumstances, a graduate student, in consultation with their major area advisor and review/thesis committee, may initiate an individual off-campus study program.

E. Satisfactory Progress

All graduate students are expected to maintain an average of B (3.0) or better in all graduate credit courses, with no more than one-third of the credit hours with grades of C or lower.

If the record falls below the above requirements at any time after a student receives 12 hours of graduate credit, the Dean of the Graduate School will designate the student as "probationary" and so notify the student, the advisor, and the Chair of the GSC.

A student who is on probation and does not raise their graduate GPA to 3.0 or better at the end of the next semester of enrollment in the Graduate School may be dismissed from the university at the discretion of the Dean of the Graduate School and the GSC Chair.

F. Transfer of Graduate Credit

The student must initiate all requests for transfer credit. The student's Review/Thesis committee will review, with the student, all requests for transfer credit and majority vote of the Committee will prevail. All transfer credit must be a B or better.

Review/Thesis committee submits the request to the GSC. Upon recommendation by GSC, the request is initiated in [Grad Forms](#) by the student for approval by the Graduate School.

All requests for transfer credit will be made at the time of the second semester review and submitted online via Grad Forms by the student, graduate studies chair, and student advisor.

G. Funding

1. Graduate Associateships

The Chair of the Department of Art awards Graduate Teaching Associate (GTA) appointments on a competitive basis to support the needs of the department. Assignments involve assisting professors in regularly scheduled classes, teaching within the Department of Art programs, and may also include assisting technicians.

NOTE: Per signed contract, all students with GTA/GAA assignments are expected to report to the Art Department office to prepare for autumn semester in mid-August (see current contract for specific date) and to remain on campus through Friday of finals week.

2. Graduate Fellowships

A Graduate School fellowship is a financial award made by the University directly to a graduate student to provide support during a portion of the graduate degree program. Fellows are selected on the basis of academic merit through university-wide competitions without respect to financial need. Graduate fellows cannot be required to perform a service in return for receiving a stipend.

Graduate School fellowship offers apply exclusively to graduate study in the program. Entry into a combined program or transfer to another program must be approved by the Graduate School and appropriate graduate program(s) prior to that change and could result in the loss of the fellowship and/or full fee authorization support.

For greater detail on Graduate Associate appointments and Graduate Fellowships please review the Graduate School website <https://gradsch.osu.edu/funding>.

3. Outside Employment

Employment outside of the University during the academic year is strongly discouraged. The Department of Art requires any Graduate Associate who is considering additional employment outside the University to consult with their graduate advisor, GA supervisor or major area coordinator, as well as with the Graduate Chair and the Chair of the Department. The first

priority of students must be their research, academic work and GA responsibilities. A careful evaluation of the impact of such additional commitments on the student's academic progress and other university obligations will be made to determine the feasibility of pursuing additional employment.

H. Short-term absences

Because a graduate student's studio work, academic coursework, and GA assignment are primary obligations, any arrangements for professional or personal travel within the academic calendar year and outside the dates for designated breaks must be reviewed and approved by your program area coordinator as well as by the Chair of the Department. Further information is available in the Graduate School Handbook under "Short-term absences, E.5".

I. Graduate student grievances

When concerns arise or persist, the graduate student ombudsperson is an impartial resource that can help graduate students explore options in resolving their concerns. Generally, graduate students should aim to address and resolve concerns within their department. Graduate students are encouraged to discuss concerns with their advisor first. If concerns remain, graduate student then reach out to the program graduate studies chair. Further unresolved concerns should be communicated to the department chair. If the concerns cannot be resolved internally within the department, the graduate student is encouraged to contact the assistant dean for graduate studies within the College of Arts and Sciences. In situations where the student believes the issue has not been resolved within the College, they can request further review from the Graduate School.

VI. [Program of Study](#)

Students are admitted to the Master of Fine Arts degree program within a specific studio area:

Art and Technology

Ceramics

Glass

Painting and Drawing

Photography

Printmaking

Sculpture

Credit Hour requirement

A total minimum of 66 credit hours of graduate level coursework is required for the MFA degree, which must include at least 6 credit hours in major area studio hours, 9 credit hours in elective studio hours, 11 additional “flex” hours (in or out of area), and 5 credit hours of area group critiques. Students may take additional courses within Art or external to the department to meet program requirements. Faculty and students should utilize the MFA checklist as both a planning document and record of completed coursework. Access to this form is available in the Appendix B of this handbook, as well as on the department website.

A. Course selection

General guidelines

Requests for any exceptions to the following course requirements for the MFA program must be made in writing and approved by the GSC.

Graduate students with Graduate Associate appointments in the Department of Art must register for a minimum of 8 credit hours each semester (autumn and spring). 4 credit hours summer term enrollment is optional.

Graduate Fellows must be registered for a minimum of 12 credit hours each semester and for 6 credit hours during the summer term of their fellowship year.

Undergraduate courses will not count towards degree requirements or cumulative average and are not recommended unless the course is a prerequisite to a graduate level course. Courses at the 4000 level outside of the Department of Art with a Graduate designation, may be taken for graduate credit and used to fulfill University Studies requirements, provided the course is not taught by a graduate student.

All studio art courses taken must result in a letter grade for establishing the student’s cumulative point hour average.

All courses taken in the Department of Art must be 5000 level or higher.

Graduate students are expected to be enrolled in Autumn semester classes no later than August 1st.

B. Studio studies

(31 credit hours minimum)

1. Major Area Studio Hours (minimum of 6 credit hours)

ART 669X/779X/889X*

Hours taken with faculty in a student's major area (directed study) or selected courses taught by department of Art faculty.

- a) Credit hour requirements are fulfilled when a graduate student takes studio practice hours with graduate faculty to get feedback on independent work.
- b) May also include a maximum of two area required courses.
- c) Required area coursework may be structured as a requirement for all students within a studio discipline, or (per advisor) customized as an individual student requirement
- d) All area required coursework (excluding area critiques and thesis coursework) will be completed by the end of the student's third semester.
- e) No area shall require more than one area course per semester per student.

*X=area designation

1= Art and Technology

2= Ceramics

3= Glass

4= Drawing & Painting

5= Photography

6= Printmaking

7= Sculpture

2. Elective Studio Hours (minimum of 9 credit hours)

ART 669X/779X/889X, ART 6008, or studio courses outside a student's major studio area but within the Department of Art or another studio-based program (such as ACCAD, Architecture, Dance, Music, Theatre) or with affiliated faculty and others approved by your advisor. ASC 6750 is included in this section.

ART 5193/6193/7193/8193 Individualized Studies is only used for courses taken outside The Department of Art. Students taking hours under this series receive an "S" (Satisfactory) or "U" (Unsatisfactory) not a letter grade.

- With prior approval from their major area advisor, a student may apply up to three credit hours of such coursework as “Other Electives” within university studies and towards the 66 credit hours required for the Art MFA.

3. Flex Studio Hours (minimum of 11 credit hours)

These can be any combination of studio hours within or outside your major area in Art

4. Area Group Critiques (5 credit hours)

ART 689X in student’s major studio area
Required semesters 1-5.

C. MFA Common Studies
(15 minimum credit hours)

1. Department of Art Seminars (15 credit hours minimum)

-ART 6018: First Year Interdisciplinary Seminar - 3 credit hours, Autumn, Year 1

-ART 6108: Teaching in the Studio Classroom - 3 credit hours, to be taken first semester of teaching

-ART 7208: Writing for Artists - 3 credit hours, Autumn, Year 3

-ART 7108: Department of Art Seminar – 3 credit hours (seminars include elective coursework that may be repeated for up to 9 credit hours and may apply toward elective studio requirements as determined by the student’s major area advisor.

-Once studio Art course 5001 and above

2. Thesis credit hours (3 credit hours minimum)

Art 7999 thesis hours are taken with the student’s major advisor or another thesis review committee member for 1 credit hour and are usually scheduled in the fifth and sixth semesters.

Art 7999.01 Thesis Advising - 1 credit hour, Autumn, Year 3

Art 7999.02 Thesis Exhibition - 1 credit hour, Spring, Year 3

Art 7999.03 Thesis Writing – 1 credit hour, Spring, Year 3

Thesis hours may be taken with any graduate faculty member on the thesis review committee. Students are expected to work closely with their major advisor on the final written thesis except by pre-arrangement.

Each graduate student is responsible for seeking the guidance of their major advisor and for keeping them informed of developments in their research and thesis work.

D. University Studies

(17 credit hours minimum, maximum 6 credit hours per semester)

University Studies course, including History of Art, should be selected in consultation with the major advisor. Graduate students are also encouraged to consult with other faculty and second year graduate students regarding course suggestions.

1. History of Art (3 credit hours minimum)

Courses must be numbered 4000 level or above with Graduate designation

*Note: Courses related to art history but offered within the Department of Art are not substitutes for the History of Art coursework requirement. However, in consultation with the major advisor such courses may be counted as major area studio credit or Department of Art seminar credit hours.

2. Arts and Humanities (3 credit hours minimum)

Elective courses within the Arts and Humanities. This includes academic courses or specialized study numbered 4000 level and above within the division of the Arts and Humanities with a Graduate designation, excluding Art department coursework.

3. Outside Visual and Performing Arts (3 credit hours minimum)

Electives outside the Arts. This includes academic courses or specialized study numbered 4000 level and above with a Graduate designation in departments outside of the division of the Arts and Humanities.

4. Other Electives (8 credit hours minimum)

3 of these hours must include coursework numbered 4000 level or above with a Graduate designation, outside the Department of Art. The remaining 5 elective hours may consist of any additional graduate level coursework (4000 level and higher outside of the Dept. of Art or 5000 level or above if inside Dept. of Art.)

Requests for any exceptions to the course requirements for the MFA program must be made in writing and approved by the GSC.

VII. Studio Practice Hours

The Department of Art defines "taking hours" as independent studio practice at the graduate level with a graduate faculty member to get feedback on independent studio work. Up to 31 of the 66 credit hours needed to earn the MFA degree may be taken as studio practice. Distributed over six semesters, a graduate student can expect to take an average of 5-6 hours per semester, which includes coursework in the Department of Art outside of the student's major area.

Graduate students are strongly advised to take hours with 3 or 4 faculty per semester. However, with the approval of the Major Advisor, students may take hours with more faculty.

Number of credit hours taken with a faculty member	Number of required meetings (14 week semester)
1	2-3
2	4-5
3	6+

A. **Guidelines for Studio Practice Hours**

ART 669X, 779X, 889X or ART 6008

1. **Graduate students may register for studio practice hours with:**

- a) Any regular, tenured and tenure-track graduate faculty member within the Department of Art. This includes faculty within a student's major area and external to the area.
- b) Auxiliary Art department faculty with adjunct or visiting titles such as professor, associate professor, assistant professor, or senior lecturer.

- c) More than one faculty member per semester.

Graduate students may not register for studio practice hours with lecturers.

Graduate students needing credit hours in their major studio area and wishing to take those with faculty not assigned to that area must get approval from their major area coordinator. (E.g., a Printmaking area student who needs major studio hours and wants to take them with a Photo area faculty member must obtain permission from the Printmaking area coordinator.)

2. Studio practice hours with major area faculty are numbered as follows:

ART 669X, first and second semesters (autumn and spring)

ART 779X, third and fourth semesters (autumn and spring)

ART 889X, fifth and sixth semesters (autumn and spring)

- a) Students enrolling for studio practice hours must follow the course numbers for ART 669X, ART 779X and ART 889X, with the applicable program area number below:

- 1 Art and Technology
- 2 Ceramics
- 3 Glass
- 4 Drawing & Painting
- 5 Photography
- 6 Printmaking
- 7 Sculpture

For example, studio practice hours taken with ceramics faculty members are numbered ART 6692, ART 7792, or ART 8892.

- b) ART 669X, ART 779X and ART 889X, each course is repeatable to a maximum of 12 credit hours. 3 credit hours per faculty member per semester is maximum number of area studio practice hours allowed.

For example, 6 hours of ART 669X in the first semester and 6 hours of ART 669X in the second semester would be the limit for that course.

3. **Studio practice with non-major area faculty (ART 6008)**

Students taking studio practice hours to get feedback on independent work from graduate faculty outside of their major area will register under an area independent number ART 6008.

4. **Area Group Critique (1 credit hour) (ART 689X)**

Graded S/U is required semesters 1 – 5.

VIII. Exhibition Requirements

A. First-Year MFA Exhibition Requirements

The first-year MFA Exhibition is a student-generated exhibition held in January. The exhibition is led and organized by two student representatives who are elected by Department of Art first-year graduate students in the fall. The exhibition is intended to allow for experimentation, collaboration, and/or offer a space to showcase work from the first semester.

B. Second-Year MFA Exhibition Requirements

The second-year MFA Exhibition is a student-generated exhibition in late August. It is led and organized by two student representatives who are elected by Department of Art second-year graduate students in spring. The exhibition is intended to allow for experimentation, to showcase new work from the summer, and to aid in the Review and Thesis Committee selection process which concludes at the end of September.

C. Third-Year MFA Thesis Exhibition Requirements

The third-year MFA thesis exhibition is a public presentation of works demonstrating the achievements in the student's area of specialization and must be arranged as part of the annual, spring semester MFA Group Exhibition. The candidate, in consultation with their major advisor, is responsible for selecting the content of the exhibition. The Graduate Studies Chair or other Department of Art representative, will lay out the exhibition in consultation with Urban Arts Space staff. Two student representatives, elected by Department of Art graduate students in the fall, will assist the Graduate Studies Chair in the programming and communications related to the exhibition. Publicity for this event is provided by the Department of Art and gallery administrators.

IX. Formal Reviews

A. General guidelines

The major requirements of the MFA process include:

1. Satisfactory completion of five formal reviews
2. Final Master's examination/oral examination
3. Participation in a MFA group exhibition
4. Completion of a written thesis

At each review, students show examples of studio research in progress or completed since their enrollment in the Department of Art MFA program.

The major advisor officially begins each review and immediately after meets privately with the other committee members to discuss the student's progress and obtain signatures on the required review form. It is the duty of the major advisor to keep the student informed of their progress in conjunction with each completed review.

During the review, individual committee members make specific evaluations and recommendations regarding both strengths and weaknesses of the student's presentation of their studio and academic research.

Students will meet with their advisor to discuss the comments and recommendations of their review committee no later than two weeks after the review. At this meeting students may choose to amend the committee's report (excepting final decisions of an Appeals Review Committee) with a written response of their own.

Copies of all written evaluations and recommendations are forwarded for review by the Graduate Studies Chair and then filed as part of the student's departmental records. These remain available upon request to both students and members of their committee as reference material for all subsequent reviews.

X. Review Calendar

MFA Review Calendar							
Year	Sem	When	Review	Who	Purpose	What's Due	Rubric
1	AU	Dec.	Progress Review	1 st year advisor, two other faculty members	Review studio and academic progress	One page, typed artist statement, which describes what you have been making & why.	- Satisfactory - Satisfactory with conditions - Unsatisfactory
1	SP	April	Program Review	Progress review committee members, plus two additional faculty members	Evaluate current studio and academic research	Revised & expanded typed artists statement	- Approved - Disapproved
2	AU	Nov.	Thesis Review	Major advisor plus two additional faculty members*	Review studio and academic progress; presentation and discussion of written thesis proposal	Revised & expanded typed artists statement	- Satisfactory - Satisfactory with conditions - Unsatisfactory
2	SP	April	Thesis Review	Major advisor plus two additional faculty members**	Discuss initial ideas and plans for 3 rd year thesis exhibition	Revised & expanded typed artists statement	- Approved - Disapproved
3	AU	Oct.	Thesis Review	Major advisor plus two additional faculty members	Discuss artwork and/or final plans for MFA exhibition	Robust sample of writing which contributes to the direction & form of the student's final written thesis MFA exhibition proposal.	- Satisfactory - Satisfactory with conditions - Unsatisfactory
3	SP	March	Master's exam	Major advisor plus two additional faculty members	Review, discuss, approve work presented; provide recommendations for final written thesis		
			*Students may petition the GSC to add a fourth member to their Thesis Review committee after the November meeting. **Following this review, students may petition, in writing to GSC to change a committee member				

A. Semester One

MFA Progress Review Committee:

Each incoming MFA student is assigned a MFA Progress Review Committee consisting of a first-year area advisor plus two regular tenure

or tenure-track Department of Art faculty. The Graduate Studies Committee together with Area Coordinators and the Chair of the Department of Art will designate committee assignments.

In December, the three-member MFA Progress Review Committee meets with new students to review their studio and academic progress to date and prepare them for the April MFA Program Review.

At least one week prior to this review, the student must deliver a one-page, typewritten artist's statement to each committee member.

The decision at the conclusion of the review will be one of the following:

Satisfactory

Satisfactory with conditions

The student must demonstrate reasonable progress toward satisfying all specified conditions prior to second-semester review.

Unsatisfactory

The committee requests removal of the student from the program by the Graduate School pending approval from the Graduate Studies Chair and the Chair of the Department of Art.

B. Semester Two

MFA Program Review Committee:

This committee is comprised of the members of the Progress Review Committee plus two additional Department of Art faculty members.

The Graduate Studies Committee will coordinate with the Chair of the Department of Art to assign the two additional faculty members to constitute the full committee. At least two of the five committee members will be from outside the student's studio area of concentration. A student may request to select one of the two additional members by submitting a written request to the GSC and receiving final approval from the GSC.

In April, the full MFA Program Review Committee meets with each first year student to evaluate current studio and academic research as evidence of the student's potential to successfully complete the Department of Art MFA Degree Program.

At least one week prior to this review, the student must deliver a typewritten, revised and expanded artist's statement to each committee member

The first-year advisor submits copies of the committee's recommendation to the Graduate Studies Committee for final approval.

Each student will receive a copy of their committee's evaluations and recommendation before the first day of the following term.

The decision at the conclusion of the review will be one of the following:

Approved

Disapproved

If disapproved, the student may petition in writing to the GSC for an Appeals Committee Review to take place in the May session. The decision of this committee is considered final with no further departmental appeal or review.

C. Semester Three

In November, MFA candidates meet with their MFA Thesis Review Committee. Aside from a review of the student's studio and academic progress, this meeting includes presentation and discussion of a preliminary written thesis proposal.

One week prior to the review the student delivers a revised and expanded artist's statement to all committee members.

At this time a student may also request to add a fourth, non-voting, committee member from inside or outside the Department of Art.

The decision at the conclusion of the review will be one of the following:

Satisfactory

Satisfactory with conditions

The student must demonstrate reasonable progress toward satisfying all specified conditions prior to fourth semester review.

Unsatisfactory

The committee requests removal of the student from the program by the Graduate School pending approval from the Graduate Studies Chair and the Chair of the Department of Art.

D. Semester Four

In April, students meet with their MFA Thesis review committee for their second MFA Thesis Review. This meeting includes discussion of the student's initial ideas and plans for their third year thesis exhibition.

One week prior to the review the student delivers a revised and expanded artist's statement to all committee members.

The decision at the conclusion of the review will be one of the following:

Approved

Disapproved

If disapproved, the student may petition in writing to the GSC for an Appeals Committee Review to take place in the May session. The decision of this committee is considered final with no further departmental appeal or review.

The major advisor submits a signed copy of the committee report and recommendations to the Graduate Studies Committee for review and approval in May.

Before the first day of the following regular term, each student receives a copy of their committee's evaluations and recommendation.

Following this review, students may petition in writing to GSC to change a committee member.

E. Semester Five

In late October, students meet with their MFA Thesis review committee for a third MFA Thesis Review to present and discuss artwork and/or final plans for the February MFA Exhibition.

Not less than one week before this meeting, all committee members will receive a comprehensive writing sample of the anticipated form and overall direction of the student's final written thesis. In addition, the student will provide a draft of the MFA exhibition proposal.

This thesis writing sample will focus on completed work and outline the anticipated trajectory of art work being prepared for the thesis exhibition. This writing may address how the work ties to cultural, historical, and theoretical underpinnings and ideas. It might also include a brief abstract and/or potential chapter headings along with a brief rationale for each topic. The purpose of the writing sample is to promote a constructive discussion between the student and committee members as they plan for the

student's upcoming exhibition and review student progress toward completion of the required written thesis. Students should work closely with their major advisor to clarify specific expectations for this writing.

The decision at the conclusion of the review will be one of the following:

Satisfactory

Satisfactory with conditions

The student must demonstrate reasonable progress towards satisfying all specified conditions prior to the scheduled Thesis Exhibition and Master's Examination.

Unsatisfactory

The committee requests removal of the student from the program by the Graduate School pending approval from the Graduate Studies Chair and the Chair of the Department of Art.

Each student will receive a copy of their committee's evaluations and recommendation before the first day of the following term.

XI. [Review Committees](#)

A. MFA Progress Review Committee

In May of the spring prior to arriving, each incoming student is assigned an MFA Progress Review Committee. The Graduate Studies Committee together with Area Coordinators and the Chair of the Department of Art will designate committee assignments.

This committee consists of a first-year area advisor plus two regular tenure or tenure-track Department of Art faculty.

In December of the first semester, the MFA Progress Review Committee meets with new students to review their studio and academic progress to date. The purpose of this review is to prepare individual students for their second semester MFA Program Review.

B. MFA Program Review Committee

This committee includes the three faculty members of the first-year student's Progress Review Committee plus two additional regular Department of Art Faculty.

The Graduate Studies Committee will coordinate with the Chair of the Department of Art to assign two additional faculty members to constitute a full committee. At least two of the five-committee members will be from outside the student's area of studio concentration.

In April of the second semester, the Program Review Committee meets with the student to review and evaluate current studio and academic research as evidence of the student's potential to successfully complete the Department of Art MFA program.

C. MFA Thesis Review Committee

The MFA Thesis Review Committee includes a major advisor and at least two other regular graduate faculty members.

During the second year of the program, the MFA Thesis Review Committee meets to review the student's progress with their studio work, academic coursework and written thesis requirements. These meetings occur in November and April. Following the November meeting, a student may petition the GSC to add a fourth, voting member to their Thesis Review Committee.

Students in their third year meet with their MFA Thesis Review Committee in October and again in March. The Master's examination and oral defense are scheduled for the March meeting.

XII. [MFA Thesis Review Committee Selection](#)

A. Selection Guidelines

In September of the third semester, each graduate student, in consultation with their first-year advisor, must select a Thesis Review Committee, which consists of a major advisor and two other regular, tenured or tenure-track graduate faculty members. It is recommended but not required that one of the committee members be from the student's major area.

Only regular, tenure-track graduate faculty members may serve on the Thesis Review Committee. Committees may include a maximum of one graduate faculty member from outside the Department of Art.

No later than the final Friday in September of the third semester of study, the graduate student delivers to the Graduate Program Coordinator the signed thesis committee selection form for review and approval by the Graduate Chair.

Following review and approval by the Graduate Studies Committee, the GSC Chair notifies the student of the appointment of members to the Thesis Review Committee.

After receiving approval of the Thesis Review Committee by the GSC Chair, students may schedule their third semester review, to be held in November.

Any student who later wishes to change their major advisor must write a petition stating the reasons for their request to the GSC. If the request is approved, the GSC Chair notifies the Graduate School of the change.

XIII. Master's Examination

A. Purpose

The examination is focused on review, discussion and approval of work presented in the exhibition as well as on recommendations for final development of and revisions to the required written thesis.

B. Format

The Master's examination/oral exam consists of an oral presentation by the MFA candidate and discussion as directed by the review committee during and at the site of the thesis exhibition.

Should the Master's examination/oral exam be held at any other time, the candidate must supply the review committee with full visual documentation (i.e. digital images, photographs, drawings and/or diagrams of the work presented for exhibition).

C. Completion

1. Satisfactory result

The student successfully completes the Master's examination/oral exam when the decision of the review committee—made after a discussion immediately following the event and without the graduate student present—is unanimously affirmative.

2. Unsatisfactory result

If the Master's examination/orals exam is judged unsatisfactory, then the review committee decides whether the student is permitted a

second Master's examination/oral examination and records their decision on the Master's Examination Report in Grad Forms.

- a) If a second Master's examination/oral exam is scheduled, the review committee membership remains as originally organized unless the Dean of the Graduate School approves a substitution.
- b) A candidate who fails the Master's examination/oral exam must register in the Graduate School for an additional semester for at least three credit hours before receiving an opportunity for a second examination. No student is permitted a third examination.
- c) A student who records two unsatisfactory Master's examination/oral exam events will not be granted an MFA Degree from the Department of Art.

3. Report on Final Examination

Upon completion of the exam, the major advisor and all committee members sign the "Report on Final Examination" through gradforms.osu.edu.

XIV. [Appeals Review Committee](#)

A. Structure

The three members of the Appeals Review Committee are the student's advisor, the GSC Chair, and the Chair of the Department of Art.

B. Purpose

This committee meets when a student fails to pass the second semester Program Review or the fourth semester Thesis Review files, and files a written request that is approved by the Graduate Studies Committee.

C. Schedule of Meetings

The Appeals Review Committee meets with the student during the summer term. The decisions of this committee are final with no further Art Department appeal or review.

XV. [Thesis Writing Guidelines](#)

The graduate program in the Department of Art requires each student to complete a written thesis. The writing is expected to express a clearly focused

understanding of the student's current artwork as well as its relation to both its historical and contemporary context. This thesis should also respond to and support the artwork presented for the MFA thesis exhibition.

The purpose of the thesis is for students to articulate the primary influences, developments, themes and/or arguments that form the basis of their artistic practices and goals. Writing in this way is conceived as a verbal extension of rather than as a replacement for the artwork presented in the graduate thesis exhibition.

The thesis should include at least eight typewritten pages plus images directly referencing the work exhibited and a bibliography. It is developed according to the following timetable established by the Graduate Studies Committee.

The paper may take any written form (for example: prose description, theoretical argument, or narrative essay) that reinforces the creative core of the student's body of work. For guidance and inspiration, students are encouraged to review examples of previous thesis papers written for the Department of Art and available online through the library.

The Graduate Council sets the general requirements for graduate degree documents at Ohio State. Graduate students should confer with their advisors and committee members to learn about program and discipline-specific requirements for their dissertations or theses. The Graduate School guidelines (<https://gradsch.osu.edu/completing-your-degree/dissertations-theses/document-preparation>), however, have precedent over any program guidelines.

A. Semester five thesis writing guidelines

Not less than one week before this meeting, all committee members will receive a more robust sample of writing that will contribute to the direction and form of the student's final written thesis. In addition, the student will provide a draft of the MFA exhibition proposal (Appendix B).

This expanded writing will be focused on completed work and address the anticipated trajectory of the work as the student prepares for their thesis exhibition. This writing sample may address how the work ties to cultural, historical, and theoretical underpinnings and ideas. It may include a proposed abstract and/or possible chapter headings with a brief rationale for each topic to be explored in the thesis. This writing will serve the student and committee as they discuss the plans for the upcoming exhibition and the possible form and content of the written

thesis. The student should work closely with their Major advisor to discuss expectations and possibilities for this writing.

B. Semester six thesis writing guidelines

At least one week prior to a scheduled Master's examination the student presents a fully developed draft thesis to all MFA thesis review committee members for final discussion and review.

C. Thesis Writing Structure

Students will work closely with their major advisor and other committee members to develop both the form and content of their thesis. All theses are required to adhere to the following general thesis format:

1. Title Page
2. Copyright
3. Abstract
4. Vita
5. Dedication (if any)
6. Table of contents (if any)
7. List of Illustrations
8. Introduction (if any)
9. Thesis Statement (i.e., body of text)
10. Conclusion (if any)
11. Appendix (if any)
12. Bibliography

The Graduate School guidelines for formatting the written thesis must be followed. The Graduate School provides a template (<https://gradsch.osu.edu/completing-your-degree/dissertations-theses/document-preparation>) for use when formatting thesis documents. The template contains guidelines detailing the required physical and bibliographic formatting of the thesis paper.

It is strongly recommended that a paper copy of the written thesis be taken to the Graduate School (247 University Hall) for format checking before the semester due date to allow time for any corrections stipulated by the Graduate to be made. Written theses are submitted electronically.

Further details regarding the correct formatting for visual and written references are available in: *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* by Kate L. Turabian. 7th edition, University of Chicago Press, 2007.

Other useful writing guides:

Barrett, Terry, *Criticizing Art: Understanding the Contemporary* (see Chapter 6: "Writing and Talking about Art") 2nd edition, Mayfield Publishing, 2000.

Behrens, Laurence, and Leonard J. Rosen, *Writing and Reading across the Curriculum*, 8th edition Longam, 2003

Lunsford, Andrea and Robert Connors, *The New St. Martin's Handbook*, St. Martin's Press, 2001.

Strunk Jr., William, "The Elements of Style", with revisions, an introduction, and a chapter on writing by E. B. White. Boston : Allyn and Bacon, 2000.

D. Submission

Students must submit one copy of the final draft of their written thesis as approved and signed by their major thesis advisor to the Graduate School by published deadline listed on the Graduate School graduation calendar.

A candidate for the MFA degree at the end of a given semester must submit to their review committee the completed draft of his/her thesis no later than four weeks prior to commencement. Once the thesis is approved, the major advisor and all committee members sign the "Report on Final Document" through gradforms.osu.edu by the posted semester deadline.

XVI. [Graduation requirements \(Spring semester\)](#)

A. Guidelines

The MFA Thesis Review Committee shall determine the semester during which the student files for graduation. Students must complete the following items by their respective due dates to graduate Spring semester:

1. Public exhibition of visual work
2. Written thesis
3. Master's examination/oral exam
4. Application to Graduate

- a) Students must submit an application to graduate through [Grad Forms](#) to the Graduate School no later than the third Friday of the semester in which graduation is expected. The application is valid for that semester only. The major advisor and Graduate Studies Chair will sign off on this form after the student has initiated the form.
- b) If it becomes evident that a student will not graduate during the designated semester, the student's must cancel the application to graduate by calling Graduation Services, (614) 292-6031, or sending an email, from their OSU email account (be sure to include your name, student ID number, and degree) to grad-schoolgraduationservices@osu.edu.
- c) Canceling removes the student name from the current commencement list, but the application (and Master Examination Report form) is good through the last business day before the start of next semester's classes (the End-of-Semester deadline).

XVII. [Graduation requirements \(Summer Term\)](#)

A. Guidelines

1. Fulfillment of written thesis requirements in the summer term may only occur with agreement between the student, the major advisor, and the other MFA thesis review committee members. This requires that the major advisor is available for final thesis approval during the summer. All other requirements remain as previously stated.

2. Major advisor availability

Major advisors who are not available for written thesis approval during the summer term must be replaced through petition to the GSC during spring semester or before the review prior to the anticipated semester of candidacy.

B. Timeline

Spring Semester

1. Review of candidacy

The review prior to the anticipated term of candidacy must be held during the spring semester. This review will include the major advisor, members

of the original review committee and any newly appointed faculty members.

2. Application to Graduate

The “Application to Graduate” form is available through gradforms.osu.edu. Candidates fill out this form to generate all other relevant graduation forms. A list of deadlines and a checklist concerning the formatting requirements for the written thesis is available on the Graduate School website (<http://gradsch.osu.edu>).

- a) The candidate must file the “Application to Graduate” with the Graduate School, by the third Friday of the summer semester.
- b) The Major advisor and Graduate Studies Chair must approve the “Application to Graduate” through gradforms.osu.edu after the candidate has initiated the form.

3. Exams and Thesis

During the summer term the candidate and their review committee will follow regular procedures regarding requirements for performance of the thesis and Master's examination/oral examination. The candidate will be responsible for arranging the space, date and presentation of visual material for the exam. Following their exam, all committee members complete the “Report on Final Examination” through gradforms.osu.edu.

4. Thesis approval

The candidate’s final approved thesis must be formatted in conformance to Graduate School guidelines. In compliance with the dates established by the Graduate School for summer graduation, the candidate must electronically submit the advisor-approved final thesis to the Graduate School. The major advisor and committee members must sign off on the “Report on Final Document” through gradforms.osu.edu for departmental approval, following the Graduate School deadlines.

Appendix A

Course Registration

I. Activate OSU email account

Prior to registration the student must activate their OSU email account at: <https://my.osu.edu/>. BuckeyeMail is the Ohio State's student-only email services and uses Microsoft Outlook live.

II. Enrollment appointment

A student's enrollment appointment is the date and time at which he or she may begin enrolling in classes for the following semester or summer session.

Appointments are assigned via a priority system based upon student status (please visit the registrar's page for greater detail). Your enrollment appointment will show on your SIS Student Center main page, on the far right side, once it has been assigned by the Graduate School. Click the "details" link and choose the session or semester for which you wish to enroll and you will be shown the exact time and day you may begin enrolling.

If your appointment automatically populates, be sure you are looking at the correct term. If the semester is not correct you, will need to change the term.

If you have a hold of any kind on your account, you will be unable to register for classes. Hold information may be found on your Student Center main page on the far right, above the enrollment appointment information.

If you have a note indicating that you have a hold, you may click the "details" link for additional information. Clicking the hyperlinks will tell you the reason for the hold and which office you must contact in order to resolve the issue.

Please check your Student Center to ensure you do not have a hold prior to your enrollment appointment.

III. Preparing for Registration

Registration begins the ninth week of the term. Students are assigned an enrollment appointment, which is the date and time they may begin to enroll in classes. Most

registrations are completed online via Buckeye Link (<https://buckeyelink.osu.edu/>), there are some instances when classes cannot be added online. Please communicate with the Graduate Program Coordinator for assistance.

Available classes are listed online, usually by the fourth week of each term. Review available classes to prepare for registration.

IV. Online registration (Buckeye Link)

Students register for classes using their Student Center via Buckeye Link and enter the class numbers of the courses in which they would like to enroll. If a course is open and the student meets all the requisites and has no time conflicts, the student is enrolled in the course. If the course is full, students may put their name on an automated wait-list or select another course. Detailed registration information is available on the Registrar's website (<https://registrar.osu.edu/>).

Full semester classes (14 weeks) may be added via Buckeye Link from the beginning of enrollment appointment through the first Friday of classes.

Session classes (typically 7 week classes) may be added via Buckeye Link through the first Friday of classes.

A. Course enrollment permission required

Beginning the First Saturday of classes, instructor permission is required to add a class. Students must use gradforms.osu.edu to request a class addition.

B. Dropping classes (Buckeye Link)

Full semester classes may be dropped via Buckeye Link from the beginning of enrollment appointment through fourth Friday of classes.

Session classes (typically 7 week classes) may be dropped via Buckeye Link from the beginning of enrollment appointment through second Friday of classes

C. Changes to approved schedules

After the first Friday of the semester, additions to approved schedules require the permission of the instructor and approval of the student's advisor and may be submitted on the Course Enrollment Permission form to the Graduate Program Coordinator.

After the second Friday of the semester, any addition to approved schedules is by petition to the Graduate School via [Grad Forms](#). Note that late registration fees will apply. Petitions must be approved by the instructor, advisor, and department chair. Petitions are reviewed in the Graduate School and are not always approved.

V. Department of Art guidelines

Before completing the registration process each semester, all students are expected to review their current course load with their area faculty advisor.

Graduate students with Graduate Associate appointments in the Department of Art must register for a minimum of 8 credit hours each semester (4 credit hours minimum summer term, optional).

Fellowship recipients must be registered for 12 hours each semester, and for 6 hours during the summer term of their fellowship year.

Graduate students may not enroll for more than 18 credit hours per semester (Autumn and Spring), or 12 credit hours in summer term, including audited courses, without approval from the major advisor and the Graduate School.

A. Sample first-semester schedule

The following is a sample first semester schedule for a Painting area student who is also a Graduate Teaching Associate.

Painting Major-Schedule Sample

ART 6694 Studio Practice, 2 hours, Painting faculty A (permission required).

ART 6694 Studio Practice, 1 hours, Painting faculty B (permission required).

ART 6008 Studio Practice, 1 hours, area independent faculty (permission required).

ART 6018 Interdisciplinary Seminar 3 hours (autumn semester requirement)

ART 6108 Graduate Teaching Seminar 3 hours (autumn semester requirement for GTA appointments)

ART 6894 Area Group Critique 1 credit

ART HIST 8000 – Topics in Art History 3 hours (Art History elective)

[maybe remove 1 – 3 credits since I added the teaching seminar]

B. Instructor permission required classes

To register for studio practice hours or any class requiring instructor permission, the student must seek permission from the graduate faculty member then notify the Graduate Program Coordinator of their approval.

Students must follow this process to be enrolled in a desired class:

1. Send an email to the OSU faculty member, from your official OSU email account, requesting enrollment in the class with the course number, class number and number of credit hours. (e.g. Art 2100 (course number), 18039

(class number), I would like permission to enroll in this course with XX faculty member for X credit hours).

2. Faculty members will then reply to the email from their OSU email account granting or denying permission to enroll. Please verify the email has been sent from an OSU email. Consent to take any classes will only be approved when official OSU email accounts are used for correspondence.
3. Forward email chain, including all information from steps 1 and 2, to the Graduate Program Coordinator who will process the requests in order in which they are received.

[Appendix B](#)
MFA Curriculum Checklist

Click link for Downloadable PDF version for your specific cohort.

Also available on the Resources for Graduate Students page at www.art.osu.edu

[Class of 2024 \(1st Year MFAs\)](#)

[Class of 2023 \(2nd Year MFAs\)](#)

[Class of 2024 \(3rd Year MFAs\)](#)