

# College of Fine Arts

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<http://www.cfa.cmu.edu>

## Overview

The College of Fine Arts at Carnegie Mellon University was founded in 1905 as the first comprehensive arts learning institution in the United States. For 110 years it has educated outstanding artists, architects, designers, theater artists and musicians who have made important contributions to culture in the United States and the world. The alumni of the College of Fine Arts have shaped the worlds of television, stage, film, and electronic media; are collected in numerous international museums; have composed for and are performing in and conducting major symphony orchestras, choruses and opera companies throughout the world; have built notable buildings, pioneered innovative sustainable design strategies and created interactive software systems; created significant innovations in graphic and industrial design; and are professors and deans in major arts institutions.

The College of Fine Arts concentrates on the education of professionals in the arts in the broader context of Carnegie Mellon University. Beyond their education in their chosen field, through required and elective course work, students are involved with other disciplines within the College of Fine Arts and within the other colleges of Carnegie Mellon University. Further, the College's location in the Oakland District of Pittsburgh with its broad cultural resources (The Carnegie Museum of Art, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, The Carnegie Library, the University of Pittsburgh, The Hillman Library, the Frick Fine Arts Building, and Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens) places the College of Fine Arts at the center of a premier cultural environment.

The College of Fine Arts has a 9:1 student faculty ratio which provides a rigorous learning environment. It is a highly spirited federation of schools (Architecture, Art, Design, Drama and Music) made up of students and faculty who have an intense need to create and excel. Interacting among the schools, the University and the wider community are research centers such as the Frank-Ratchye Studio for Creative Inquiry, the Center for Building Performance and Diagnostics, Remaking Cities Institute, Center for Iranian Music, and the Center for Arts in Society. The intellectual and artistic life of the College is interwoven with a dense calendar of theater performances, concerts, exhibitions, film and media presentations and lectures by visiting artists, practitioners and scholars.

The College of Fine Arts offers a wide range of professionally oriented majors and minors in each of its schools. In addition, the College offers the Bachelor of Computer Science and Arts (BCSA), jointly with the School of Computer Science, the Bachelor of Humanities and Arts (BHA), jointly with the Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Bachelor of Science and Arts (BSA), jointly with the Mellon College of Science, the Engineering and Arts (EA) additional major, jointly with the College of Engineering, and the Master of Arts Management (MAM) and Master of Entertainment Industry Management (MEIM), jointly with the Heinz College of Public Policy and Management. These are presented only briefly below, but a complete listing of the graduation requirements for these programs may be found in the school descriptions later in this section and elsewhere in this volume.

## Schools

### School of Architecture

Office: CFA 201

The School of Architecture offers a five-year NAAB accredited Bachelor of Architecture undergraduate degree for students who seek professional careers in architectural practice. Beyond standard preparation in architectural design, history and representation, its curriculum stresses the centrality of aesthetics, scientific knowledge and tectonic resolution in the education of future practicing professionals. A core of university course work in mathematics, physical sciences, social sciences, writing and history is prerequisite to sequences in design, building and environmental technology, and architectural history. The school offers M.S. degrees in Architecture; Architecture, Engineering & Construction Management; Building Performance and Diagnostics; Computational Design; and Sustainable Design. In addition, the School offers a Masters of Urban Design and a Masters of Tangible Interaction Design. The School of Architecture has a well-known architectural Ph.D. program that provides qualified students

with the opportunity to continue their studies in the areas of specialization for which the School is recognized.

### School of Art

Office: CFA 300

The primary mission of the School of Art is to develop in the individual student the skills, knowledge, and commitment required to work as an artist in society. The four-year undergraduate program leads to a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Art. Concentrations within the art major are offered in four areas: 1) Painting, Drawing, Print Media and Photography; 2) Electronic and Time-Based Work; 3) Sculpture, Installation, and Site Work; and 4) Contextual Practice. A Master of Fine Arts degree in Art is also offered.

### School of Design

Office: MM 110

The School of Design combines its professional program with a sound education in the liberal arts, leading to careers in many fields of design. It offers the following degrees: Bachelor of Design with concentrations in Communications, Products, and Environments; M.Design in Design for Interactions; M.P.S. in Design for Interactions; M.A. in Design; M. of Integrated Innovation for Productions & Services (a joint degree with the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the Tepper School of Business); Ph.D. in Design; Doctor in Design.

### School of Drama

Office: PCA 220

The School of Drama offers a highly focused, world-class theatre education with thorough preparation for sustained careers and innovation in today's widely-varied entertainment industries. The undergraduate programs lead to BFA degrees in Drama, with focuses in Acting, Music Theatre, Directing, Dramaturgy, Design, Production Technology and Management; MFA programs are offered in Scene, Costume, Sound, and Lighting Design; Directing; Dramatic Writing; and Production Technology and Management.

### School of Music

Office: CFA 105

The School of Music has as its goal the preparation of musicians for careers in performance, composition, conducting, music education and music technology. The programs provide the opportunity to study with world-class artists utilizing the best aspects of conservatory training in the context of a major research university, combining the educational with the intensely professional. The Bachelor of Fine Arts is offered in Music Composition, Music Performance, and Music and Technology (a joint degree with the School of Computer Science and the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department) with minors in Collaborative Piano, Conducting, Music Education, Music Performance, and Music Technology available. The Master of Music is offered in Composition, Conducting, Performance, Music Education, and Music and Technology (a joint degree with Computer Science and the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department).

## Academic Standards

### Grading Practices

Grades given to record academic performance in the College of Fine Arts are detailed in the catalog section entitled "Undergraduate Academic Regulations." All courses taught by the schools in the College of Fine Arts follow the standard letter grade system of the university. Responsibility for the grade given the student rests entirely with the instructor and the school concerned. A permanent grade may not be raised by taking a second examination. Students who wish to repeat a course already passed must obtain approval from the Dean of the College. At the time of approval, the Dean will decide in the light of circumstances whether the new grade or the old grade will be the official grade used as the computing factor for honors. Both grades, however, will appear on the official transcript.

### Academic Actions

The decision to impose academic action is first initiated at the conclusion of each semester by the School faculty most involved in the student's primary

area of study and then presented at the end of the semester to the CFA Academic Advisory Committee for confirmation.

A student who is not making satisfactory progress toward meeting professional standards, or toward completing graduation requirements in a School, may have any of the academic actions listed below imposed by that School even though the student has received "passing" grades. Student Handbooks of the schools often provide more detail and should be read and understood by the student. Additionally, students enrolled in the BXA program are to be guided also by their academic requirements which is a QPA of 3.0 to remain in good standing or to return to good standing. See [www.cmu.edu/interdisciplinary/programs/bhaprogram.html](http://www.cmu.edu/interdisciplinary/programs/bhaprogram.html).

The academic actions listed below do not follow a particular sequence; any of the actions may be appropriately imposed at any time, and may be continued if deemed appropriate, upon recommendation of the School faculty concerned and confirmation by the CFA Academic Advisory Committee.

## Warning

A Warning notifies the student of unsatisfactory performance and suggests that the student take steps to determine and correct the cause of the difficulty. A student must improve scholastic standing in the next semester in residence to an acceptable minimum level in order for consideration of a Warning to be removed. Refer to the school's Student Handbook for details.

## Probation

Probation is intended to notify a student of severe and/or continuous performance issues and to suggest that immediate steps are taken to correct the cause of the difficulty. A student will be placed on Probation for failure to meet the professional standards of the school. If during the next semester the student continues to not meet the school's standards, the student may remain on Probation, be Suspended, or Dropped at the end of the semester. Either of these actions may be taken without any previous academic action. A student must improve scholastic standing in the next semester in residence to an acceptable minimum level in order for consideration of Probation to be removed. Refer to the school's Student Handbook for details. Students who are on academic Probation have restrictions from participating in some school, college, and university activities, including eligibility for study abroad or school awards. Refer to school's handbooks for specific information.

## Final Probation

A student will be placed on Final Probation for significantly poor performance, or for continued failure to meet the professional standards of the School, as outlined under the previous section on Probation (and school's Student Handbook). A student must improve scholastic standing in the next semester in residence to an acceptable minimum level in order for consideration of a Final Probation to be removed. Refer to the school's Student Handbook for details. A student not meeting the acceptable levels of performance and professional standards may be Suspended or Dropped at the end of the semester. Either of these actions may be taken without any previous academic action. Students who are on academic Final Probation have restrictions from participating in some school, college, and university activities, including eligibility for study abroad or school awards. Refer to the school's Student Handbook for specific information.

## University Suspension

University Suspension is a forced, temporary leave from the university. There are three types of suspension for students:

- *Academic Suspension* is the result of poor academic performance or violation of academic regulations and is imposed by the student's college or academic department (see university and college academic policies).
- *Disciplinary Suspension* is the result of serious personal misconduct and is imposed by the Office of Student Affairs (see The Word/Student Handbook).
- *Administrative Suspension* is the result of failure to meet university financial obligations or failure to comply with federal, state or local health regulations and is imposed by Enrollment Services. (See Student Accounts Receivable Collection Policy and Procedures for financial obligations. Contact Student Health Services for information about health regulations.)

This document covers CFA Academic Suspension from the University. (For more information on *Disciplinary Suspension* or *Administrative Suspension* visit the student life sections on the university website, [www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/suspension-required-withdrawal-policy.html](http://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/suspension-required-withdrawal-policy.html))

A University Suspension is intended to allow a student time to address or rectify any issues impeding or affecting their performance and progress

towards meeting the professional standards of the School. It is imposed for a history of poor performance that has created an impediment to acceptable academic achievement; a student is not making significant progress towards his/her degree; a student already on an action has a significantly poor semester (not achieving the requirements for academic action removal or worse). The student is required to withdraw from the university for a specific period as defined by the School. Re-admission is subject to the conditions specified in the suspension letter and approval of the senior associate dean for academics.

A student who has been suspended from the university is required to leave the campus, including dormitories and fraternity houses, within a maximum of two days after the action and to remain off the campus for the duration of the time specified.

Go to the university policy webpage on student life for more information on a University Suspension: [www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/suspension-required-withdrawal-policy.html](http://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/suspension-required-withdrawal-policy.html)

## Drop from School

A student is Dropped from the School when it is clear that the student's progress in professional training is insufficient to warrant continuing in the current professional field of study. This action is taken in the case of a student who has been lacking in some essential requirement in the chosen professional field, but whose general scholastic ability, habits and character justify an opportunity in some other field of education. This action terminates the student's enrollment in the current School but is not intended to prejudice admission to another Department, School, or College of the University, or to another institution. This academic action allows the student three choices:

1. Transfer to another Carnegie Mellon University Department or School. The student takes responsibility to contact that Department or School of choice to discuss the possibility of applying for transfer.
2. Request for Transitional status in the College of Fine Arts for one semester (refer to the section on Transitional Students in the School's Student Handbook). It is strongly recommended that the student make an appointment at the Carnegie Mellon Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion to pursue this option.
3. Withdraw from Carnegie Mellon University. A link to the application for Withdrawal/Leave of Absence form is embedded with the letter notifying the student of this academic action, and is also available at [www.cmu.edu/hub](http://www.cmu.edu/hub)

## Appeal of Grades and Academic Actions

Refer to the School's Student Handbook for policy and procedure details.

## Returning from Suspension

In order to return from a suspension, a student must have approval from the following administrators:

- *Academic Suspension* - associate dean;
- *Disciplinary Suspension* - dean of student affairs;
- *Administrative Suspension* - vice president for campus affairs or his/her designate.

## Dean's Honor List

Each semester the College of Fine Arts recognizes those students who have attained outstanding semester quality point averages by naming them to the Dean's List. To be eligible, students must complete at least 36 factorable units and have no conditional, missing or failing grades in core classes at the time when final semester grades are recorded. The top 35% of eligible students in each of the College of Fine Arts schools are named to the Dean's List.

## Graduation Requirements

Because of the special nature of work in the College of Fine Arts, the first year in all schools should be considered probationary, a period in which a student and faculty can evaluate professional promise in terms of the college's standards. Graduation from the College of Fine Arts follows the general university guidelines. As part of a student's qualification for an undergraduate degree, the equivalent of two terms of full-time work must be pursued under the direction of faculty members in the college during the period immediately prior to the degree award. Courses completed at other institutions will not be acceptable as terminal credit for a degree. Exceptions to this stipulation can be recommended by a school faculty in unusual cases, but the concurrence of the College Council is necessary before final approval of an exception can be given.

To be eligible to graduate, undergraduate students must complete all course requirements for their program with a cumulative Quality Point Average of at least 2.0 for all courses taken. For undergraduate students who enrolled at Carnegie Mellon as freshmen and whose freshman grades cause the cumulative QPA to fall below 2.0, this requirement is modified to be a cumulative QPA of at least 2.0 for all courses taken after the freshman year. Note, however, the cumulative QPA that appears on the student's final transcript will be calculated based on all grades in all courses taken, including freshman year. Some programs may have additional QPA requirements in order to graduate.

Other graduation requirements in the College of Fine Arts are described in the curriculum of each school. Further questions about specific course requirements and the total number of units required should be directed to the respective school advisors.

## Other Regulations Affecting Student Status

### Schedule Changes

Courses may be added or dropped within the times stated in the college calendar. No courses may be added or dropped after the stated deadline dates except with the approval of the student's School Head and the Dean of the College. (See Undergraduate Academic Regulations (<http://coursecatalog.web.cmu.edu/servicesandoptions/undergraduateacademicregulations>) for Add/Drop procedures.)

### Withdrawal/Leave of Absence

Please refer to the Student Leave Policy.

### Transitional Students

Transitional status is made available to students upon the advice of their advisors or upon their own request. A student must complete one full semester of study prior to declaring transitional status. The designation Transitional Student has been instituted by the Dean of the College of Fine Arts to assist students who have been judged unlikely to make satisfactory progress in their chosen professional field, or who on their own initiative, have changed their mind about their originally chosen field of study. Being a Transitional Student gives them an opportunity to maintain a temporary relationship with the College of Fine Arts while re-orienting career plans and goals. It also gives them time to enhance their admissibility to another school in the college, another college in the university, or another institution. Ordinarily a student will be permitted to register as a Transitional Student for no more than one semester. If after one semester a Transitional Student has not been accepted into a new program, they may be asked to leave the College of Fine Arts.

### Transfer Students

Undergraduate students seeking transfer within or to any school of the College of Fine Arts must file an application with the School and proceed with the established transfer application procedure, audition, portfolio review or ASAT requirements. Admission may dictate freshman status regardless of the student's prior college experience.

### Materials

The college does not furnish students with any drawing materials, make-up materials, textbooks, or other expendable equipment except those in courses in which materials fees are charged to cover specific costs.

### Retention of Students' Work

The college reserves the right to retain indefinite documentation of any student work the faculty may select. All work not retained by the faculty must be claimed at the time specified by the schools concerned. The college assumes no liability for student materials in its custody.

## Student Defined Majors

The Student Defined Major program in the College of Fine Arts is designed for the exceptional student, whose area of artistic interest lies outside of any pre-existing program at the University. Student Defined Majors are expected to propose a comprehensive plan of study that combines all of their coursework into a singular focus for their research and artistic practice. To create a successful proposal, the student must engage in additional career and preparatory research outside of their normal coursework. Designing the independent degree program typically takes six months to one year to complete.

Students interested in pursuing this unique degree path should meet with their academic advisors to discuss feasibility. They will then work with the

CFA Senior Associate Dean for Academics to ensure that their proposed coursework meets the rigorous requirements of a Carnegie Mellon degree. They will need approval from their academic advisor, faculty mentor(s), relevant Head(s) of School, (Senior) Associate Dean(s), and the Vice Provost for Education. If the proposal is approved and the student has successfully met the requirements of the new major, the degree conferred at graduation will be a *Bachelor of Arts with a Student Defined Major: \*approved title\**. The CFA Office of the Dean, in consultation with the academic advisor, will determine final certification of the degree. Note that all academic actions and CFA policies still apply to Student Defined Majors.

To apply for a Student Defined Major in the College of Fine Arts, one:

1. Must be a student in good standing at the University.
2. Must have successfully completed at least one semester of study and have at least two semesters left prior to their intended date of graduation.
3. Must have a cumulative QPA of 2.75 or better. (A student whose QPA is under 2.75 may still submit a proposal, but is strongly advised against it. If the proposal is accepted by the CFA Senior Associate Dean for Academics, the student must apply for transitional status for the following semester and will have only one semester to improve his or her QPA to the 2.75 minimum. If the student is not successful in raising the QPA to the 2.75 minimum they will not be permitted to continue with the Student Defined Major. They must either be re-admitted back into their old program or seek admittance into another department or college.)
4. Must have a faculty mentor in the College of Fine Arts who has agreed to mentor the student through the completion of the degree. This mentor should be from the school where the student is taking the majority of their courses, and be approved by the CFA Senior Associate Dean for Academics. If a student wishes to work extensively across colleges, they will need a faculty advisor(s) from their additional area(s) of concentration as well as approval from an Associate Dean of each college involved.
5. Must successfully complete the proposal process and submit all approved documentation with necessary signatures to the CFA Office of the Dean, CFA 100, by May 1 to be effective in the fall semester, and by October 1 to be effective in the spring semester. (Proposals that come in after these dates will be considered, but may not be able to be processed until the following semester.)

## Student Organizations

Professional and honorary societies for students in the College of Fine Arts are the American Institute of Architects, Architecture Peer Mentors, Architecture Student Advisory Council, the Design League, American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA), Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA), United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT), Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (music fraternity for men), Sigma Alpha Iota (music sorority for women), Pi Kappa Lambda (honorary for students in music) and the Music Educators' National Conference.

## BXA Intercollege Degree Programs

BACHELOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ARTS (BCSA), BACHELOR OF HUMANITIES AND ARTS (BHA), BACHELOR OF SCIENCE AND ARTS (BSA), ENGINEERING AND ARTS (EA) ADDITIONAL MAJOR

M. Stephanie Murray, Director & Academic Advisor

Location: Posner 150

[www.cmu.edu/interdisciplinary](http://www.cmu.edu/interdisciplinary)

The **Bachelor of Computer Science and Arts (BCSA)** is a four-year intercollege degree-granting program designed for students interested in pursuing fields that comprehensively meld technology and the arts through courses offered in the College of Fine Arts and the School of Computer Science. It combines general education requirements, a concentration of courses in the College of Fine Arts, a concentration of courses in the School of Computer Science, and free electives.

The **Bachelor of Humanities and Arts (BHA)** is a four-year intercollege degree-granting program designed for students interested in blending studies in the College of Fine Arts and the Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences. The BHA degree combines a general education requirement, a concentration of courses in the College of Fine Arts, a concentration of courses in the Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and free electives.

The **Bachelor of Science and Arts (BSA)** is a four-year intercollege degree-granting program designed for students interested in combining studies in the College of Fine Arts and the Mellon College of Science. It combines general education requirements, a concentration of courses in

the College of Fine Arts, a concentration of courses in the Mellon College of Science, and free electives.

The **Engineering and Arts** (EA) additional major is an interdisciplinary program designed for College of Engineering students interested in developing their skills and interests in an area of the College of Fine Arts while retaining their full engineering curriculum and licensure. It combines a BXA course requirement and a concentration of courses in the College of Fine Arts with a student's primary engineering major.

Please refer to Intercollege Programs (<http://coursecatalog.web.cmu.edu/intercollegeprograms/bxaintercollege>) in this catalog for details.

## The Master of Arts Management Program

1116 Hamburg Hall

The search for both increased support and larger audiences has intensified over the last decade and now, more than ever, arts organizations seek skilled managers. To meet this need, the College of Fine Arts and the Heinz College's School of Public Policy and Management jointly developed the Master of Arts Management (MAM) Program to provide strong leadership in theater companies, dance companies, orchestras, opera companies, museums, galleries and arts policy organizations. In addition to the traditional two-year graduate degree structure, the Master of Arts Management Program provides undergraduate students the opportunity to complete the Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Arts Management degrees within a period of five years through the Heinz College's Accelerated Masters Program (AMP). MAM Program alumni can be found managing music and arts service organizations; marketing orchestras, theaters and dance companies; fund-raising for museums, opera companies, ballet companies and public television stations; and managing the finances of university arts departments and private businesses working in the arts and entertainment industry.