

Art, B.F.A.

Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.)

Overview

Using five categories of courses, the curriculum presents art-making in a unique manner which respects tradition and encourages innovation. The course categories are:

- I. Foundation Courses
- II. Intermediate Studios
- III. Advanced Studios
- IV. Critical Studies Courses
- V. University Academic Courses

I. Foundation Courses

In their first year of study, students take a total of six foundation studio courses, exploring a range of mediums and conceptual processes. These studios ensure that all students have an exploratory experience with all of the media resources of the school. They also serve as preparation for intermediate and advanced studio work.

In addition, the Art First-Year Seminar introduces you to facilities, faculty, staff, resources, and many opportunities you can access within Art and the broader university. All first-year students take the seminar together, allowing you build a strong community that will help you develop as an artist during your time at CMU and beyond.

II. Intermediate Studios

Students take a minimum of six Intermediate Studio courses of their choosing in preparation for Advanced Studios in their junior and senior years. Intermediate studios will build on foundational knowledge and allow students to direct their studies to those mediums and topics most strongly of interest.

III. Advanced Studios

Students take a minimum of six Advanced Studio elective courses in their junior and senior years. These courses address specialized studio work in one of the four artistic concentration areas in the school, which are:

- Drawing, Painting, Print Media, and Photography (DP3)
- Sculpture, Installation, and Site Work (SIS)
- Electronic and Time-Based Work (ETB)
- Social Practice (SP)

In addition, students complete another six studio courses, which can be either Intermediate or Advanced Studios. This allows for significant exploration and integration across mediums within the program.

A minimum of four courses must be taken in one of these concentration areas. One of the intermediate or advanced courses can be a studio-based course within the College of Fine Arts, IDeATe, or additional programs.

IV. Critical Studies Courses

Students are introduced to critical studies in the spring of their first year, taking Foundations: Critical Studies. After the first year, students take four elective critical studies courses to broaden their knowledge and inform their studio practice. Critical Studies courses are discussion-based seminars examining theoretical texts in relation to periods of artistic practice. Readings will introduce students to the historical and critical background of the themes discussed in class and familiarize them with the varied methodologies and argumentative styles proper to art criticism, critical theory and philosophy.

V. University Academic Courses

Ten academic courses outside of Art and Computing @ Carnegie Mellon are required.

First Year

In the first year of study the student is expected to complete the following three requirements:

- Core@CMU (99-101)
- One First-Year Writing option
- One Global/Cultural Studies elective

For First-Year Writing, the student selects one of the two full-semester courses, (Interpretation and Argument (76-101) or Advanced First Year Writing: Special Topics (76-102)), or two of the three half-semester writing courses (Writing about Literature, Art and Culture (76-106), Writing about Data (76-107), or Writing about Public Problems (76-108)).

The Global/Cultural Studies electives include but are not limited to the following courses:

Global/Cultural Studies electives

57-173	Survey of Western Music History	9
57-306	World Music	9
57-480	History of Black American Music	6
76-337	Intersectional Feminism	9
70-342	Managing Across Cultures	9
76-221	Books You Should Have Read By Now	9
76-239	Introduction to Film Studies	9
76-241	Introduction to Gender Studies	9
76-386	Language & Culture	9
79-145	Genocide and Weapons of Mass Destruction	9
79-201	Introduction to Anthropology	9
79-202	Flesh and Spirit: Early Modern Europe, 1400-1750	9
79-205	20th Century Europe	9
79-208	Witchcraft and Witch-Hunting	9
79-211	Modern Southeast Asia: Colonialism, Capitalism, and Cultural Exchange	9
79-223	Mexico: From the Aztec Empire to the Drug War	9
79-234	Technology and Society	9
79-240	U.S. History and Culture	9
79-242	African American History: Reconstruction to the Present	9
79-245	Capitalism and Individualism in American Culture	9
79-261	The Last Emperors: Chinese History and Society, 1600-1900	9
79-262	Modern China: From the Birth of Mao ... to Now	9
79-265	Russian History: Game of Thrones	9
79-266	Russian History and Revolutionary Socialism	9
79-267	The Soviet Union in World War II: Military, Political, and Social History	9
79-275	Introduction to Global Studies	9
79-280	Coffee and Capitalism	9
79-283	Anthropology of Energy	9
79-343	Education, Democracy, and the Arts	9
79-345	Roots of Rock & Roll	9
79-350	Early Christianity	9
79-377	Food, Culture, and Power: A History of Eating	9
80-100	Introduction to Philosophy	9
80-250	Ancient Philosophy	9
80-251	Modern Philosophy	9
80-253	Continental Philosophy	9
80-254	The History of Analytic Philosophy and Its Influence	9
80-276	Philosophy of Religion	9
82-xxx	Any Languages, Cultures, and Applied Linguistics course	

After First Year

The student must take one course in each of the following academic areas or "options":

- Humanities and Languages or "Culture Option"
- Math, Science, Computer Science and Engineering or "Technical Option"
- History, Psychology, Economics or "Social Science Option"

The student must then take at least three additional courses from one of the academic areas/options listed above.

Finally, the student must take two additional, but unspecified, academic electives.

In selecting courses for the university academic component of the curriculum, students are encouraged to complete a cluster of courses that appeals to and develops their interests as emerging artists. In the process of taking their university electives, students can often simultaneously earn a minor.

Curriculum

Minimum units required for B.F.A. in Art 384

Below is the recommended distribution of courses in the four-year B.F.A. curriculum. After the first year, students have greater flexibility regarding the sequencing of their elective courses. Art sophomores are limited to intermediate studios. Advanced studio courses are reserved for Art juniors and seniors.

First Year

Fall	Units
60-104 Foundations: Art First-Year Seminar	6
60-110 Foundations: Time-Based Media	10
60-131 Foundations: Sculpture	10
60-150 Foundations: Drawing	10
76-10X First-Year Writing	9
99-101 Core@CMU	3
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Spring	Units
60-101 Foundations: Risk, Agency, Failure	10
60-107 Foundations: Critical Studies	9
Select two of the three Foundation Media Courses:	20
60-120 Foundations: Digital Media	
60-135 Foundations: Sculpture II	
60-170 Foundations: Paint/Print	
xx-xxx Cultural/Global Studies elective	9
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Second Year

Fall	Units
60-2xx Intermediate Studio Elective	10
60-2xx Intermediate Studio Elective	10
60-2xx Intermediate Studio Elective	10
60-3xx Critical Studies Elective	9
xx-xxx Academic Elective	9
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Spring	Units
60-200 Sophomore Review	0
60-2xx Intermediate Studio Elective	10
60-2xx Intermediate Studio Elective	10
60-2xx Intermediate Studio Elective	10
60-3xx Critical Studies Elective	9
xx-xxx Academic Elective	9
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Third Year

Fall	Units
60-xxx Intermediate or Advanced Studio Elective	10
60-xxx Intermediate or Advanced Studio Elective	10
60-xxx Intermediate or Advanced Studio Elective	10
60-3xx Critical Studies Elective	9
xx-xxx Academic Elective	9
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Spring	Units
60-xxx Intermediate or Advanced Studio Elective	10
60-xxx Intermediate or Advanced Studio Elective	10

60-xxx	Intermediate or Advanced Studio Elective	10
60-3xx	Critical Studies Elective	9
xx-xxx	Academic Elective	9
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Fourth Year

Fall	Units
60-4xx Advanced Studio Elective	10
60-4xx Advanced Studio Elective	10
60-4xx Advanced Studio Elective	10
xx-xxx Academic Elective	9
xx-xxx Academic Elective	9
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Spring	Units
60-402 Senior Studio	10
60-4xx Advanced Studio Elective	10
60-4xx Advanced Studio Elective	10
xx-xxx Academic Elective	9
xx-xxx Academic Elective	9
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Sophomore Reviews

Students give an overview of their work at the midpoint of their four-year course of study. At the end of the sophomore year, students undergo a faculty review of their work to date in the program.

Art Majors Minor or Double Majoring in Another Department

About a third of current B.F.A. Art students pursue a minor or a second major. If students are contemplating this option, they must discuss their plans with academic advisors from the minor or second major department as well as with the School of Art academic advisor.

Study Abroad

Art students are encouraged to spend either a semester of their junior year, or a summer before or after their junior year, in one of many available international programs. These programs include university sponsored and exchange programs in which a student's financial aid package remains in effect, and programs sponsored by other institutions.

Programs with other Pittsburgh Institutions

Art students are eligible to take courses at the nearby University of Pittsburgh's History of Art and Architecture Department, and at the Pittsburgh Glass Center. Established agreements with these institutions and other Pittsburgh colleges, universities or centers offer cross-registration opportunities at no additional expense to the student.