



Graduate Admissions

**School of Visual Art and Design
College of Arts and Sciences**

Graduate Programs in Art Education, Art History, Media Arts,
and Studio Art

Overview

School of Visual Art and Design

The School of Visual Art and Design in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of South Carolina draws upon the strengths of multiple artistic and aesthetic disciplines, newer media, and information technology to provide superior instruction in the visual and media arts. The school seeks to foster and maintain an intellectual and physical environment that encourages and supports research, scholarship, artistic expression, and creative production.

The School of Visual Art and Design offers programs of study leading to the degrees of Master of Arts, Master of Arts in Teaching, and Master of Fine Arts. The school offers programs in four areas of study: art education, art history, studio art, and media arts.

Application Deadlines

Our programs vary in their application deadlines. Below are our deadlines by program for fall entry, except where noted otherwise. The Art Education programs offer spring entry, while all other programs offer fall entry only:

Studio Art: January 15

Media Arts: March 1

Art History: March 1

Art Education: March 1 (fall entry) and October 1 (spring entry)

Program Contacts

Please contact us with further questions about the application and admissions process.

Graduate Student Coordinator: Anna Toptchi, toptchi@mailbox.sc.edu, 803-777-4184

Director of Graduate Studies: Dr. Andrew Graciano, graciano@mailbox.sc.edu, 803-777-6631

Graduate School Program Coordinator for SVAD: Kim Weston, westonk@mailbox.sc.edu, 803-777-3001

Programs and Application Requirements

Please review the following program descriptions and degree program application requirements. All applicants must have a baccalaureate degree from an approved and accredited college or university and meet all requirements for admission to both the Graduate School and the School of Visual Art and Design. Program information and application requirements can also be found online at sc.edu/svad and gradschool.sc.edu.

Art Education

A graduate degree in art education prepares students to teach art and art education at various levels, from K-12 to the college level. The University of South Carolina's Art Education program consists of in-person courses and practicums at our Columbia campus. Students complete coursework in art education, studio art, and professional education, with options for electives across disciplines.

M.A. in Art Education

The Master of Arts (M.A.) program in Art Education is a 30 credit, two year program in art education theory and practice. Completing an M.A. degree prepares students for academic research, teaching, or further study in doctoral programs. In this program, students complete a Master's thesis with original research in the field of art education. Before graduating from the program, students must successfully pass a comprehensive exam in art education.

M.A.T. in Art Education

The Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) program in Art Education is a 48 to 69 credit, two to three year program designed to prepare students to teach and instruct art at the K-12 levels. By completion of the program, students typically take the Praxis exams to receive a teaching license in the state of South Carolina. The M.A.T. program consists of professional education courses, studio art courses, art education courses, and directed teaching in a K-12 classroom. Before graduating from the program, students must complete a semester of teaching in a public school classroom and must successfully pass a comprehensive exam in art education.

Students who have not completed undergraduate coursework in art history and studio art will be expected to complete courses in foundations, drawing, ceramics, painting, and printmaking once enrolled in the program, as well as courses in art history.

Application Requirements for Art Education

Successful applicants to the graduate programs in Art Education typically have an undergraduate GPA of 3.00 or higher on a 4.00 scale. The following materials are required for applicants to all of the Art Education degree programs:

1. Online application with the Graduate School
2. Personal Statement
3. Curriculum Vitae/Resume
4. Teaching Certificate
5. Digital portfolio of 20 images of recent work and an identifying list of works, uploaded as a single .pdf document
6. Official transcripts from all institutions attended, including proof of baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution
7. Two letters of recommendation (at least one from a professor)
8. Standardized Test Scores: Acceptable scores on either the Miller Analogies Test (35 and above) or the GRE (total score of 170 and above). These numbers are provided as guidelines; meeting the minimum GPA and test scores does not guarantee admission. All parts of an application are carefully considered in admissions decisions.
9. For international applicants whose native language is not English: submission of a satisfactory score on the TOEFL or the IELTS Intl. Academic Course Type 2 exam; or Pearson Test of English (Academic). The minimum acceptable score on the TOEFL is 80 (computer-based) or 550 (paper-based); the minimum acceptable overall band score on the IELTS Intl. Academic Course Type 2 exam is 6.5; and the minimum Pearson Score is 59.

Art History

M.A. in Art History

The Master of Arts (M.A.) in Art History is a 30 credit, two year program of study that allows student scholars to pursue in-depth knowledge and research in the following areas: Renaissance and Baroque art and architecture; 18th-century to contemporary European art and architecture; American art and architecture; modern Chinese art; and photographic and film history.

Students are required to take at least one course in the following four areas: Renaissance, Baroque, and 18th century art and architecture, modern and contemporary European art and architecture, American art and architecture, and Asian art and architecture. Students must also take ARTH 701 - Methodologies in Art History in their first academic year.

Upon entering the program, students take a proficiency exam to establish their knowledge of art history. The examination consists of the identification and discussion of certain major movements from Western art history from antiquity to the present. Before the end of the second semester of study, each student is expected to select an area of concentration. All graduate students are required to pass a reading proficiency test in a foreign language: German, French, Spanish, Italian, or another language by permission of the program. Before completing the program, students write and defend a Master's thesis or project.

Application Requirements for Art History

Successful applicants to the graduate programs in Art History typically have an undergraduate GPA of 3.00 or higher on a 4.00 scale. The following materials are required for applicants to the Art History degree program:

1. Online application with the Graduate School
2. Cover letter
3. Personal Statement (not to exceed 500 words)
4. Curriculum Vitae/Resume
5. Sample of academic writing
6. Official transcripts from all institutions attended, including proof of baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution
7. Two letters of recommendation (at least one from a professor)
8. Standardized Test Scores: Acceptable scores on the GRE (total score of 170 and above). These numbers are provided as guidelines; meeting the minimum GPA and test scores does not guarantee admission. All parts of an application are carefully considered in admissions decisions.
9. For international applicants whose native language is not English: submission of a satisfactory score on the TOEFL or the IELTS Intl. Academic Course Type 2 exam; or Pearson Test of English (Academic). The minimum acceptable score on the TOEFL is 80 (computer-based) or 550 (paper-based); the minimum acceptable overall band score on the IELTS Intl. Academic Course Type 2 exam is 6.5; and the minimum Pearson Score is 59.

Media Arts

M.A. in Media Arts

The M.A. in Media Arts is a 30 credit, two year program that prepares students to pursue media arts in a variety of contexts including independent, commercial, and academic. Students will refine their creative arts practice in one or more of the following areas: moving image, writing, new media, and media theory. Students applying to the program should have academic and/or work experience in a field related to media arts and a portfolio that exhibits a capacity for theoretical, historical, and cultural inquiry.

Application Requirements for Media Arts

Successful applicants to the graduate program in Media Arts typically have an undergraduate GPA of 3.00 or higher on a 4.00 scale. The following materials are required for applicants to the Media Arts M.A. program:

1. Online application with the Graduate School
2. Personal Statement
3. Curriculum Vitae/Resume
5. Link to online portfolio of media artworks
6. Official transcripts from all institutions attended, including proof of baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution
7. Two letters of recommendation (at least one from a professor)
8. Standardized Test Scores: Acceptable scores on either the Miller Analogies Test (35 and above) or the GRE (total score of 170 and above). These numbers are provided as guidelines; meeting the minimum GPA and test scores does not guarantee admission. All parts of an application are carefully considered in admissions decisions.
9. For international applicants whose native language is not English: submission of a satisfactory score on the TOEFL or the IELTS Intl. Academic Course Type 2 exam; or Pearson Test of English (Academic). The minimum acceptable score on the TOEFL is 80 (computer-based) or 550 (paper-based); the minimum acceptable overall band score on the IELTS Intl. Academic Course Type 2 exam is 6.5; and the minimum Pearson Score is 59.

Studio Art

M.F.A. in Studio Art

The Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Studio Art is a 60 credit, three year program of study that allows students to pursue major and minor areas of concentration from among the following studio art areas: drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, ceramics, and sculpture (3D studies). Completion of the degree primarily affirms a candidate's mastery of studio production in their major and minor areas of concentration. The University of South Carolina's M.F.A. program offers competitively assigned assistantships, allowing candidates to develop professional competency in the teaching of studio art at the college and university level while completing their studies.

The M.F.A. degree requires a minimum of 60 hours of graduate level course credit, including: 33 hours of studio art; 12 hours from among art history and/or art education; 6 to 9 hours of a creative terminal project, including a written proposal and project documentation; and 6 to 9 hours of electives. An oral defense of the project is also required.

M.A. in Studio Art

The M.A. in Studio Art consists of 30 hours of graduate credit, including a thesis. Students complete a minimum of 15 hours of graduate-level coursework in studio art, in areas such as graphic design, drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, ceramics, and sculpture (3D studies). A minimum of 9 hours of electives may be taken in art education, studio art, art history, or other disciplines. A comprehensive exam and a defense of one's thesis are also required.

Application Requirements for Studio Art

Successful applicants to the graduate programs in Studio Art typically have an undergraduate GPA of 2.50 or higher on a 4.00 scale. This number is provided as a guideline; meeting the minimum GPA does not guarantee admission. All parts of an application are carefully considered in admissions decisions. Admission as a degree candidate for the Studio Art M.F.A. and M.A. programs is conditional upon the standards imposed by the faculty of the Studio Art area. Application materials must be complete in order to be considered for the program, and the faculty will review applications in regard to the estimated potential of the individual's ability to complete the program. The decision to admit is based on the portfolio, online application questionnaire, letters of recommendation, and the applicant's academic record. Admission to the program does not become effective until the semester following the admission committee's review.

The following materials are required for applicants to the Studio Art M.A. and M.F.A. programs:

1. Online application with the Graduate School
2. Personal Statement
3. Curriculum Vitae/Resume

4. Portfolio: Please upload a digital portfolio of 20 images of recent work and an identifying list of works, as a single .pdf document. Works should reflect your proposed major and minor areas of concentration. (The photographic quality of images will affect the evaluation of your application.)
5. Official transcripts from all institutions attended, including proof of baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution
6. Two letters of recommendation (at least one from a professor)
7. For international applicants whose native language is not English: submission of a satisfactory score on the TOEFL or the IELTS Intl. Academic Course Type 2 exam; or Pearson Test of English (Academic). The minimum acceptable score on the TOEFL is 80 (computer-based) or 550 (paper-based); the minimum acceptable overall band score on the IELTS Intl. Academic Course Type 2 exam is 6.5; and the minimum Pearson Score is 59.

Note: Standardized test scores are not required for the Studio Art graduate programs.