

Student Guide To The Art Departments Master of Fine Arts Program

ADMISSION

The web site for graduate school information is www.uaf.edu/gradsch/. Students wishing to enroll must submit college transcripts, a letter of intent and three letters of recommendations to the admissions office. A separate portfolio of work; including 20 slides of work or the appropriate equivalent depending on the field of study must be sent to the Art Department office. The prerequisite for acceptance into a M.F.A. program is a B.F.A. degree from a University other than U.A.F. or 1 consecutive year of classes taken within an accredited M.F.A. program from a University other than U.A.F. **The application and all support materials for entrance into the Master of Fine Arts program are due March 15 for the fall semester and October 15 for the spring semester.**

In cases where an exceptional portfolio is submitted, students with a BA in art, or undergraduate degrees in other fields, will be accepted with the condition that they make up any deficiencies as determined by their graduate committee. The same requirements are observed with the determination of previous schooling from a University other than U.A.F.

PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE MFA PROGRAM

Upon admission to the program the student is assigned or approved an advisor from their concentration area by the Graduate Mentor. It is the student's responsibility to meet with the advisor during the first week of the semester.

The Graduate Advisor

The faculty chair is chosen by the student from the permanent faculty members working in the medium or media in which the student is concentrating. This person will be the chair of the students graduate committee.

The Graduate Committee

The Graduate Committee shall consist of three Art Department faculty involved in teaching graduate courses, (All full-time faculty members). Additional members maybe added with the consent of the committee.

The Graduate 15-hour Review Committee

The Graduate 15-hour Review Committee shall consist of the entire Art Department faculty involved in teaching graduate courses.

The Graduate Mentor David Mollet

The Graduate Mentor is responsible for all mentoring activities which includes but is not limited to: helping students form their committees, completing the graduate

study plans, scheduling all annual reviews including the 15 hour review and informing students about the advancement to candidacy form.

Application for graduation deadlines are: Fall Graduation: **October 15** , Spring Graduation: **February 15** , Summer Graduation: **July 15**.

The Graduate Coordinator

Wendy Croskrey

The Graduate Coordinator is responsible for the program guidelines and the development of the program.

PROVISIONAL STATUS

All students are admitted with a provisional status and must complete fifteen credit hours of coursework specified at the time of admission, with a grade of "B" or better in each course. Deficiency requirements must be completed by the end of the first year. Any extension beyond one year must have the approval of the advisor and the Graduate Coordinator.

15 HOUR REVIEW

The student must also undergo a 15-hour review. The student may undergo the 15-hour review at the end of the semester during which the 15 credit hours are being completed. The student must take the 15-hour review by the end of the semester following completion of their fifteen graduate credits. The 15-hour Review Committee shall consist of the entire Art Department faculty involved in teaching graduate courses. Once the provisions have been met and the student has passed the 15-hour review, a formal change to regular status will be forwarded to the Graduate Coordinator. If the 15-hour review is not passed a second 15-hour review may be offered but must be conducted the following semester. If failed a second time, the student will be terminated from the MFA program.

GRADUATE YEARLY REVIEWS

An all faculty progress yearly review is required after passing the 15-hour review. This is in addition to the progress monitored by the individuals committee that meets on a regular basis during the semester. At this time the annual report of the Students Advisory Committee will be completed. Progress will be noted of successes and failures towards thesis progress.

TRANSFER CREDITS

Transfer credits taken prior to admission and during the MFA program may be included in the student's program of study upon recommendation of the 15-hour review committee and the Graduate Mentor. This recommendation made by the committee may be accepted as bypassing the 15-hour review process into full and regular status. The student is then required to a yearly review.

GRADES AND GRADE POINT AVERAGES

A student must achieve a grade point average of "B" (3.0) or better in all work taken for graduate credit. Grades below "C" cannot be used to meet the requirements of a graduate degree. A student receiving one "C" is placed on academic probation; two "C" is grounds for termination from the program. Grades

of transfer work will be included in computing grade point averages. Students whose GPA falls below 3.0 will be subject to an immediate status review by the Graduate Review Committee.

COURSE LOAD

In consultation with the student's committee chair, course load is determined. Maximum course load for half-time assistantships is 10 credits hours per semester. The tuition waiver covers up to 10 credits. Any additional credits added are to be paid by the student with a maximum of 12 credits allowed with the assistantships.

MAXIMUMUM TIME LIMIT

Three years is the usual time spent earning a MFA degree, two years is the minimum excluding transfer credits. All of the work towards a Master of Fine Arts degree program must be completed within seven consecutive years.

REQUIREMENT FOR THE MFA DEGREE

The program will require a minimum of 60 credits, including a 5 credit Thesis Project exhibition:

43 credits studio areas all at the 600 level or above.

5 credits Thesis Project (studio/ 2 hr. oral comprehensive examination), Art 698.

3 credits Current Problems, Art 690.

3 credits Seminar in Art History, Art 663.

6 credits art history/ humanities / philosophy elective.

The 400 level classes in these areas can be taken with additional requirements.

Students must take studio work in at least 2 studio areas. 20 credits are to be in the major area of study with 10 credits in a secondary area. The remaining 13 credits are comprised of either Mentored Teaching in Art with studio credits or just studio credits if the student is not in the TA program.

Courses may be chosen from the following:

Art 601, Graduate Ceramics
Art 619, Graduate Life Drawing
Art 607, Graduate Printmaking
Art 609, Graduate Metalsmithing
Art 611, Graduate Sculpture
Art 613, Graduate Painting
Art 648, Graduate Native Arts
Art 671 Two-and Three-Dimensional Computer Design
Art 672, Advanced Computer Visualization in Art
Art 684, Multi Media Theory and Practice (computer based)
Art 624, Field Artists of the North
Art 625, Visual Images of the North
*Art 690, Current Problems

*Art 663, Seminar in Art History
Art 673, History of the Role of the Artist
*Art 698, MFA Thesis Project
**Art 661, Mentored Teaching in Art

*Required courses for the MFA.

**Graduate students are required to be enrolled in a mentored teaching section while teaching.

Art 695,697 and 693 (independent study and special topics courses) can only be counted up to a combined total of 12 credits.

Art 663 can be repeated with different topics and count up to 12 credits.

Course Outline MFA Thesis Project:

Definition: A contractually produced show displayed in a professional manner with a unified theme/concept produced as a culmination of the MFA experience and a requirement for the granting of the MFA Degree in Art.

Eligibility:

Completion of 30 graduate credits.

Advancement to candidacy requires an oral defense of the thesis proposal.

A 2-hour comprehensive oral exam covering the candidate's professional background.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of the graduate student to follow all procedures and requirements of the Graduate Program. Students are also responsible for being informed about all degree regulations and any special requirement of the Department of Art.

A. The student will consult with the graduate committee to produce a MFA Thesis Proposal. The MFA Thesis proposal must include a statement of purpose that describes the Theme of the exhibition, the concepts involved with the work, the technical expertise that go into the production of the art (i.e. media manipulation), and the tentative gallery dates.

B. The proposal will be submitted to the Graduate Committee for approval. The document will be in the form of a contract using completed works as illustrations.

C. The proposal will be submitted one semester prior to the MFA Show.

D. A substantial body of work for the show must be done after acceptance of the proposal.

E. The Thesis Show must be completed within seven years after the completion of course work for the degree.

F. After installation of the show a written summary, with slides, will be submitted for documentation and committee evaluation.

G. An acceptable defense of the Thesis Show and education is required for graduation. The defense includes item F, as well as an oral exam.

ORAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION:

Definition: An oral exam based on the student's education and artistic development during the student's graduate education. The oral comprehensive examination will take place prior to the Thesis Show, and will be conducted by the student's graduate committee, the entire art faculty and may include at least one member from outside the Art Department.

I. Content of the examination:

A. The student's work in terms of concepts, technical accomplishment, development of a personal style, and possible future directions.

B. Technical and aesthetic questions related to the area or areas of concentration within the student's MFA program.

C. General questions relating to the concepts dealt with in the work. For example, a student whose work deals with the relationship of man to the landscape might be confronted with other ideas of that relationship. Other questions may address the concept in a more general sense than is apparent in the work itself. Significance of the project for the discipline, field of expertise and how the thesis exhibition in particular focus these concerns.

D. The student should demonstrate a developed knowledge of contemporary art and art history. Evidenced by historical precedents, contemporary artists and scholars to whom the artist feels a kinship.

II. Composition of the examination committee:

The student's graduate committee includes all members of the Art Department full time faculty and one outside examiner.

Graduate Thesis Proposal

The thesis proposal, in ideal terms, is a comprehensive document that helps to focus and clarify the intentions of the Graduate students beginning to consider their MFA thesis exhibition. It is understood that the process of creating the thesis exhibition often evolves in ways that cannot be anticipated in a proposal. However, it is hoped that by committing a set of intentions, working methods, and overall aesthetic attitudes to paper, that the on-going dialog between the student and his/her committee will be enriched and the final exhibition will be correspondingly stronger.

The students committee directs their program through the completion of the MFA exhibition and final oral examination.

The students committee must approve a written thesis proposal before the student can enroll for Thesis course work. The total program and all requirements for the degree, including transferred course work, must be completed within three years. An oral defense of the MFA exhibition is required.

I. Proposal Abstract (one brief paragraph that outlines the scope of your thesis)

II. Territory

- proposition(s), idea(s), question(s), or concept(s) to be explored.
- your visual vocabulary, range of techniques, methods.
- synopsis of thesis goals.

III. Concerns, Precedents, and Criteria

- concerns or questions that are important to you; ways in which your work in general and the thesis in particular focus these concerns.
- historical precedents/ contemporary artists, scholars, thinkers to whom you feel a kinship.
- significance of the project for your discipline, field of expertise, etc.
- criteria by which the project's success will be judged.

IV. Action Plan

- visual and conceptual organization of project.
- research necessary to complete the project.
- materials and processes needed/ space requirements/ possible venues.
- on campus and off campus resources necessary for your project.
- project feasibility/ schedule for the project's realization.
- alternative pathways to achieve goals of #II.

Check sheet for the MFA Procedures

1. Committee Selection:

This is the student's primary faculty committee. The selection of this committee is the result of consultation between the committee chair and the student. The Committee must be selected immediately upon entrance into the MFA program.

The committee's function is to guide and advise the student through the concluding phase of the program, approve the MFA exhibition, and conduct the final oral examination. The Graduate Mentor thereto, must approve the make up of this committee, as well as any changes. Changes in faculty and sabbatical leaves will be taken into consideration when changes in committees are requested.

2. Graduate Study Plan

The student completes a working document of the graduate study plan subject to revision. The form can be found on the web site at www.uaf.edu/gradsch. A copy of this completed form is required before the end of the second semester to your Graduate Mentor. The Graduate Mentor forwards this form to the Graduate School after review.

3. Review work on regular basis with committee:

The student must meet at least 2 times a semester with their committee to discuss and review the work. Meeting should be spaced to accommodate new development. The final meeting is to be held a minimum of three weeks prior to the final oral examination. It is the student's responsibility to see that these meetings are documented on the Committees annual Verification Document. Send copies to the Graduate Mentor.

4. Review work every semester by entire faculty during Graduate Show in Gallery:

The student must meet with the entire faculty once a semester for comments on new developments or new directions of their work.

5. Submit Graduate Thesis Proposal:

Make a written exhibition proposal and have it approved by the Graduate Committee for inclusion in the student's permanent file. Send copies to the Graduate Mentor.

6. Schedule Final Show Date:

It is the student's responsibility to schedule their show for exhibition in the UAF Fine Arts Gallery. To insure a space in the Gallery set the show date one year in advance. To inform all faculty of the scheduled final oral review.

7. Apply for Graduation:

The student must apply for graduation the semester he/she decides to graduate. This process is through the registrar office. A graduation fee is charged to the student and a credit check is requested.

8. MFA Graduate Thesis Report:

The MFA Thesis Report is a comprehensive document that summarizes the MFA Thesis Exhibition.

9. Oral Examination:

An oral examination is held in which the student's Graduate Committee and the entire faculty makes an assessment of the work.

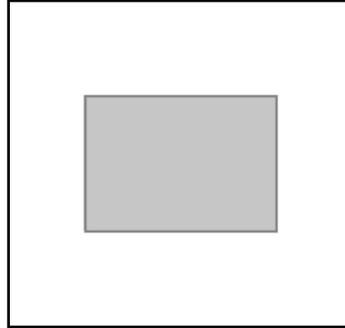
If the outcome of the oral examination is negative, the student's status and requirements for the MFA will be determined at that time by the Graduate Committee.

10. Slide Requirements:

A set of slides fully documenting the exhibition is to be given to the Main Art Department Office prior to graduation. The format of the presentation of these slides is determined by the guidelines for preparation of report on MFA degree thesis exhibition.

Guideline for Preparation of Report on MFA Degree Thesis Exhibition

1. Type the thesis report on good paper. It should be double spaced and free of errors.
2. Include a current resume.
3. Accompany your report with professionally photographed 35mm color slides of all the works in the exhibition. This should range from 10 to 20 slides presented in a plastic slide sleeve. Indicate the top of each slide by marking top or placing a dot in lower left hand corner corresponding to the placement in a slide projector. Number and arrange slides left to right, top to bottom in a slide holder.



4. Include a typed list of your slides.
5. Include exhibition announcement and xerox copies of reviews.
6. The report should be presented in a binder.
7. Carefully arrange all the materials in the following sequence: title page, thesis report, resume, artist's statement, list of slides, color slides, announcement and reviews.
8. Prepare two copies of the thesis report. One copy must be submitted before the end of the semester and the second copy should be kept for your own records. The report must pass the Art 699, Thesis Project class.
9. If you have questions consult with the thesis advisor and MFA degree committee.

M.F.A. DEGREE THESIS REPORT

PRESENTED TO

ART DEPARTMENT
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

BY
STUDENT'S FULL NAME

DATE

THE M.F.A. DEGREE THESIS EXHIBITION

TITLE: OR WRITE UNTITLED

DATES:

LOCATION: UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

I. Introduction (one brief paragraph that outlines the scope of your thesis)

II. Territory

- overture(s), idea(s), question(s), or concept(s) that were explored.
- your visual vocabulary, range of techniques, methods.
- synopsis of thesis goals.

III. Concerns, Precedents, and Criteria

- concerns or questions that are important to you; ways in which your work in general and the thesis in particular focus these concerns.
- historical precedents/ contemporary artists, scholars, thinkers to whom you feel a kinship.
- significance of the project for your discipline, field of expertise, etc.

IV. Conclusion

- visual and conceptual organization of project.
- do you feel that you accomplished the project's realization and why or why not?
- alternative pathways for the future.