Introduction
This is the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Master of Fine Arts Handbook. It is a guide to the policies, procedures and requirements of the Department of Art for the MFA degree program. For additional information or clarification, students should consult with faculty and staff of the Department of Art and with other university personnel who are available to assist them.

Graduate Assistant Handbook

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MASTER OF FINE ARTS

Program Description
The MFA in Studio Art is designed to enable students to develop superior studio art proficiency, knowledge of studio procedures, and a depth of understanding of art history and criticism sufficient to allow them to function independently as studio artists after graduation.

MFA Students will:

- Demonstrate superior studio art proficiencies and knowledge of studio procedures;
- Reach a depth of understanding of art history and criticism necessary to afford them the ability to function as studio artists and/or educators;
- Display their full comprehension of advanced principles and processes in a solo MFA final thesis exhibition of their work.

Degree Requirements
Students must complete a total of 60 semester hours with a cumulative 3.0 graduate GPA. No more than two grades of "C" earned at this university will be accepted as credit for this degree. A second “C” may result in dismissal from the program.

- Students with a concentration in Studio Art will complete up to 24 credit hours in an area of concentration including Painting/Drawing, Printmaking, Photography, Ceramics, Graphic Design or Sculpture.
- Students may choose up to 9 hours of elective credits in cross-disciplinary media that can serve as a parallel area of concentration.

The distribution of course requirements is as follows*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. 1) Courses in Area of Concentration:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio Art Courses in one area chosen from among those offered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFA Exhibition (exhibit requirement ARTS 5398)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Art Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Art History and Criticism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Electives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total 60</strong></td>
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*MFA in Studio Art Curriculum and matriculation subject to change Fall 2020
Program Sequence

MFA Students are required to follow the program sequence outlined by the Graduate Coordinator. Exceptions will be considered pending approval from the student’s Area of Concentration head or Thesis Committee.

MFA students are required to demonstrate outstanding progress in their creative research throughout the program and must meet with Area of Concentration head and faculty advisory committee, or thesis committee at the end of each semester.

18 Credit Hour Review and 36 Credit Hour Review

The Department of Art Faculty will review each student’s studio work following completion of 18 semester hours and again at 36 hours before permitting advancement toward completion of an MFA Project.

- **18 Credit Hour Review**: Students must present their work in a professional manner before the entire Department of Art Faculty, accompanied by a current transcript, current CV, and artist statement. Upon conclusion, the Faculty will confer privately as to determine whether the student passed or failed the review.

  If the student fails the review, they must re-present their work at the conclusion of the following Fall term. A second failure results in dismissal from the program.

- **36 Credit Hour Review**: Students must present their work in a professional manner before the entire Department of Art Faculty, accompanied by a current transcript and CV, and a complete MFA Exhibition Proposal Form. Upon conclusion, the Faculty will confer privately regarding whether the student passes onto their MFA Project.

  Upon passing, students will complete a Masters Thesis Advisory Committee Appointment Form (Form A). If a student feels the need to request a change, a Thesis Committee Member Change Request Form (Form D) may be submitted.

  If the student fails the review, they must re-present at the beginning of the following Fall term. A second failure results in dismissal from the program.

Exit Requirements

For all MFA Candidates with a concentration in Studio Art i.e. Sculpture, Painting, Drawing, Printmaking, Ceramics and Photography:

*Each student must create and present a professional MFA Project at the conclusion of 60 credit hours, including:*

- A Solo Exhibition
- An Artist Statement
- A Written Paper: 5-10 pages in length – exclusive of apparatus – which supports the MFA exhibition by discussing the work and its place within its theoretical, historical and
contemporary contexts. Papers must discuss techniques used, subject matter/content and include a bibliography. The paper must be formatted according to *The Chicago Manual of Style*. It must be completed prior to the Oral Defense. Failure to do so will warrant a grade of “Incomplete.” Students have until the end of the following term to complete the paper. The paper must be uploaded to ProQuest (5) business days prior to graduation.

- **A Comprehensive Oral Defense:** Administered by the Thesis Committee, must be performed over the course of the exhibition. Student must complete a Preliminary Agreement to Schedule the Thesis Defense (Form B) five days prior. The student will answer a series of questions based on the exhibition and written paper. Upon conclusion, the committee will confer privately as to whether the student passed or failed. A failing defense may be repeated once. A second failure will result in dismissal from the program.

- Only upon passing all above listed Exit Requirement criteria will the committee sign the Thesis Defense & Written Thesis Report (Form C). It must be submitted to the College of Graduate studies the Friday prior to graduation.

- A bound copy of the written paper for the Graduate Coordinator including a thumb drive containing photographic documentation of individual works and the Solo Exhibition.

**Exit Requirement Forms**

- MFA Exhibition Proposal Form
- MFA Thesis Forms
- Thesis Formatting Guidelines
- Thesis Submission Guidelines

**Graduate Assistantships and Teaching**

- *Graduate Assistant Handbook*

MFA applicants receiving assistantships will be assigned Assistantship Duties that may include Building Monitor hours, assisting full-time faculty with research or studio duties, or a position with the University Galleries pending an interview with the Director of University Galleries.

First year MFA students are required to assist a faculty member for two semesters before becoming a Graduate Teaching Assistant (of Record).

Graduate Teaching Assistants (of Record) are required to work five documented hours per week to fulfill assistantship requirements.

Students must be present in Corpus Christi and available by August 15th of each academic year and until the end of finals week each semester. See *Academic Calendar*
**Studios**
Studio space for the MFA Graduate Program is currently divided among four separate buildings, including one off-campus. A [Graduate Studio Contract form](#) must be completed and signed before spaces and keys are assigned.

- **Center for Arts – on-campus**  
  A select area is currently available for graduate students in ceramics.

- **Photo Building – on-campus**  
  This facility houses graduate studios for Photography, as well as access to space for the documentation of work.

- **Classroom West (CESS) – on-campus**  
  The first and second floors have dedicated private and shared spaces for MFA students and faculty as well as the Creative Engineering Laboratory (CEL).

- **Hamlin Center – off-campus at 4024 Weber Road**  
  This is a large, open space with semi-private individual studios utilized by, but not limited to, painting and drawing students.

**Galleries**
The [University Galleries](#) at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi include the Weil Gallery, Islander Art Gallery and Gallery 3. The Weil Gallery is located on campus in the Center for Arts on the first floor while the Islander Art Gallery and Gallery 3 is an off-campus facility located at the intersection of Staples and Weber Roads. They are traditional gallery spaces used for the exhibition of work by TAMU-CC graduate and undergraduate students, faculty, and visiting artists from the local, national, and international contexts. Exhibitions held at these venues serve the immediate TAMU-CC campus as well as the greater Corpus Christi community and beyond.

These spaces also provide an important pedagogical component of the fine arts curriculum at TAMU-CC. Qualifying MFA candidates are offered opportunities for part-time employment with the University Galleries as part of their degree program and gain valuable experience as Graduate Gallery Assistants. The Graduate Gallery Assistant is selected through a formal interview process with the Galleries Director and Graduate Coordinator. This position fulfills requirements for a Graduate Assistantship. Duties include, but are not limited to, exhibition installations, supervision of undergraduate staff, and overseeing of general gallery maintenance. This provides TAMU-CC MFA candidates with valuable professional experience in the field of gallery practice and museum standards.

The galleries are supported by University Facilities, are outfitted with current equipment and hardware, and are staffed by TAMU-CC faculty and students.

**Visiting Artists**
Attendance at scheduled public lectures and exhibitions with visiting artists is required for all MFA Candidates. Studio visits with participating artists will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis.
Safety

This document is a general summary and cannot be viewed as a complete safety guide to the Center for the Arts.

It is critical that all activities in the Center for the Arts, CESS and the Hamlin Studios be performed safely. Proper use of tools and materials is critical to your safety and that of others. In addition, graduate students must set an example that undergraduate students follow. All graduate instructors are required to provide students with a tour of studio procedures and safety on the first day of class, followed by Safety Training in Blackboard.

Graduate students must know how to use a tool or material safely before using it. Questions about safe use of tools should be directed to the supervisor(s) of the studios to which they belong or the Building Supervisor.

The campus emergency number is 4444 from any campus phone, otherwise 361-825-4444 may be dialed. The safety office number is 5555.

Specific rules
Hazardous materials brought into a studio should be accompanied by approval of the studio area faculty or Center for Arts Building Supervisor.

When hazardous materials are purchased for use in the Center for the Arts, a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) must be obtained and stored in each area of concentration. A copy must be given to the Center for Arts Building Supervisor.

Flammable liquids, strong acids, strong bases and other chemically reactive or particularly hazardous materials may not be stored in student lockers.

Whenever possible, graduate students must use wet cleanup techniques to eliminate dust. Sweeping of many of the materials used in ceramics and sculpture creates airborne hazards. Wet cleaning minimizes these hazards.

It is expected that graduate students will need access to materials and tools in areas other than their concentration. They must first confer with Area Faculty.

Undergraduate students are not granted after-hours privileges unless accompanied by a full-time faculty member.

Improper and unsafe use of materials and tools, especially willful, may result in removal of access to materials, tools and space. Serious violations may result in removal from the program. Appeals to these decisions must be made through the Dean of Students and the Campus Safety Officer.

Advisement

Advisement of graduate students in the MFA program occurs on several levels. The most important advisor is the Faculty Mentor in your area of concentration. Additionally, faculty mentors provide information regarding career opportunities as well as topics relevant to the student’s major area of concentration. Additional advisors include the Graduate Coordinator, Department of Art faculty, Administrative Assistant and Department Chair.
The Graduate Coordinator in the Department of Art assists the College of Graduate Studies advisor in matters of specific program administration, resolving scheduling conflicts and other issues that are program related.

**Graduate Scholarships**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi offers a number of academic scholarships based on academic achievement, educational objectives, evidence of leadership and service. [On-Line Applications](#)

**Transfer of Credit**
In addition to the University’s general policy on transfer of credit, the following regulations will apply to the MFA in Studio Art. Subject to the recommendation of the graduate faculty and a portfolio review, Candidates may have up to 15 semester hours (not including Exhibition or Thesis Project) of graduate credit applied to the Master of Fine Arts program. No grades less than a “B” and no courses earned toward another completed graduate degree will be accepted as transfer credit. Credit more than seven years old will not be counted toward the MFA degree.

**Graduation Deadlines**
While attendance at graduation is not required, attendance by terminal degree candidates does increase the stature of the department in the University and is therefore recommended. Students must submit a completed application for graduation online through their [S.A.I.L.](#) account by the posted deadline. Graduation deadlines and pricing are posted by the [Office of the Registrar](#). Graduation application fees are non-refundable.

**Commencement**
[Dates, times and location of the commencement ceremonies](#)

Regalia – Graduates must wear official regalia to the commencement ceremony. These items can be rented or purchased at the [Campus Store](#).

- Diplomas will be made available to the students once an audit has confirmed completion of all requirements. This process may take several weeks following graduation. Once complete, diplomas may be picked-up in person or are mailed by the Registrar’s Office. For more information, contact 361-825-2624 and press option 2 to be connected.
FACULTY

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