

MFA Graduate Handbook

Introduction

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

Please familiarize yourself with the contents of this Handbook. Changes made during the year will be announced and updated on the Department of Art's web site at <http://cla.tamucc.edu/art> . An updated hardcopy edition will be published every year. Questions and suggestions will make subsequent editions more useful.

Dr. Mark Hartlaub
Dean of the College of Liberal Arts

Dr. Diana Sipes
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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 graduates will demonstrate:

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

The MFA requires a student to have a close working relationship with faculty and an intensity of sustained studio effort to realize the expected level of creative output. If efforts by the student are scattered by time and distance, this working relationship is compromised and the student's achievements diminish. Enrollment will be limited to ten to fifteen students committed to an intense two-to-three year course of study in the program.

Enrollments in the following courses will be restricted to students admitted into the MFA program: ARTS 5312, ARTS 5313, ARTS 5314, ARTS 5315, ARTS 5316, ARTS 5317, ARTS 5318, ARTS 5391, ARTS 5395, and ARTS 5398.

Subject to the recommendation of the graduate faculty, transfer students may have up to 9 hours (not including exhibition) of graduate credit applied to the Master of Fine Arts program. The credits must have been earned as degree-eligible post-baccalaureate work. Credit that is more than seven years old will not be counted toward the MFA degree. Upon faculty approval graduate students may transfer up to 30 hours earned from an accredited graduate degree program from another institution.

Degree Requirements

All students must complete with a grade of “B” or better a total of 60 semester hours in art. Students will take a minimum of ten courses (30 semester hours) in the single area of studio art that they select as their major area. Students may choose a major studio area from among painting, printmaking, drawing, photography, ceramics, electronic imaging, and sculpture (ARTS 5312-5318). Occasionally, a student may be permitted to elect a cross-media (mixed media) selection of courses to supplement study in the primary area of interest. Graduate student’s committee determines this permitting

process. Students may now choose up to 9 hours of elective credits that can serve as a minor area of concentration.

The distribution of requirements is seen in the following outline:

	Semester Hours
A. Area of concentration: studio art courses in one area chosen from among seven offered	30
B. Art seminar	3
C. Designated electives in Art History and Criticism	12
D. Studio elective	9
E. MFA exhibition (exhibit requirement ARTS 5398)	6

Total 60

Special Requirements

18 Credit- Hour Review and 36 Credit-Hour Review

The Department of Art faculty committee will review each student's studio work following completion of 18 semester hours and again at 36 hours before permitting students to advance toward completion of their thesis project.

MFA students are required to demonstrate outstanding progress in their creative research throughout the program and must meet with their graduate advisory committee at the end of every semester.

Advisement

Advisement of graduate students in the MFA degree program occurs on several levels. Faculty mentors informally provide specific information regarding career opportunities as well as specifics in addressing topics germane to the student's major area of concentration. For example, if the area of interest is in painting, then that major professor addresses all aspects of the student's activities and work in progress toward his/her thesis exhibition. The graduate program coordinator in Art assists the College Graduate Advisor in matters of specific program administration, resolving scheduling conflicts and other issues that are program related.

Space

Space for the MFA Graduate Programs is currently divided among three separate buildings, including one that is off campus.

1. *Center for the Arts*-campus

The majority of the programmatic offerings occur in the Center for the Arts. This facility also houses most faculty offices (except Art History), Graduate TA and Adjunct offices as well as the Weil Gallery and the Art Department Administrative offices.

2. *Cess Building Classroom West*-campus

A block of rooms on the second floor is primarily dedicated to MFA students.

3. *Hamlin Center in Hamlin Shopping Center* at Staples and Doddridge,

This is a large open space with high ceilings and good lighting. The work area is divided into graduate studios for MFA painting students.

There is also instructional space in BH 234 for graphic design and the MOD2 building for photography.

Facilities and Resources

Galleries

The Weil Gallery in the Center for the Arts is a good facility with high ceilings, and excellent lighting. This is a very well used facility that serves not only the Department of Art but the entire campus community as well as greater Corpus Christi.

This space provides an important educational component in teaching all aspects of gallery practices. Many graduate students serve in the capacity as interns, assistant curators and preparators. The gallery storage space is a small space that does not provide the security or protection of works of art either in preparation for installation or for shipping.

Islander Art Gallery-Hamlin Center at Staples and Weber Sts. This is a large expansive exhibition space that provides a main gallery plus two smaller ones and a tiny office with minimal storage. This is an excellent venue that shares a portion of the space with the graduate painting studios.

Safety

This document is a work in progress and cannot be viewed as a complete safety guide to the Center for the Arts.

Preamble

It is critical that all activities in the Center for the Arts and the Hamlin studios be done safely. Safe use of tools and materials is critical not only to your own safety but the safety of others. In addition, graduate students set an example that undergraduate students are likely to follow. It is important that this example be a good one.

Always be sure you 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 they belong to or the woodshop manager.

The campus emergency number is 4444 on any campus phone. From off campus or a cell phone, the number is 361-825-4444. The safety office number is 5555. It is prudent to call for help early and explain the circumstances that brought you to call too early rather than wait until it is too late.

Specific rules

*Hazardous materials that are brought into a studio should be brought in with the knowledge and approval of the supervisor of the studio.

*When hazardous materials are purchased for use in the Center for the Arts an MSDS or Material Safety Data Sheet must be obtained. A copy of that sheet should be given to the Building Coordinator and a copy should be kept with the material. Most stores and online suppliers have these sheets. They are required to give them to you free or for cost. Often they are available online.

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

*There is NO allowed use of sprayed fixatives or paints within the center for the arts. All spraying must be carried out in the outside area. Please allow the solvent to dry out before bringing the sprayed item inside.

*Whenever possible 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 majors. They must contact the individual studio supervisors first.

*Extended graduate hours and a graduate students' key are not intended as a means to allow selected undergraduates after hours' use of the studio. Where safety is concerned, if a graduate student needs the help of an undergraduate to help or observe, the access is allowed for that purpose.

Financial Assistance

University Level Scholarships

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi offers a number of scholarships, which recognize scholastic potential and achievement. Academic Scholarships are based on high academic achievements, educational objectives and goals, evidence of leadership and service, and an explanation of how this scholarship will help achieve educational objectives. You can find the application on-line at <http://gradschool.tamucc.edu/fundinginfo.html>

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, students may have up to 30 semester hours (not including exhibition) of graduate credit applied to the Master of Fine Arts program. The credits must have been earned as degree-eligible post-baccalaureate work. Credit that is more than seven years old will not be counted toward the MFA degree.

No course with a grade of less than a "B" and no course that has counted toward the earning of another graduate degree will be accepted as transfer credit. Credit that is more than seven years old will not be counted toward the MFA degree.

For Additional Information

Web site: <http://cla.tamucc.edu/art/>

Campus address: Center for the Arts (CA), Room 105; phone: (361) 825- 2317

Mailing address: Department of Art, Unit 5721
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
6300 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5721

Semester Reviews

MFA students are expected to show regular progress with their creative work throughout the programs and must meet with their graduate advisory committee at the end of every semester. Although first-year students are expected to take an exploratory approach to

their work, evidence of substantial work is expected by the end of that year. At that time a continuation review will be conducted with the entire Art department faculty serving as committee members. *Students will be evaluated as to whether they are performing at an acceptable level for their degree paths. Students not meeting criteria will be reviewed a second time.* For MFA students, by the end of the second year, evidence of a developing focus is expected. This focus is to culminate with a comprehensive thesis, an exhibition, and presentation at the end of the third year.

A period of one and one-half hours is scheduled for each Semester Review. During the first half of the review, students carry out a well-planned summary presentation of their work to date in the program and their plans and ambitions for the coming year(s) and how these plans relate to development of the student's thesis work.

The second half of the review will be spent as a faculty/student advising session. This session is an opportunity for you to have a conversation with your faculty committee to discuss themes and focus found in your work and education experience. You will have an opportunity to ask faculty for recommendations and will be expected to bring questions with you for discussion.

Purpose

- In-depth reflection by the student on achievements, challenges, and risks taken within the program.
- Faculty assessment of the student's work and progress to date.
- Students will define future plans and goals with the opportunity to receive advice and feedback from faculty.

Pre-Review

- Two weeks prior to the review, students will submit 4 copies of the following items to a designated staff member:
 - One-page summary of planned presentation. The structure of the presentation will be focused on the growth of your conceptual and visual work and your development as an artist/designer and individual.
 - One-page summary of ALL courses (academic and studio) completed to date with instructors and grades.
 - One-page summary of all assigned assistantships and advisors to date.
 - Current resume, including URL of personal website.
 - Statement on future plans and how these plans relate to development of thesis work.
 - Questions for Faculty members.

Evaluation Criteria

You will be evaluated and measured on the following items:

- Evidence of intellectual development
- Evidence of imagination/creativity/risk-taking
- Evidence of realization skills: Have you successfully manifested your concepts?
- Evidence of work ethic/motivation/passion/commitment
- Evidence of critical reflection

- Articulation of future goals

Review Committees

The student will select a committee, which will review and supervise the work, exhibit and thesis.

Post-Review Procedure for Semester Reviews

The review committee will recommend one of the following actions:

- Continue in the program.
- Re-review at a specified time.
- Withdraw temporarily from the program, with re-entry conditions specified.
- Withdraw permanently from the program.

The review committee may recommend a qualified version of any of the above actions, or may recommend an alternate course of action.

The review committee's recommendation, a copy of which is provided to the student, becomes part of the student's record.

Third Year Review

The Third Year Review will be carried out in conjunction with the presentation/approval of the MFA thesis and MFA exhibition.

MFA Thesis Project and Exit Requirements

Each student must prepare a professional solo exhibition by the end of the third year, complete a written thesis of 20 to 30 pages in length, discussing the technical and conceptual methodologies of the work within a historical and contemporary context, and pass an oral defense administered by the graduate faculty before the degree may be conferred. If unsuccessful, the oral defense may be repeated once. A second failure will result in termination from the program.

The solo exhibition, written thesis and defense must be completed before the conclusion of the graduating semester. Failure to do so will require the student's enrollment in an additional semester to fulfill the exit requirements or face termination from the program. In addition, the exhibition and its works must be documented photographically. A zip drive of the images and a hardbound copy of the written thesis must be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator.

Thesis formatting guidelines can be found here:

https://gradschool.tamucc.edu/current_students/doctoral_dissertation.html

Thesis submission guidelines can be found here:

https://gradschool.tamucc.edu/current_students/assets/ProQuest_Dissertation_Submission_Guide.pdf

Thesis Schedule and Deadlines for MFA degree

Middle of first semester	MFA Graduate Student Committee selection.
End of second semester	Semester Reviews begin
End of fourth semester	Thesis proposal (Yearly Review).
After fourth semester	Focused work begins.
Mid fifth semester	Outline of the thesis to committee Chair. Include sections as described in Format requirements below.
Two weeks later	Outline comments returned from chair.
First week of Sept or February	Thesis first draft to committee Chair. Include all sections as described in Format requirements below.
Two weeks later	First draft comments returned from chair.
First week of Oct. or March	Thesis second draft, one copy to each committee member. Include all sections (with illustrations/figures/tables/animations/video/sequences/sound-bites) as described in Format requirements below.
Two weeks later	Second draft comments returned from committee.
Middle of Nov. or April	Thesis final draft to committee Chair.
One week later	Final draft suggested revisions returned from chair.
On date grades are due	Signed thesis to College of Liberal Arts Dean

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI

School of Arts, Media and Communication

This Thesis is submitted in
partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF FINE ARTS in Art

Thesis Title

By

Candidate's Name

Date of submission

Approved by:

(Committee Chair's Name), Committee Chair

(Committee Member's Name), Committee Member

(Committee Member's Name), Committee Member

Approved for the College of Liberal Arts:

.

(Dean's Name), Dean

Date Degree Conferred: Month 20XX

GRADUATE COURSES

ARTS 5301. 1-6 sem. hrs.

WORKSHOP IN ART

Current trends and approaches in art with emphasis on contemporary processes and techniques in studio work. May be repeated when topics vary. Offered on sufficient demand.

ARTS 5312. 3 sem. hrs.

MFA STUDIO IN ART: CERAMICS

Individual study and direction in ceramics. Prerequisite: Two ceramics 5302 courses. May be repeated.

ARTS 5313. 3 sem. hrs.

MFA STUDIO IN ART: DRAWING

Individual study and direction in drawing. Prerequisite: Two drawing 5303 courses. May be repeated.

ARTS 5314. 3 sem. hrs.

MFA STUDIO IN ART: ELECTRONIC IMAGING

Individual study and direction in electronic imaging. Prerequisite: Two electronic imaging 5304 courses. May be repeated.

ARTS 5315. 3 sem. hrs.

MFA STUDIO IN ART: PAINTING

Individual study and direction in painting. Prerequisite: Two painting 5305 courses. May be repeated.

ARTS 5316. 3 sem. hrs.

MFA STUDIO IN ART: PHOTOGRAPHY

Individual study and direction in photography. Prerequisite: Two photography 5306 courses. May be repeated.

ARTS 5317. 3 sem. hrs.

MFA STUDIO IN ART: PRINTMAKING

Individual study and direction in printmaking. Prerequisite: Two printmaking 5307 courses. May be repeated.

ARTS 5318. 3 sem. hrs.

MFA STUDIO IN ART: SCULPTURE

Individual study and direction in sculpture. Prerequisite: Two sculpture 5308 courses. May be repeated.

ARTS 5391. 3 sem. hrs.

MFA SEMINAR IN ART

Various thematic discussions and projects pertaining to studio work under the guidance of a studio faculty member, and possible guest lecturers and artists. Prerequisite: One 5390 seminar.

ARTS 5393. 3 sem. hrs.

SEMINAR IN ART HISTORY AND AESTHETICS

Study in specific areas of art history and aesthetics. May be repeated when topics vary. Prerequisite: an upper-division course in art history.

ARTS 5395. 3 sem. hrs.

MFA TEACHING ASSISTANT PRACTICUM

This course is for graduate teaching assistants and includes discussion of individual advising, group discussion of current experience, guest lectures by experienced artists/teachers. Offered on demand.

ARTS 5396. 1-3 sem. hrs.

INDIVIDUAL STUDY

A carefully planned special study on an academic topic not offered as part of the regular graduate curriculum. Directed Individual Study (DIS) is a tutorial, directed and evaluated by a member of the graduate art faculty. Enrollment is restricted to graduate students who have demonstrated both academic ability and the capacity for independent work. Complete applications must be filed and approved by a committee of the graduate art faculty and the Dean of Arts and Humanities in advance of registration. Prerequisites: 1) At least 6 semester hours of graduate course work in the field at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. 2) A minimum GPA of 3.0 on all work in the field at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. 3) At least one previous course with the supervising instructor. A maximum of 6 semester hours of 5396 may be counted towards the graduate degree. Offered on application to the program coordinator.

ARTS 5398. 6 sem. hrs.

MFA EXHIBITION

A public exhibit to be approved by the student's supervisory committee and accompanied by a final oral examination, photographic documentation and written statement of problem. Prerequisite: approval of the student's supervisory committee.

ARTS 5399. 3 sem. hrs.

GALLERY AND MUSEUM PRACTICES

Study of the functions of galleries and museums: curating, preparation, grantsmanship, crating, documentation, and publicity. Visits to galleries and museums will be made around South Texas as well as Houston.

Faculty

Margaret Aubrey, Visiting Assistant Professor

B.F.A. Rhode Island School of Design, 1985; M.F.A. Savannah College of Art and Design, 2009.

Amanda García, Associate Professor

Bachelor of Environmental Design, Texas A&M University (College Station), 2002; M.F.A., Savannah College of Art and Design, 2004; Ph.D. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 2016.

Jennifer Garza-Cuen, Assistant Professor

B.A. American University in Cairo, 2001; M.F.A. Rhode Island School of Design, 2011; M.A. Rhode Island School of Design, 2012.

Rich Gere, Professor

B.F.A, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, 1984; M.F.A., University of Tennessee-Knoxville, 1992.

Jack Gron, Professor

B.F.A., Columbus College of Art and Design, 1973; M.F.A., Washington University, 1976.

Louis Katz, Professor

B.F.A., Kansas City Art Institute, 1981; M.F.A. Montana State University, 1986.

Kevin Mercer, Professional Assistant Professor

B.F.A. Western Illinois University, 2010; M.F.A. Pennsylvania State University, 2014.

Nancy Miller, Visiting Assistant Professor

B.F.A. Texas Christian University, 2003; M.F.A. Full Sail University, 2016.

Ryan O'Malley, Associate Professor

B.F.A. University of South Dakota, 2002; M.F.A. Louisiana State University, 2005.

Joe Peña, Assistant Professor

B.F.A., Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 1994; M.F.A., Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, 2005.

Laura Petican, Assistant Professor

B.A. University of Western Ontario, 1997; M.A. University of Western Ontario, 2003; Ph.D. Jacobs University (Bremen, Germany), 2009.

Greg Reuter, Professor

B.F.A., California College of Arts and Crafts, 1971; M.F.A., University of Hawaii, 1973.

Carey Rote, Professor

B.A., Texas Christian University, 1977; M.A., Tulane University, 1980; Ph.D., University of Texas (Austin), 1987.