

# Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art

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## Requirements (90 units)

### Program Code: STAR

The Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art provides rigorous study for students with a strong direction and focus in art and/or design and a high level of technical proficiency. The program provides advanced study and practice in preparation for professional careers in studio art and design or teaching in higher education. Graduates will be prepared to take their places in the visual arts community and make significant contributions to our visual culture. The program focuses on creative studio work, supplemented by art history and theory, professional and critical writing, graduate studio critiques, studio electives, professional development and independent study.

## Admission to the Program

In addition to the general requirements of the university, specific requirements for admission to classified graduate standing are:

1. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution with a minimum of 45 quarter units of upper-division art courses comparable to those required of a major in art at this university. The Art Department determines which courses are comparable;
2. Completion of a minimum of 20 quarter units of upper-division studio art;
3. Completion of a minimum of 20 quarter units in art history; a minimum of eight should be upper-division units, and at least one course in Contemporary Art Criticism and Theory that is equivalent to Art 520;
4. A grade point average of 3.0 ("B") or better in all art courses taken;
5. Completion of the graduate entrance writing requirement;
6. Admission to the program will additionally be based upon evaluations by the Art Department graduate committee of the following items:
  - a. A portfolio displaying a comprehensive body of work with strong technical abilities and potential for a clear direction in graduate study. A portfolio consists of 12–20 images of the applicant's artworks in the form of jpegs or pdf on a CD. The portfolio needs to be accompanied by a typed list of artworks with the applicant's name, and title, medium, size and date for each artwork.
  - b. A three- to four-page typed "Statement of Purpose" describing the conceptual and technical aspects of the artwork and the applicant's reason for seeking graduate studies in art. This statement should also demonstrate applicant's knowledge of historical and contemporary art in relation to their work. This statement should be carefully crafted and will be used to evaluate the student's writing ability and critical thinking skills.
  - c. Three letters of recommendation supporting the student's application. Letters should be from professionals and/or educators in the field able to assess the student's competence and to make relevant comments on the student's likely success in a graduate art program.

Applicants who have satisfied the general requirements for admission, but who have deficiencies in prerequisite preparation which can be met by specified additional preparation may be admitted to the program with conditionally classified standing. Deficiencies must be made up as early in

the program as possible, normally within the first 20 units after conditional admission.

They will be advanced to classified standing when the Art Department graduate coordinator certifies that they have satisfied all appropriate requirements.

Applications to the M.F.A. in Studio Art program are reviewed annually for Fall admission. The completed application deadline is January 15 for both the university and M.F.A. in Studio Art program. Contact the Art Department graduate coordinator to request a program application and further information.

## Graduate Teaching Assistantships

Students interested in university teaching are encouraged to apply for Graduate Teaching Assistantships. The program offers second year students teaching assistant opportunities with professors in lower division studio and foundation courses. After the practicum is successfully completed, the second and third year students have the opportunity for a paid Graduate Teaching Assistantship.

## Advancement to Candidacy

Candidacy denotes that the student is fully qualified to complete the final stages of the Master of Fine Arts program in Studio Art and is thus eligible to enroll in ART 695. To be formally advanced to candidacy, the student must have:

1. Completed the graduate entrance writing requirement. Students are urged to complete this requirement as early in their program as possible, and prior to taking any art history course work in the department;
2. Achieved classified status;
3. Been accepted by an advisor to supervise the course of study;
4. Completed, with the approval of the Art Department graduate coordinator, at least 30 quarter units of applicable course work at this university, and achieved a minimum grade point average of "B" (3.0) or better;
5. Successfully completed an advancement review conducted by the Department of Art graduate committee and graduate coordinator;
6. Filed a program of graduate course work prepared in consultation with the student's advisor and approved by the Art Department graduate coordinator.

## Requirements for Graduation

1. A minimum of 90-quarter units of approved graduate-level work, with at least 63 completed at this university;
2. A GPA of at least 3.0 ("B") in all courses taken to satisfy the Master of Fine Arts degree requirements;
3. Completion and exhibition of an acceptable project, and submission of a report and documentation of the project approved by the student's graduate committee and the Art Department graduate coordinator;
4. The graduation writing requirement is met upon successful completion of the written report that accompanies the master's project in ART 695;
5. Any general requirements not cited above for graduate degrees and noted in Graduate Degree and Program Requirements (<http://bulletin.csusb.edu/graduate-degree-programs/graduate-degree-program-requirements>).

**Degree Requirements (90 units)**

ART 595A-F	Independent Study (for a total of 5 units)	5
ART 604	Graduate Studio in Art (for a total of 30)	30
ART 617	Graduate Seminar in Critical Theory and Methodology	4
ART 618	Graduate Seminar in Contemporary Art Issues and Practices	4
ART 620D or ART 620B	Graduate Studio Critique (for a total of 24) Graduate Studio Critique	24
ART 630	Professional Practices in the Visual Arts	4
ART 695E	Masters Project in Studio Art	5
Art History Elective (to be approved by the graduate coordinator.)		4
Ten units of electives appropriate to the student's goals. Courses may be chosen from upper-division offerings of any department in the university subject to prior approval by the student's area advisor and the Art Department graduate coordinator.		10
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Total Units		90