

Rationale Statement

The Department of Art and Art History proposes the following changes to the studio art major. In sum, these changes will update the major description and increase the required credits from 39 to 42 by adding two additional studio courses as requirements and reducing the number of Art History credits required from 9 to 6. Each change is described in detail below.

1. Change the description of the major to update recent changes to the program and delineate the Studio Art major from the Art History major.

The current catalog description does not include recent updates to our program like digital media, as well as the changes proposed below. It also describes both majors offered by our department instead of focusing on the Studio Art major. In previous catalogs, both majors were listed together, so this description was appropriate. Now that the two majors are listed individually, we are updating the language to reflect these changes. The new description is included in the "Catalog Copy" section at the end of this proposal.

We also intend to remove several courses from the catalog listing. ARTS 361: Experimental Watercolor, ARTS 263: Textile Design and ARTS 225: Color Theory, are no longer offered by our faculty, as the faculty member who taught these courses have both retired. These changes have been submitted as expedited course changes along with this proposal.

2. Add ARTS 475: Senior Thesis Seminar to the courses required for the major, increasing the total credits from 39 to 42.

This change will add to our capstone course (ARTS 474), which is currently offered each fall, to create a year-long capstone experience for our majors. While ARTS 474 focuses on professional development, applications, resumes and website creation, ARTS 475 adds a studio-based component that will result in more developed artwork, stronger exit portfolios and a more successful senior exhibition at the end of the year. We feel this addition will round out students' senior year by creating a year-long experience that better prepares them for their next professional and educational endeavors.

ARTS 475 has been offered each spring for the last two years as an elective course with an enrollment of 15. Students who take the course make artwork in any studio area through self-directed research that they propose at the start of the course. The group meets for critiques, discussions and trips to area studios and galleries. This gives students the opportunity to pursue their individual visions, refine their techniques and to develop a cohesive body of artwork for applications to jobs and graduate programs.

The student artwork from the last two years of this course has been some of the best our department has produced, reiterating the need for it to be expanded to include all of our majors going forward. In order to accommodate this change, we plan to increase the course enrollment to match that of ARTS 474, currently set at 25 students. This will require a revision of the ARTS 475 course structure, but we feel the benefits to our students will outweigh any

compromises we must make to increase the size of the class. In the future, the department will reassess the success of this change to ensure that it is the best option for our program.

3. Reduce the required Art History courses from 9 credits to 6 credits and remove the 100 level requirement.

The current major requires three Art History courses, ARTH 114, 115 and one upper level course. Since the Art History major has added a new non-western component and eliminated the prerequisites for many courses (change to major pending review), we propose changing the studio art requirement to include any two Art History courses. This will give studio majors more flexibility in meeting their requirements while also allowing them to study the art historical material that relates to their studio work more directly. It will also allow more studio majors to take the new non-western courses currently under development. The move from 9 to 6 credits will allow us to add an additional studio course as a requirement, a need identified by our departmental assessments and highlighted in our most recent 10-year review.

4. Add one additional 200 level studio course to the area requirements.

Reducing the credits required for art history courses will enable the addition of one extra 200 level course to the area requirements without adding to the total credits required for the major. This addition allows students to explore more studio areas during the course of their studies, and gives them credit in the major for courses many of them take anyway in order to satisfy prerequisites for upper level courses. Our majors compete with students from BFA programs that require 60 credits, and we feel that building extra studio courses into our major helps address this discrepancy without infringing on students' ability to embrace the liberal arts emphasis on interdisciplinary inquiry and research. As noted, the need for additional studio courses was also identified in our most recent 10-year review.

Impact statement:

These changes will have no impact on the use of the Library, the department budget or the number of courses offered each semester. Our current majors usually take more than the required 6 credits at the 200 level, so the current number and distribution of courses should still serve them adequately. As previously mentioned, the enrollment cap for ARTS 475 will be increased from 15 to 25 in order to accommodate all graduating seniors. Thus, ARTS 475 will undergo a revision in order to account for this addition. The department will reassess this change over the next few years in order to gauge its impact on that course and on our program in general.

Catalog Copy:
EXISTING CATALOG ENTRY-

Studio Art Major

Department of Art and Art History

Department Faculty

The Art Program

The department offers two distinct but interrelated degrees – art history and studio art. The Art History major provides the background for a life-long appreciation of art and the intellectual framework for conducting research in art history. The Studio Art major challenges the student to address theory and technique in the making of art. With resources such as a subscription to ARTstor digital database, lecture rooms with sophisticated equipment, a darkroom, studios with skylights, and a computer imaging and multimedia laboratory, the department is fully equipped to serve both majors.

The Art History major explores in chronological sequence the span of Western art within its cultural, philosophical, and historical contexts. Special courses on styles, issues, and individuals in Western and non-Western art give a broad overview of the complexity of artistic expressions. Proximity to Washington, D.C., Richmond, Baltimore, and New York City, give students first-hand experiences of art works. Visiting scholars and artists offer students important networking opportunities, as well as lectures on recent developments in the field. In the internship program, students gain valuable experience and career contacts by working in museums and art institutions in the Washington, D.C., and Richmond areas, and beyond.

Internships are also available and offer students professional experience outside the classroom. The Studio Art majors culminate their studies with the capstone course, ARTS 474: Professional Practices in Studio Art and an exhibit in duPont Gallery or by submission of a senior portfolio.

The University Galleries present art exhibitions and events of interest to the University community. Students gain valuable experience in the Galleries as catalogers, researchers, administrative assistants, and exhibition installers.

Requirements for the Studio Art Major

Thirty-nine (39) credits to include ARTS 104, 105 (or portfolio exemption), 120, and ARTH114, 115 and 3 credits in Art History at the 200-level or above. An additional twenty-one (21) credits in Studio Art includes at least six credits at the 200-level, twelve (12) credits at the 300-level or above and ARTS 474: Professional Practices in Studio Art.

Studio majors are required to participate in the major assessment and senior exhibition/senior portfolio.

Studio Art Course Offerings

Studio Art course offerings will be found under the 4 letter code of ARTS in the course listings.

104 – Digital Approaches to Fine Art (3)

This course introduces basic tools and techniques of computer-generated art in the context of studio

art theory and practice.

105 – Design Principles (3)

Basic study of design elements and their use in the organization and construction of visual communication in both two and three dimensions. Introduction to basic writing and speaking skills.

120 – Drawing I (3)

Introduction to the principles of traditional and experimental drawing practice in diverse media. Reading, writing, research and speaking assignments accompany studio activity.

220 – Intermediate Drawing (3)

Prerequisite: ARTS 120 or permission of instructor. Advanced problems in drawing practice with emphasis on the relationship of perceptual, conceptual and media aspects. Reading, writing, research and speaking assignments accompany studio activity.

223 – Ceramics I (3)

Prerequisite: ARTS 105 or permission of instructor. Introduction to clay and the processes of hand building and wheel throwing. Studio procedures include clay making, glazing preparation and application, and a variety of firing methods. Reading, writing, research and speaking assignments accompany studio activity.

224 – Printmaking I (3)

Prerequisite: ARTS 120 or permission of instructor. Introduction to the principles and techniques of print media. Course uses non-toxic, water-soluble materials. Reading, writing, research and speaking assignments accompany studio activity.

225 – Color Theory (3)

Prerequisite: ARTS 105 or permission of instructor. The study of color as it relates to visual perception, artistic expression, and structure; the theories of Munsell, Itten, Goethe, and others are used as tools. Reading, writing, research and speaking assignments accompany studio activity.

226 – Animation (3)

Prerequisite: ARTS 104. An Introduction to the methods, techniques and history of animation with a special focus on computer animation and traditional stop motion practices.

227 – Wheel Throwing (3)

Introduction to working with clay on the potter's wheel and the ceramic process. Students will create functional and sculptural forms while exploring high temperature glazes by firing both gas and electric kilns. Building and firing processes will be further informed through the study of historical and contemporary precedents.

231 – Sculpture I (3)

Prerequisite: ARTS 105 or permission of instructor. Basic techniques of construction are introduced, focusing on additive and subtractive approaches to form. Fundamentals of creative problem solving are covered, as well as an introduction to studio procedures and the use of power tools and machinery. Reading, writing, research and speaking assignments accompany studio activity.

241 – Photography I (3)

Prerequisite: ARTS 105 or permission of instructor. Offers a practical introduction to 35mm film cameras and basic darkroom techniques for printing black-and-white photographs. Study of the history of photography, along with contemporary directions in both silver-based and digital photography is included. Reading, writing, research and speaking assignments accompany studio activity.

242 – Painting I (3)

Prerequisite: ARTS 120 or permission of instructor. Introduction to the principles of traditional and experimental painting practice primarily in oil and acrylic paints. Reading, writing, research and

speaking assignments accompany studio activity.

263 – Textile Design (3)

Prerequisite: ARTS 105 or permission of instructor. Introduction to the creation of fiber structures using a variety of processes including weaving, needle arts, embroidery, basketry, and quilting. Traditional and non-traditional materials are incorporated with an emphasis on broad experimentation. Contemporary issues in fiber arts is discussed. Reading, writing, research and speaking assignments accompany studio activity.

281 – Topics in Studio Art (3–6)

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Offers special topics in the theory and practice of making art.

311– Ceramics II (3)

Prerequisite: ARTS 223 or permission of instructor. Emphasis on developing content and expression with ceramic materials through advanced wheel throwing and hand-building techniques. High temperature clays and firing methods are covered, along with glaze composition and surface development. Contemporary and historical techniques and research are integrated into course assignments.

313 – Life Drawing (3)

Prerequisite: ARTS 220 or permission of instructor. Focuses on comprehensive linear and painterly drawing techniques using the human figure. Emphasis ranges from traditional proportion and composition to experimental and personal interpretations of the figure. Reading, writing, research and speaking assignments accompany studio activity.

331– Sculpture II (3)

Prerequisite: ARTS 231 or permission of instructor. Conceptual approach to space and form is explored through a broad range of media. Performance, installation, and site-specific works employing found objects, constructed objects, sound, movement, etc., are introduced. Focus is on development of individual creative ideas and approaches to sculpture as a visual language. This is a writing and speaking intensive course designed to promote recognition, formulation and articulation of concepts and perceptions about sculpture and extended media.

341 – Multiple Imaging (3)

Prerequisites: ARTS 224 or 241. Course expands upon skill and techniques learned in Photography I and Printmaking I, focusing on the idea of creating images in small editions. A variety of photographic, printmaking, and digital media techniques are explored. Reading, writing, research, and speaking assignments accompany studio work.

342 – Painting II (3)

Prerequisite: ARTS 242 or permission of instructor. Advanced problems in painting practice including technical exploration in multiple painting media. This is a writing and speaking intensive course designed to promote recognition, formulation and articulation of concepts and perceptions about painting. Emphasis is on individual technical and conceptual development broadened by readings and research.

350 – Photography II (3)

Prerequisite: ARTS 241 or permission of instructor. Course expands upon traditional darkroom techniques and concepts learned in Photography I. Examines contemporary concepts and techniques in photography as a fine art. Reading, writing, research and speaking assignments accompany studio activity.

361 – Experimental Watercolor (3)

Prerequisite: One year of drawing or permission of instructor. Problems and techniques in traditional and non-traditional approaches to the medium of watercolor and related water media are explored.

Does not fulfill the painting requirement in the major but can count as elective credit.

381 – Special Topics in Studio Art (3)

Prerequisite: One Studio Art course at the 200-level. Course provides advanced study in a specific area of Studio Art with an emphasis on individual processes and extensive creative inquiry. The course is designed to facilitate the development of ideas that contribute to the artist's content and decision-making processes, as well as the development of applied skills needed to manifest these ideas.

450 – Topics in Art and Art History (3)

Prerequisite: ARTS 105 and ARTH 114 or 115, or permission of instructor. Offers topics that bridge traditional boundaries between Art History and Studio Art.

454 – Approaches to Video Art (3)

Prerequisite: ARTS 105 and ARTH 114 or 115. A comprehensive look at the development of video and other time-based media as important art forms in contemporary art; explores the formal development, content, and format of various multi-media art forms.

470 – Special Studies in Studio Art (3)

Prerequisite: Must have completed at least one 300-level course. Provides a study of a specific area in Studio Art. Topic is selected by faculty in consultation with students.

474 – Professional Practices in Studio Art (3)

Prerequisite: Must have completed at least two 300-level studio art courses. Senior status preferred. Course addresses contemporary issues in art and professional development as an artist. The course covers: development of a body of work, professional development in speaking and writing, artist résumé and statement, artist biography, portfolio preparation, job opportunities, interview practices, graduate school application process, exhibition opportunities, grant funding, artist residencies, and financial accounting.

475 – Senior Thesis Seminar (3)

Prerequisite: ARTS 474. Senior Studio Art majors are involved in independent research in their chosen medium or mode of expression. Individual studio research is supplemented through group meetings involving critiques, discussions, readings and field trips. Students apply all skills acquired during their course of study towards the development of a cohesive body of artwork. Analytical and conceptual approaches to art making are emphasized.

491, 492 – Individual Study in Studio Art (3, 3)

Prerequisite: Must have completed at least one 300-level studio art course in the medium. Permission of Studio Art faculty and written proposal required. Allows for independent work under the supervision of the Studio Art faculty. Available on a competitive basis. Vehicle for those seeking honors in Studio Art.

499 – Internship (Credits variable)

A supervised experience developed in consultation with the Studio Art faculty. A maximum of three credits may count toward elective credit in the major.

NEW CATALOG ENTRY
(Changes are in red)

Studio Art Major

Department of Art and Art History

Department Faculty

The Studio Art Program

The **Studio Art** major at the University of Mary Washington fosters artistic and scholarly connections through creative inquiry and analytical problem solving. Exploration fuels the creative mind and our studio "incubators" provide technical expertise while embracing risk-taking and conceptual development. Students learn and work in well-equipped studios that focus on a variety of disciplines, including Digital Media, Ceramics, Drawing, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, and Sculpture. Faculty members who are actively exhibiting artists, researchers and dedicated teachers lead each discipline, and our flexible curriculum supports a more interdisciplinary approach to thinking about and making art.

UMW's location between Washington D.C. and Richmond, Virginia provides students with ample resources to experience top quality artwork in person, and to undertake optional internships and apprenticeships in the field. Visiting artist lectures and field trips support our commitment to visual and cultural literacy and our faculty members work closely with students to better understand the impact of art and technology in the professional world. The UMW Galleries bring exciting exhibitions and events to campus while advancing the educational goals of the University through the collection, exhibition, and interpretation of works of art. The course of study culminates in a student-organized senior exhibition (or exit portfolio) that highlights the work of our majors while adding to the cultural life of the university and the greater Fredericksburg community.

A degree in Studio Art at UMW prepares students to become active artists, creative thinkers, and engaged citizens. Our graduates are successful professional artists, teachers, university professors, gallery owners and graphic designers. Many earn MFA degrees at competitive institutions like Florida State, Virginia Commonwealth and Penn State Universities. Others go on to apply what they have learned to careers in film, art therapy, furniture design, and arts management to name a few. The studio art major provides a foundation of creative problem solving, idea generation, studio technique and critical discourse that prepares students for success in whatever field they pursue.

Requirements for the Studio Art Major

Forty-two (42) credits to include ARTS 104, 105 (or portfolio exemption), 120, 474, 475 and 6 credits in Art History. An additional twenty-one (21) credits in Studio Art includes at least nine credits at the 200-level and twelve (12) credits at the 300-level or above.

Studio majors are required to participate in the major assessment and senior exhibition/senior portfolio.

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120 – Drawing I (3)

Introduction to the principles of traditional and experimental drawing practice in diverse media. Reading, writing, research and speaking assignments accompany studio activity.

ADD (course proposal submitted 10/31/17)

219- Digital Video Production (3)

Prerequisite: ARTS 104. A production focused introduction to video art with an emphasis on cinematography, editing, performance, and sound.

220 – Intermediate Drawing (3)

Prerequisite: ARTS 120 or permission of instructor. Advanced problems in drawing practice with emphasis on the relationship of perceptual, conceptual and media aspects. Reading, writing, research and speaking assignments accompany studio activity.

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