BFA APPLICATION AND PORTFOLIO REVIEW  

• • • FALL 2016 DEADLINE: October 6, 2016 • • •

Thursday, October 6, 2016  
Deadline for application materials

Sunday, October 9, 2016  
Portfolio upload deadline

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS DEGREE (72 credit hours) (NO minor required)

The BFA degree is recognized as the professional degree in art at the undergraduate level and provides students with a more focused education and practice than a BS or BA in Visual Arts. This degree is often a prerequisite for admission to an MFA program.

A minimum of 12 credit hours of BFA coursework must be completed after acceptance into the BFA Program. Coursework taken during the semester of acceptance will not count towards this requirement.

It is recommended that BFA Seminar and BFA Thesis not be taken consecutively. They may not be taken concurrently. These courses are required for all emphasis areas except Visual Communication, Art 4410 Design Seminar is required of Visual Communication majors.

Before applying:
A minimum of 15 credit hours of the Visual Arts Foundations coursework must be completed prior to BFA application. Foundation coursework taken during the semester of application can count toward this total. It is recommended that you seek the advice of one or more professors on portfolio composition.

A. Application Form  To apply, submit the following to Cynthia Kurien: (CKurien@weber.edu)

1. A completed application form, submit SEPARATELY from digital portfolio, (This is your personal information).
2. A current unofficial transcript of grades (scan and include with application in #1) send as a PDF

B. Your Digital Portfolio is made on Blogger.com. Send URL Address to Jeremy Stott (Jstott@weber.edu) and Cynthia Kurien (ckurien@weber.edu) (see portfolio instructions below under item C.)

1. Digital portfolio to consist of 6-12 pieces of original work. If possible, demonstrate your strengths in the target studio area (2d, 3d, Photography, or Visual Communication, Art Education). The portfolio should represent your best work.
   * Your portfolio may include:
     • Work from class assignments
     • Self-directed projects
     • Selected images from Sketchbooks (these are encouraged and are considered a single work)
     • Term papers from art history classes (two counts as one work)
     • A five-page essay based on slide comparison or given subject (counts as one work).
     • (If you intend to write and submit this essay, notify the department secretary)

2. Identification Document: a Numbered list of portfolio art works.
   Example as follows: 1 Makov, “Cat”, woodcut, 16 x 20", self directed, 2010
   • Number of item (1, 2, etc.)
   • Last Name
   • Title
   • Medium
   • Size
   • project description & class (if class assignment) or identify as self directed
   • date completed.
3. **BFA Application Essay (send with your images on Blogger.com)**

1) Length of essay should be approximately 300 - 500 words, one to two pages.

2) Choose from the following topics:
   a) An essay explaining your current work. It may include, but is not limited to the following: description; self-reflection; influences; and/or possible or anticipated evolution in the coming semester.
   b) An essay on an artist, designer or movement of significant influence to you. Discuss the magnitude, extent and specific aspects that continue to drive your work and your thinking.

Essays will be evaluated on the following:
   a) expression, strength & articulation of your idea(s)
   b) essay’s readability & grammatical correctness

**C. Portfolio instructions:** (This is your digital portfolio which will be uploaded to the web)

**FIRST:** Shoot your work. A list of photo students who may be hired to do this is in the photo lab. OR Do it yourself. It is a digital portfolio.

*Images must be high quality JPEGs*

**SECOND: Creating a blog on Blogger.com**
1. Go to blogger.com and create a login or use your universal log in such as gmail or yahoo.
2. It will take you to your dashboard where you can edit your profile. Please upload an image of yourself here and finish filling out the required profile info. Then go back to dashboard.
3. Under the Manage Blogs Section click on "Create a Blog" located at the right of the screen.
4. It will take you to a screen where you enter a blog title and **URL address** *(This address is a link which you send to Jeremy).* Please name your blog using your name and BFA at the end. (example: title - Jessy Smith BFA, **URL:** jessysmithBFA.blogspot.com) You will not be sending actual files to Jeremy.
5. Choose a starter template. If you do not design your own, we would like you to choose the "Simple" template design.
6. Once you hit continue a few times, it will take you to your first post.

**This first Post will contain your essay.**

Jessy Smith  
Visual Communications Emphasis  
- (Create a few spaces in between then begin your essay OR Cut and paste from a word document)

7. To download an image Go to COMPOSE and add images.

**Download them as separate posts.**

**Title** each post (at top): FOR EXAMPLE: 1 Jessy Smith BFA: Title, 2 Jessy Smith BFA: Title, etc.
8. Each additional post will contain a single entry with important information at bottom of page where it says **label:** Title, medium, etc. as requested in the Identification Document (C. 9. below). Please follow the online instructions and image requirements as listed. You can edit anything either delete, or add captions, etc.
9. Add an **Identification Document**
   Number of item (1, 2, etc.)
   Last Name
   Title
   Medium
   Size
   project description & class (if class assignment) or identify as self directed date completed.
10. **Make sure you finally post your blog.**
11. When you have completed your blog you **must** send the URL link to Jeremy Stott: Jstott@weber.edu and Cynthia Kurien ckurien@weber.edu

**After application:**

Results can be picked up within one week following Visual Arts & Design faculty portfolio reviews and discussions.
BFA APPLICATION FORM
(Must be accompanied by a current unofficial transcript)

Name ________________________________________ W# _____________________________
Address ________________________________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State _______ Zip __________ Phone_________________
Email __________________________________________________________________________

- - - - - - Studio area to which you’re applying:
  ___ Two Dimensional        ___ Photography        ___ Art Education
  ___ Three Dimensional       ___ Graphic Design

- - - - - - If accepted, contact Cynthia Kurien for an appointment to finalize your BFA contract.
- - - - - - If not accepted, contact the department chair for specific faculty feedback and/or your faculty advisors to discuss concerns and improvements prior to the next application.

- - - - - - Fall 2016 DEADLINE: Thursday, October 6, 2016 - - - - - -
PORTFOLIO PREPARATION
_____ Gather possible portfolio items for discussion.
   Contact and schedule appointments with faculty members for portfolio consultations.

_____ Having chosen portfolio work, photograph work.

APPLICATION & FORMS PREPARATION
_____ Check and confirm calendar deadlines of all application materials and portfolio dates.

_____ Review “Tips for applying to the BFA program” (Tips enclosed).

_____ Complete Application Form (email to Cynthia)

_____ Unofficial Transcripts. (Download from web) by deadlines (email to Cynthia)

_____ BLOGGER.COM PORTFOLIO (SEE DIRECTIONS ABOVE) (EMAIL URL TO JEREMY STOTT AND CYNTHIA URIEN)

_____ Identification Document: a Numbered list of portfolio art works. (part of Blogger.com)
   Example as follows: 1 Makov, Cat, woodcut, 16 x 20”, self directed, 2010
   Number of item (1, 2, etc.)
   Last Name
   Title
   Medium
   Size
   Project description & class (if class assignment) or identify as self directed
   Date completed.

_____ Essay (part of Blogger.com)

RESULTS OF APPLICATION
Following review and discussion of application and portfolios by faculty, written results will be mailed to the candidate at home address. Application feedback is available for candidates.

When accepted into the program, contact the administration in the main office for appointment to finalize your BFA contract.

It is recommended to those not accepted in this application round to consult the department chair for specific feedback for improvements prior to your next BFA application.
Tips for applying to the BFA program

There are specific criteria required in your BFA application that are explained in this packet, but there are other tangible and intangible steps you can take to increase your likelihood of acceptance. Below are some suggestions for each emphasis area and also general suggestions for all applicants.

Photography Emphasis:

- In addition to the 5 foundation class requirements, it is recommended that you also complete the following photography courses:
  ART 2250 (Foundations of Photography: Black and White / Analog)
  ART 2450 (Foundations of Photography: Color / Digital)
  ART 3150 (Photography Seminar)

- These classes will not only strengthen your portfolio but it will also give you a chance to work with the Professors who will be reviewing your BFA application. If they already know you they can more accurately gauge your readiness to move into the BFA program and successfully engage in advanced coursework. (See “General Information” section on the back of this handout for more details on this)

Graphic Design Emphasis:

- In addition to the 5 foundation class requirements, it is recommended that you also complete the following visual communications classes:
  ART 3430 (Typography and Publication Design)
  ART 3435 (Experimental Typography)
  ART 3440 (Graphic Design)

- These classes will not only strengthen your portfolio but it will also give you a chance to work with the Professors who will be reviewing your BFA application. If they already know you they can more accurately gauge your readiness to move into the BFA program and successfully engage in advanced coursework. (See “General Information” section on the back of this handout for more details on this)

2D Emphasis:

- In addition to the 5 foundation class requirements, it is recommended that you also complete 2-3 classes related to 2D media. Classes that would fall into this category are:
  ART 2600 (Painting 1)
  ART 2200 (Introduction to Printmaking)
  ART 3600 (Painting 2)
  ART 3200 (Intermediate Printmaking)
  ART 3120 (Figure Drawing)
  ART 3460 (Illustration)

- These classes will not only strengthen your portfolio but it will also give you a chance to work with the Professors who will be reviewing your BFA application. If they already know you they can more accurately gauge your readiness to move into the BFA program and successfully engage in advanced coursework. (See “General Information” section on the back of this handout for more details on this)

3D Emphasis:

- In addition to the 5 foundation class requirements, it is recommended that you also complete 2-3 classes related to 3D media. Classes that would fall into this category are:
ART 2310 (Introduction to Ceramics)  
ART 2700 (Introduction to Sculpture)  
ART 3310 (Intermediate Handbuilt Ceramics)  
ART 3320 (Intermediate Wheelthrown Ceramics)  
ART 3700 (Sculpture II)  

- These classes will not only strengthen your portfolio but it will also give you a chance to work with the Professors who will be reviewing your BFA application. If they already know you they can more accurately gauge your readiness to move into the BFA program and successfully engage in advanced coursework. (See “General Information” section at the bottom of this handout for more details on this)

Art Education Emphasis

- In addition to the 5 foundation class requirements, it is recommended that you also **complete 2-3 intermediate or advanced studio courses that will enhance your individual portfolio of studio work.** Refer to course catalog and class offerings each semester for options.

- These classes will not only strengthen your portfolio but it will also give you a chance to work with the professors who will be reviewing your BFA application. If they already know you they can more accurately gauge your readiness to move into the BFA program and successfully engage in advanced coursework. (See “General Information” section at the bottom of this handout for more details on this)

- It is also recommended that you complete either (or both) ARTH 3040 (Modern Art) or ARTH 3050 (Contemporary Art) earlier rather than later on in your BFA program of study. It is especially important that you complete one or both of these BEFORE you take ART 3515 and ART 3520 (Art Methods and Resources for Secondary Teachers I & II)

General Information

- Your **class performance** prior to your BFA application is important. You want to use this as an opportunity to demonstrate that you are an **engaged, reliable and hardworking** student who is continually seeking new information and expanding your knowledge and skill set.

- Related to your class performance, it is also important to demonstrate that you are **teachable** and open to new learning. If you are consistently dismissive of feedback and suggestions, you won’t grow in the BFA program or as an artist.

- **Technical skills** are considered when your portfolio is reviewed. It is important that your portfolio demonstrate understanding and proficiency in regards to the technical processes and materials you employ.

- The **formal** qualities of your portfolio are taken into consideration when it is reviewed. Principles of composition and design, aesthetics and use of color are all skills that you should have learned in the foundation classes that you took early on as an art student. Your portfolio should demonstrate strong formal characteristics.

- You should also be able to write about the **conceptual** ideas that drive your work and that are investigated through your work.