The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art (BFASA) at the University of Illinois offers students unprecedented flexibility in determining their own courses and topics of study, engaging in a diverse, innovative curriculum. In response to a rapidly changing world in which artists and designers are constantly presented with new tools, platforms, topics, strategies and venues for exhibition, publication, performance and other types of cultural work, the BFASA prepares students for the workplaces of the future. The BFASA is designed to equip graduates with the skills necessary to not only create artwork, but to communicate, think critically and creatively, and gain experience in a broad range of topics that will prepare them as innovative artists and as global citizens. Students will navigate a dynamic curriculum that is responsive to current trends in art, culture and creativity. It encourages new, interdisciplinary initiatives and fosters collaboration and research at the undergraduate level within the context of a premier research university. Students must select one required concentration. Students are not permitted to declare more than one concentration.

The BFASA at Illinois begins with basic material and technological tools and concepts in a variety of studio courses. Students are guided in the understanding of visual organization and communication in two, three, and four dimensions by utilizing both new and traditional technologies and strategies. Foundation courses introduce basic material and conceptual approaches to making art, using media from traditional disciplines including drawing and painting, printmaking, clay, plastic, wood and metal, to code, digital imaging, interactive media, and time-based applications.

At the intermediate and advanced levels, curriculum offerings are designed to reflect an increasingly dynamic culture, and to provide students with experiences and skills that will enhance their adaptability. A changing menu of courses on a variety of topics is taught by a faculty with expertise in a wide variety of conceptual, material and technical strategies for making art.

BFASA students are provided individual studio spaces, where they develop a self-directed practice, housed in a communal studio building. The studio configuration provides the stage for a strong, vibrant community of student-artists working together as they establish their interests and participate in exhibitions, performances, and critiques.

The capstone experience is the BFASA Thesis course, in which students develop an individually determined body of work based on their entire educational experience. A portfolio and written thesis paper will demonstrate their conceptual, technical and expressive abilities.

Our graduates will enter professional lives as artists at a time when the boundaries between art and other fields are vanishing. Creative individuals with broad and versatile material, technical and intellectual skills will be in demand within expanding diverse practices that comprise contemporary art and society.

Students in the School of Art and Design must complete the Campus General Education requirements (https://courses.illinois.edu/gened/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/). Some Art and Design courses will also apply toward the General Education requirements (https://courses.illinois.edu/gened/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/).

A portfolio review is required for admission to the School of Art and Design.

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Students must fulfill their Language Other Than English requirement by successfully completing a third level of a language other than English. For more information, see the corresponding section on the Degree and General Education Requirements page (http://catalog.illinois.edu/general-information/degree-general-education-requirements/).

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Total Hours 122

for the degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art Major in Studio Art

1. Students will understand and be able to apply basic principles of visual and material communication, including two-dimensional pictorial concepts, three-dimensional formal and spatial concepts, and a wide variety of media and formats for artistic production, and possess the ability to apply them to a specific aesthetic intent.

2. Students will demonstrate an ability and willingness to experiment and explore the expressive possibilities of various media, and artistic and creative strategies for self-directed art-making, and investigate the diverse activities and conceptual modes available to the contemporary artist, including work that directly addresses or engages with recent developments in the field of fine art as well as broader social questions and challenges. Students are trained in the production and critique of artworks that explore forms and technologies identified as new or emerging.

3. Students will gain knowledge of, understand, and be able to apply concepts of visual rhetoric in the development of content, and be able to recognize and critically analyze an evolving variety of communicative practices in art and visual culture, including those that represent diverse cultures and sociopolitical positions, and to demonstrate openness to new social possibilities and a critical empathy towards both audiences and culture producers of differing histories, origins and identities.

4. Students will develop an innovative, imaginative, and entrepreneurial self-directed studio practice, will gain a deep understanding of their own creativity, be able to apply it in any context, and will learn to independently generate thematic investigation and implementation of research in a broad variety of social locations, including art and educational institutions, activist forums, and cyberspace.

5. Students will be willing and able to investigate and accommodate broad-ranging types of knowledge and artistic strategies for the purpose of synthesizing diverse and even disparate ideas in order to create sophisticated, unique works of art, participate in new types of collaboration, and to make innovative statements and hypotheses, or propose creative solutions to social, organizational and societal problems using aesthetic strategies.

6. While pursuing a BFASA, students prepare for work as artists at a time when artists are employed in a variety of spheres: artistic direction, project management, education, research, fine art, curation, performance, non-profit work, activism, advertising, and many others. As digital medias evolve, our graduates will be flexible, able to understand the best use of emerging technologies while crafting new economic and social connections.

7. Students will produce an integrated, cohesive, critically informed body of work for a thesis exhibition, supported by a written thesis document that serves to position their artistic practice within the
broader sphere of contemporary art practices, exhibition strategies, audiences, and economies.

In addition, each concentration has discipline specific learning outcomes:

**Painting Concentration:**
1. Students concentrating in Painting attain a functional knowledge of the traditions, conventions, and evolutions of the discipline as related to issues of representation, illusion, and meaning.
2. Students concentrating in Painting understand and utilize the diverse conceptual modes available to the painter. This may deal with direct observational painting strategies or with alternative approaches to the making of traditional or innovative two- and, at times, three-dimensional images.

**Printmaking Concentration:**
1. Knowledge and skills in the use of basic tools, techniques, and processes sufficient to work from concept to finished product. This includes knowledge of basic materials and technical procedures such as intaglio, relief, lithography, silkscreen, and digital processes.
2. Mastery of at least one printmaking technique, including the ability both to experiment with technical innovation and to explore and develop personal concepts and imagery.
3. Students concentration in Printmaking will attain a functional knowledge of the history of printmaking.

**New Media Concentration:**
1. Students concentrating in New Media are trained in the production and critique of artworks that explore forms and technologies identified as new or emerging.
2. Students concentrating in New Media create work for the new disciplinary mechanisms that have arisen to evaluate and promote artwork in digital media, but also for traditional institutional mechanisms of art distribution and art critique. As in Contemporary Art, work in New Media may take the form of performance, sound and radio broadcast, gallery exhibition, curation, public art, cinema and video, a networked event, publication, or even scientific research.
3. Students concentrating in New Media are able to analyze and synthesize relevant aspects of human interaction in various contexts (physical, cognitive, cultural, social, political, and economic) and with respect to technologically-mediated communication, objects, and environments. Junior and Senior years see students working with critics/professors across the School to develop a portfolio of works in time-based, interactive, physical, networked or performative media. In the process of generating a body of work around a subject and form of their choice, students receive instruction in technical execution, formal composition, and theoretical framing.

**Sculpture Concentration:**
1. Students concentrating in Sculpture have knowledge and skills in the use of basic tools, techniques, and processes to work from concept to finished product, leading to preparation of three-dimensional objects and installations using the broadest possible range of techniques and concepts.
2. Students concentrating in Sculpture will demonstrate mastery in one or more sculptural media, processes and presentational strategies.

**General Studio Concentration:** (note that we will be revising this concentration name to Interdisciplinary Studio for spring 2024 implementation.)
1. BFASA students in the General Studio concentration will have the ability to conceive, design, and create works in one or more specific fine arts disciplines.
2. Students in the General Studio concentration will have an understanding of the similarities, differences, and relationships among the various fine arts areas.
3. Students in the General Studio concentration will have experiences that encourage familiarity with a broad variety of work in various specializations and media, including broad exposure to works of art.
4. Students in the General Studio concentration will have opportunities to develop an area of emphasis in at least one fine arts area, process, or medium.

**Photography:**
1. Students in the photography concentration will acquire a critical understanding of and an ability to employ photography’s unique narrative structure.
2. Students in the photography concentration will have an appreciation of the historical and social influences of the medium and the ability to evaluate their own work as well that of others via this construct.
3. Students in the photography concentration will develop a cohesive body of work demonstrating technical competency and conceptual awareness of photography’s varied histories and applications.

**Fashion:**
1. Students in the fashion concentration will have fluency in their own personal apparel design process, including a strong working knowledge of the various modes of research, ideation, and design sketching.
2. Students in the fashion concentration will be able to effectively communicate their design philosophy and personal aesthetic visually; through portfolio quality two dimensional representations of developed fashion collections and verbally; through presentations, critique response and in a post academic professional fashion industry context.
3. Students in the fashion concentration will be able to communicate their design philosophy within the context of the history of fashion and the theoretical underpinnings that drive fashion and contemporary culture.
4. Students in the fashion concentration will demonstrate skills appropriate for designing and researching within the fashion industry.
5. Students in the fashion concentration will understand the various aspects of fashion industry, from design and production through manufacturing, promotion and sales.
6. Students in the fashion concentration will be able to demonstrate construction and pattern making skills. They will have a knowledge of materiality, fibers and textiles in relationship to apparel production.
7. Students in the fashion concentration will be prepared for professional careers by developing technical competency, creative/
independent problem solving and conceptual understanding necessary for the challenges of a career in the creative industries.

for the degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art Major in Studio Art

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**School of Art & Design**  
School of Art & Design (https://art.illinois.edu/)  
Art & Design faculty (https://art.illinois.edu/about/faculty-directory/)  
Academic Coordinator of Undergraduate Academic Affairs: Michael Foellmer  
143 Art and Design Building, Champaign, IL 61820  
(217) 244-8462  
Academic Coordinator of Undergraduate Academic Affairs email (foellme1@illinois.edu)

**College of Fine & Applied Arts**  
Fine & Applied Arts (https://faa.illinois.edu)

**Admissions**  
University of Illinois Undergrad Admissions (https://admissions.illinois.edu/myillini-apply/)  
FAA Undergraduate Advising (https://faa.illinois.edu/student-resources/current-students/academic-affairs-office/undergraduate-advisors/)  
Undergrad Admissions email (admissions@illinois.edu)

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*Information listed in this catalog is current as of 06/2024*