



Department of Art

Application Information

MA/MFA Graduate Program

Studio Arts Option / Design Option

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Fall Quarter

Second Friday in April

Winter Quarter

Second Friday in October

Spring Quarter

Second Friday in January

Applications are not accepted for the summer quarter.

Admission to the graduate program is a three-step application process:

- 1) Application to the university seeking status as a Conditionally-Classified graduate student.
- 2) Submission of a Portfolio and other application materials to the Department of Art.
- 3) An In-Person Interview is scheduled if the Portfolio is approved by the Option Faculty Committee.

Applicants must be admitted to the university as a Conditionally-Classified graduate student and be approved by the Faculty Option Committee before admission is granted to the Department of Art graduate program.

ADMISSION TO THE MA / MFA PROGRAM

Applicants are admitted to the Department of Art MA or MFA program on the basis of:

- Portfolio that demonstrates a highly considered and integrated approach that is reflected in a body of visual work that is at an advanced level in a specific discipline.
- Portfolio work that clearly demonstrates technical competence and a professional presentation.
- An indication that the applicant has the ability to be self-motivated and self-directed.
- A direction of study that is appropriate to the Option Graduate Program, and is compatible with current faculty expertise.
- In-Person Interview.
- BA or BFA degree in Art or Design.
The Faculty Committee has the option of requiring a minimum 36-unit Qualifying Course program for applicants who do not have a BA/BFA in Art. Courses on the Qualifying Course program must be completed before admission to the graduate program is granted and may not be included on the MA/MFA degree program. Each course on the Qualifying Course program must be completed with a grade of B or better (no B-).
- 3.0 GPA (in last 90-units).
The Faculty Committee has the option of requiring a minimum 12-unit Qualifying Course program for applicants who do not have a 3.0 GPA (in the last 90 units). Courses on the Qualifying Course program must be completed before admission to the graduate program is granted and may not be included on the MA/MFA degree program. Each course on the Qualifying Course program must be completed with a grade of B or better (no B-).

PLEASE NOTE — Admission to the Department of Art does not indicate admission to the university. Also, admission to the university as a Conditionally-Classified graduate student DOES NOT guarantee admission to the Department of Art graduate program.

DEGREE DESCRIPTIONS

MA DEGREE

45 UNITS (APPROXIMATELY 2 YEARS)

The **MA degree** provides students with the opportunity for advanced study and practice in a specific discipline in the Studio Arts Option or the Design Option. The degree provides an opportunity for artistic growth and to gain stronger educational and experiential skills for a potential professional career in fine arts or design. It may also be an interim step to pursue further graduate work in the field. It is considered to be a general degree, and is well suited for individuals that are seeking an advanced degree for teaching purposes at the community college level.

MFA DEGREE

90 UNITS (APPROXIMATELY 3 YEARS)

The **MFA degree** is a highly selective, rigorous program for students who have already achieved a strong direction and focus in their work and a high level of technical proficiency in a specific discipline in the Studio Arts Option or Design Option. The program's goal is to develop students into professional artists capable of producing high quality work for public exhibition and presentation, or professional designers well-positioned to be leaders in their industry. MFA graduates are qualified to teach at the university level, and are prepared to take their place within the visual arts or design communities and to make a significant contribution to their fields.

Application Information MA/MFA Graduate Program
Studio Arts Option / Design Option

**PORTFOLIO AND
APPLICATION MATERIALS**

Application materials must be delivered or mailed to the Department of Art Office prior to the application deadline.

Applications which are late or incomplete will not be considered.

Application must include the following:

- 1) Graduate Screening Form (available in the Department of Art office).
- 2) 10-15 images of recent work in a specific area of Studio Arts (Ceramics, New Genres, Painting, Photography, Sculpture) or Design (Computer Animation, Graphic Design, Illustration).

The submitted images are to reflect the applicant's most successful efforts in the intended area of study, and should clearly demonstrate original thought and creative abilities, as well as a high level of technical proficiency.

Images may be on slides (loaded into a Kodak carousel) or on a CD (readable on a Mac).

A printed list of the images must be included that indicates title of work, medium, dimensions, and date made.

- 3) A one-page printed statement describing the applicant's creative ideas and goals, and motivation for seeking an MA or MFA graduate degree at CSULA.
- 4) Two letters of recommendation from professionals in the field who have direct experience with the applicant's work through an academic or mentor relationship, and who can attest to their creative abilities and their potential for graduate study.
- 5) Copy of BA or BFA transcripts (not required for BA graduates at CSULA).

IN-PERSON INTERVIEW

The in-person interview is conducted by the Option Faculty Committee, which meets with each applicant for 15-20 minutes. The applicant will be asked a series of questions regarding creative ideas, goals, and specific needs and expectations for graduate study. There is also an opportunity for the applicant to ask questions about the program.

GUIDELINES FOR THE IN-PERSON INTERVIEW

The applicant will receive advance notification of the date of the In-Person Interview, the appointment time, and room location.

On the day of the interview, applicants are expected to arrive early and be prepared for the interview.

Design Option applicants are required to display a portfolio of recent work in the intended area of study.

If the applicant cannot attend the interview, please notify the office immediately (323) 343-4010.

CONTACT

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<http://www.calstatela.edu/dept/art>