MFA / Visual Art

Graduate Candidate's Handbook 2021-2022

Department of Art
College of the Arts and Communication
William Paterson University

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2021-2022

Catalogue of Curriculum and Course Offerings

Master of Fine Arts, Visual Art

Department of Art
College of the Arts and Communication
William Paterson University

Art

Degree: M.F.A., Art, College of the Arts and
Communication, Department of Art

Graduate Program Director: Steve Rittler, Ben Shahn Center room 140, 973-720-3284, rittlers@wpunj.edu

MFA Program Office, Power Art Center, Room 123, gradart@wpunj.edu

The master of fine arts (M.F.A.) degree is designed as the professional degree for the fine artist, designer, and media artist. It is the mission of the program to provide the M.F.A. candidate with a rigorous environment in which to focus on professional goals and artistic excellence. An important aspect of this environment is the creation of a community of peers and mentors all pursuing the enhancement of imagination through the creation and interpretation of meaningful work. Faculty members have a substantial professional and educational background and are dedicated to the most rigorous standards of artistic endeavor.

The M.F.A. is offered as a three-year, full-time degree program, or as a five-year, part-time degree program for the working professional. Students choose from course offerings that include computer art and animation, painting, printmaking, sculpture and digital sculpture, ceramics, photography, graphic media, and furniture design. Fully equipped studios in all areas provide the resources necessary for the actualization of a wide range of two-dimensional, three-dimensional, and time based work.

The University's proximity to New York City gives ready access to the concentration of working art professionals, the availability of world-class museums, the proliferation of private galleries, and the accessibility of major libraries and collections. Visits to artists' studios, guest lecturers, and possible internships complement the program of study.

Admission to the Degree Program

The requirements for admission are:

- A Bachelor's degree, a Bachelor of Fine Art, or a Bachelor of Art Studio degree from an accredited college or university. In certain cases where an applicant has a number of years of professional art activity, the committee, based on the qualitative evaluation of the work and the sponsorship of a faculty member, can grant admission.
- A minimum of at least 6 credits in Art History is required. Those applicants who do not have such experience may be required to take undergraduate courses in Art History before formally beginning the graduate degree.
- A cumulative minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale. A completed application to the University through the Office of Graduate Admissions.

In addition to the University Office of Graduate Admissions submission requirements, applicants **must also** submit the following information directly to the MFA Graduate Program Director through a Dropbox link to gradart@wpunj.edu.

- A portfolio submitted by each applicant, which demonstrates a level of artistic achievement that implies a developed ability for advanced study in visual art. The portfolio should consist of a digital folder of twenty jpeg images. Images must be accompanied by a separate hardcopy list designating title of piece, date, medium, and size (when appropriate).
- Along with the portfolio, all applicants must submit a 500-word Artist's Statement. In the statement, the applicant must

discuss aesthetic interests, cite historical and contemporary influences on the work, and indicate career goals.

- Applicants also must include, with the portfolio and Artist's Statement, (a) a resume documenting the chronology of all educational and work experience including art experience, teaching experience, grants, honors, awards, exhibitions, and publications. (b) Art Department Information Form. (c) Copies of at least two letters of recommendation
- No GRE, MAT, or GMAT testing is required.
- Application deadline for Admission is **April 15th**. Application deadline for Early Admission is **February 15th** (applicants interested in applying for a Graduate Assistantship must apply by this time).

Requirements for the Degree

1. Completion of a minimum of 60 credits is required of all candidates for graduation, while maintaining a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
2. In addition to the completion of the M.F.A. course requirements of 60 credits, each candidate must create and present a thesis project, which is a body of work created specifically for this thesis under the supervision of a thesis advisor and is not a summary of earlier work. The thesis project is accompanied by a written corollary document. The choice of medium, the balance of written and creative work, and the manner of presentation must have the prior approval of the graduate review committee. The graduate review committee bases the final awarding of the M.F.A. degree on the evaluation and acceptance of the final thesis project, the written corollary, the thesis presentation, and the required documentation of the project. The art department reserves the right to hold student works for the purpose of exhibitions for up to two years.

Non-degree Graduate Students

All graduate students who wish to apply as non-matriculated students are required to submit a portfolio, resume, and a statement of intent to the graduate art program director for review and acceptance by the program director and representatives of the art department faculty. These requirements are in addition to the application materials as outlined for admission to the graduate school. Non-matriculated graduate students may not register for graduate courses without written permission from the graduate art program director. The review for acceptance as a non-matriculated graduate student does not replace the full review process, which grants acceptance into the M.F.A. program as a matriculated graduate student. Acceptance as a non-matriculated graduate student does not guarantee acceptance as a matriculated graduate student.

The Structure of the Program

The MFA in Visual Art curriculum is comprised of nine required core courses: two semesters of *Graduate Interdisciplinary Forum*, two semesters of *Studio Practice and Critique*, three semesters of *Art History* and *Contemporary* studies (two required, one elective), and culminates with two semesters of the capstone *Graduate Thesis I and II*. At the heart of the program are the 33 credits of studio electives which are made up of media-specific studio courses, independent studies, and internships that provide study in and development of expertise in specific media.

Three-Year Curriculum

Semester I .... **9 credits**
Graduate Interdisciplinary Forum 3

Studio electives...6

Semester II* .... 9 credits

Studio electives...3

Studio Practice & Critique Seminar I………..…………….……...3

Art History requirement 3

*Upon completion of the first year of course requirements, candidates must pass a review of creative work by a graduate review committee. Candidates whose work does not meet the standards of the committee may be required to do more studio coursework before being permitted to register for the thesis project phase.

Summer Session .... 3 credits

Studio elective..3

Semester III .... 9 credits

Graduate Interdisciplinary Forum 3

Studio elective..3

Art History or studio elective...3

Semester IV* .... 9 credits

Studio electives...3

Studio Practice & Critique Seminar II………..……………….…......3

Art History requirement 3

*Upon completion of the second year of course requirements, candidates must pass a review of creative work by a graduate review committee. Candidates whose work does not meet the standards of the committee may be required to do more studio coursework before being permitted to register for the thesis project phase.

Summer Session .... 3 credits

Studio elective..3

Candidates must choose faculty members for their thesis review committee during enrollment in Thesis I and present a thesis project proposal to that committee by the end of the first semester of graduate thesis.

Semester V .... 9 credits

Graduate Thesis Seminar I……………………………………………….3

Studio electives...3

Art History or studio elective...3

**After completion of the first semester of the thesis, candidates must submit their thesis proposal and the plan for presentation to their thesis review committee for approval. Candidates whose work does not meet the standards of the committee may be required to do more studio coursework before being permitted to proceed with the thesis project phase.

Semester VI .... 9 credits

Studio elective..3

Graduate Thesis Seminar II 3

Art History or studio elective...3

Total minimum credits to complete the program .... 60 credits

Final clearance for graduation by the Graduate Program Director cannot be submitted to the registrar until the final thesis project and the written corollary are complete and approved by the candidate's thesis committee and the written corollary and image disk have been submitted. Candidates whose thesis work does not meet the standards of their committee may be required to enroll in additional courses to work on the thesis project development over an extended period to allow deeper development of the project. Candidates may elect to

extend the time for pursuing project development by enrolling in additional coursework beyond the 60 credit degree requirement. Candidates are expected to complete all program requirements in five years.

Three year curriculum, required and elective courses

Interdisciplinary Forums…………(required)…………………**6 credits**

ARTS 5900   Tracking the Artist's Way *

ARTS 6900   The Nature of Imagination and Creativity *

Studio Practice & Critique Seminars (required) .... **3 credits**

ARTS 5010   Studio Practice & Critique Seminar I*

ARTS 6010   Studio Practice & Critique Seminar II*

Art History & Contemporary Studies……..minimum required….9 credits

ARTH 5110   Graduate Seminar in Modern and Contemporary Art*

ARTH 5120   Graduate Seminar in Art Criticism and Theory*

ARTH 5310   Art in New York

ARTH 5420   The Art of Comics

ARTH 5580   History of Photography

ARTH 5990   Selected Topics

ARTH 7000   Independent Study

*required courses

Elective Studio .... **33 credits**

ARTS 5100   Sculpture

ARTS 5120   Sculpture and Digital Media I

ARTS 5200   Painting

ARTS 5230   Chinese Ink Painting

ARTS 5300   Printmaking

ARTS 5310   Printmaking – Lithography

ARTS 5320   Printmaking – Screen printing

ARTS 5330   Printmaking – New Media Etching

ARTS 5400   Ceramics

ARTS 5500   Design Methodology

ARTS 5520   Typographic Exploration

ARTS 5600   Fibers: Textile Design

ARTS 5700   Photography

ARTS 5730   Projects in Photography

ARTS 5740   Photography as a Tool for The Artist

ARTS 5750   Projects in Digital Photography

ARTS 5820   Projects in 2D Digital Art

ARTS 5830   Projects in Web Design

ARTS 5850   Introduction to 3-D Computer Modeling

ARTS 5860   Projects in Composing, Editing, and Motion Graphics

ARTS 5870   Projects in Storyboarding and Design

ARTS 5880   Cell Animation Projects

ARTS 5890   Projects in Drawing for Animators

ARTS 5950   Internship

ARTS 5990   Selected Topics (1-3 credits)

ARTS 6100   Advanced Projects: Sculpture

ARTS 6110   Sculpture Studio

ARTS 6120   Sculpture and Digital Media II

ARTS 6200   Advanced Projects: Painting

ARTS 6210   Painting Studio

ARTS 6300   Advanced Projects: Printmaking

ARTS 6310   Printmaking Studio

ARTS 6400   Advanced Projects: Ceramics

ARTS 6410   Ceramics Studio

ARTS 6700   Advanced Project: Photography

ARTS 6740   Alternative Photo Methods

ARTS 6830   Interactive Online Media Projects

ARTS 6840   Interactive Multimedia Project

ARTS 6850   Introduction to 3-D Computer Animation

ARTS 6860   Character Animation Projects

ARTS 6870   Advanced Character Animation Projects

ARTS 6880   Advanced Cell Animation Projects

ARTS 6890   Projects in Media Arts

ARTS 7000   Independent Study (1-6 credits)

ARTS 7100   Thesis In Progress (to complete thesis project if unfinished after Graduate Thesis)

Thesis.. 6 credits

ARTS 6980, 6990 Graduate Thesis (3 credits each)

Required and Elective Interdisciplinary Core Courses

Unless otherwise noted, all courses are 3 credits.

INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE FORUM

The interdisciplinary graduate forum program is mandatory for all M.F.A. candidates. The interdisciplinary forum embraces all disciplines and serves as a model for integrating the creative aspects of art making and their contribution to the creation of a meaningful culture. All disciplines participate in a weekly lecture/discussion. Each semester of the forum is based on a specific topic and is repeated on a rotating basis. ARTS 5900 and ARTS 6900 are required during the first two years of the program.

ARTS 5900*   Interdisciplinary Graduate Forum:
Tracking the Artist's Way (required)

Lectures, discussions, readings, and assignments are intended to strengthen the development of a methodology for evolving one's personal creative process. This is a study of noteworthy historical examples of tracking one's artistic life through notebooks, journals, and sketchbooks. Journal/sketchbook work with the intent of learning, stimulate creative energy, and uncover clues toward the development of a personal style.

ARTS 6900*   Interdisciplinary Graduate Forum:
The Nature of Imagination and Creativity (required)

Study the visual creative process with the intent of enlivening and deepening one's connection with art. Read about creativity by practitioners. Investigate the nature of the mind's eye and the mythical language of the creative imagination.

Explore the aspects of visualization such as daydreams, memories, dreams, and visions and their relationship to making visual art. Includes lectures, discussions, readings, exercises, assignments, and journal/sketchbook work.

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIO PRACTICE AND CRITIQUE SEMINAR

ARTS 5010*   Interdisciplinary Studio Practice & Critique Seminar I (required)
Studio Critique Seminar is a weekly interdisciplinary studio critique course, which clusters related disciplines allowing the weekly presentation and discussion of media specific work with similar aesthetic problems. Coursework involves presentation of ongoing work with discussions on issues of personal aesthetics, process and technique, and development of a personal way of working. These two courses are required of all MFA students in their first year in the program...
3 credits

ARTS 6010*   Interdisciplinary Studio Practice & Critique Seminar II (required)
Studio Critique Seminar is a weekly interdisciplinary studio critique course, which clusters related disciplines allowing the weekly presentation and discussion of media specific work with similar aesthetic problems. Coursework involves presentation of ongoing work with discussions on issues of personal aesthetics, process and technique, and development of a personal way of working. These two courses are required of all MFA students in their first year in the program...
3 credits

GRADUATE THESIS

ARTS 6980*, 6990* Graduate Thesis I and II (required)
(pre-requisites: ARTS 5900, ARTS 6900, ARTS 5010, ARTS 6010, ARTH 5110, ARTH 5120, minimum 42 credits or director's permission)
The thesis consists of independent research in a visual arts project. It is to include selections of project, structuring, research, execution, written corollary, and final exhibition. Faculty advisor must approve proposal the semester prior to registration.
3 credits each; two semesters required for graduation.

ELECTIVE AND REQUIRED COURSES IN ART HISTORY AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

ARTH 5110*   Graduate Seminar in Modern and Contemporary Art (required)
This graduate seminar—Part II—in modern and contemporary art focuses on World War II and its traumatic aftermath. There is a rigorous examination of the French surrealist influence on American Abstract Expressionism in New York. The role of the political from the Great Depression forward is scrutinized, as well as the Mexican muralists and their influence. Movements in art since 1960 are also investigated: Pop, Minimalism, Neo-expressionism, Graffiti, Trans-avant-garde, etc. The impact of contemporary feminism and ecological movements is considered. The major goal of the class is to map out honestly the contradictory and bewildering maze of contemporary art movements with attention to the theme of pluralism.

ARTH 5120*   Graduate Seminar in Art Criticism and Theory (required)
This course is a seminar in the fundamental problems and theories of modern and contemporary art. The student reads basic texts by artists and examines major philosophical and aesthetic statements from Dewey to Schapiro, Rosalind Krauss, and Susan Sontag. The emphasis is on style, the nature of critique, and the ideas of our epoch. Poet-critics such as O'Hara

and Ashbery are scrutinized in the light of their precursors from Baudelaire to Breton and Apollinaire.

ARTH 5310   Art in New York

This is a graduate-level scrutiny of the galleries and museum spaces in the metropolitan area. The student discovers how the curatorial and other decisions behind exhibitions and ensembles are considered. The artist-student also learns how to conduct practical and theoretical debate and critique in front of the aesthetic objects themselves. The course focuses on the idea and problem of the masterpiece in our time and the issues of collection and exhibition.

ARTH 5420   The Art of Comics

This course examines the history, meanings, and aesthetics of comics – particularly the comic book and graphic novel - by exploring the many connections between this so-called "low art" medium and popular culture, political and social history, and the history of art. Major movements and individuals from the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries will be covered.

ARTH 5580 History of Photography

A study of photography, beginning with the camera obscura to the present day.   Investigations of the aesthetic, social, and technical ingredients contributing to its development. Contributions of important photographers and inventors from Europe and America are analyzed and discussed. This course will provide an overview of photography as a fine art and medium of communication. Starting as a tool for documentation to its use by artists, photography has provided us with an unprecedented device for "seeing" the world. The aim of this course is not encyclopedic knowledge but a critical understanding of photography, its evolution, key innovators and artist's, all within the context of the Modern experience, as photography is truly a "modern" medium.

ARTH 5990   Selected Topics

A topic not covered by an existing course is offered as recommended by the department and approved by the dean.
Prerequisite: Permission of the chairperson

ARTH 7000   Independent Study

Conduct independent research study in art history proposed by the student under a specific faculty member. The topic is to be approved by the supervising faculty member and, also, the graduate program director, the department chair and the dean.
1-6 credits

ELECTIVE COURSES IN STUDIO ARTS

ARTS 5100   Sculpture

Graduate-level sculpture studio. Problems in the execution and the aesthetics of sculpture are approached on both a group and on an individual basis.
Prerequisite: None

ARTS 5110   Sculpture and Digital Media I

Sculpture is a kind of physical philosophy. It becomes particularly interesting when it loses all of its physical attributes and becomes virtual. Digital media is a utopian representational system. We will study the ways that computers deal with form

making and apply it to the development of sculptural concepts via software. This is a preparatory course for Sculpture and Digital Media and introduces students to the various software philosophies for modeling for sculpture.
Prerequisite: permission of the instructor

ARTS 5200   Painting
Laboratory experience is supplemented with discussion of contemporary painting concepts and the analysis of visual structure and materials. Major emphasis is on a student-determined work program in selected painting media and problems. Specific painting assignments depend upon individual needs.
Prerequisite: Previous study in painting

ARTS 5230   Chinese Ink Painting
Emphasizes the creative aspect of Chinese art. This course applies Chinese artistic theories in artistic practice; it is not a Chinese art history course. Particular emphasis is placed on painting materials and techniques, as well as learning how to appreciate Chinese painting and its characteristics. This course enables students to view a unique Asian culture from a new perspective and to absorb elements from a different cultural tradition into their own artistic articulation and elaboration.

ARTS 5300   Printmaking
Studies intaglio printmaking techniques using etching, hard and soft grounds and aquatint. Emphasis is on black-and-white hand printing and experimentation in methods of color printing. Woodcut and nonferrous plates for color printing are also employed.
Prerequisite: Previous study in printmaking

ARTS 5310   Printmaking—Lithography
An in-depth study of aluminum plate lithography printing techniques. Introduction to color, photo, and digital processes. Emphasis is placed on the use of this technology as a tool to extend the personal development of the student's own work. Problems are more individualized. Outside assignments required.
Prerequisite: Previous study in printmaking, repeatable once.

ARTS 5320   Printmaking— Screen printing
An exploration at the graduate level, of screen printing techniques and multiple color printing, along with approaches to the printing, handling and signing of editions. The student will learn the basic technical procedures through a series of specific problem solving assignments. Overall emphasis is on personal growth through individual image – making and group interaction. Outside projects required.
Prerequisite: Previous work in printmaking, repeatable once.

ARTS 5330   Printmaking—New Media Etching
This course is a study of new techniques of photo intaglio such as ImagOn film etching and Solar plate etching as a tool for the personal expression of ideas. Combining images from other media such as digital imaging, drawing, painting, photography, and sculpture are encouraged. Outside assignments required.
Prerequisite: Previous experience in printmaking, repeatable once.

ARTS 5400   Ceramics

In this graduate-level ceramics studio, ceramic forming and fabricating techniques, as well as glaze formulation, are included. Outside work required.

Prerequisite: Previous study of ceramics

ARTS 5500   Design Methodology

A comprehensive exploration of the graphic design discipline through theory and innovation. Combining multiple artistic disciplines, students will analyze and author solutions for potential large-scale print, interactive, and multimedia experiences. Emphasis will be placed on student concepts, design exploration, research and theoretical development. Student's own design aesthetic will be realized in a final project which will require intense analysis in relationship to both method and form. Repeatable once.

ARTS 5520   Typographic Exploration

A comprehensive overview using type as a form of visual and personal interpretation. Students will investigate typography in both traditional and experimental communication, as well as historical and current trends in design.   Students will also analyze and create typographic solutions for interactive and multimedia experiences. Emphasis will be placed on student concepts, design exploration, research and innovation. Students will gain a greater understanding of typographic principals and will continue to develop a personal and professional design aesthetic. Repeatable once.

ARTS 5600   Fibers: Textile Design

Design and execution of art fabrics are considered primarily for their aesthetic qualities. Each fabric is developed as a one-of-a-kind art object. All media and techniques appropriate to the design are employed.

ARTS 5700 – Photography

This course provides a foundation for basic technical proficiency in digital photography capture and output, providing students with a comfort level using a DSLR camera and computer for digital applications to the image with Adobe Camera RAW, Bridge and entry level Photoshop. Students will be introduced to digital photography in its myriad of applications, to facilitate student use of photography in all aspects of their art and design life. Photography topics will range from portfolio documentation, presentation, web applications and creative expression.

ARTS 5730   Projects in Photography

Advanced graduate projects in photography. Primarily a critique course, the goal of this class is to formulate and create a body of work that explores a personal vision and develops a personal work method through the commitment of a long-term project.

Prerequisite: Previous experience in photography, repeatable once..

ARTS 5740   Photography as a Tool for the Artist

Introduces photography as a way of making images for documentation of art and capturing images for use in other media. Includes introduction to basic camera use, exposure measurement, lighting and techniques for preparing the slide or print portfolio. This course includes instruction on using commercial photographic imaging service bureaus and does not include instruction in film and print processing. Students are introduced to both digital and emulsion technology.

ARTS 5750 – Advanced Digital Imaging & Lighting Techniques

 Mastering and refining technical skills in digital applications and lighting techniques in the studio and   taking this knowledge on location to further a creative concept to produce a portfolio. As the course progresses, students will be

provided with the analytical skills in choosing when the application of more complex digital editing tools are necessary. Assignments will focus on the crossover between commercial and fine art photography as applied to varied aspects of studio and location photography. Repeateable once.

ARTS 5820   Projects in 2D Digital Art

Advanced aspects of paint, drawing, and photo digital systems are studied. Electronic painting, compositing, collaging, and typographic techniques are explored in depth. Complex methods and new functionalities of software are applied to projects relevant to the student's evolving work. Each student is expected to seriously investigate one or more area of digital art's role in the art or media design arenas, while simultaneously developing a body of work conveying a personal aesthetic. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor or the department chair, repeatable twice.

ARTS 5830   Projects in Web Design

Explore design on the Web through the creation of interesting, intelligent, usable, and well-designed Web sites. Students enhance their dexterity in HTML and their understanding of the history of the Internet and the aesthetics of Web design through the use of user-friendly features and navigation techniques. Work with several graphic, animation, sound and Web programs.
Prerequisite: None.

ARTS 5850   Introduction to 3-D Computer Modeling

An introduction to 3-D computer software and hardware systems. The fundamental knowledge obtained in this course expands upon the students' understanding of modeling in its application to art and design. Students will learn to make art using the 3-D modeling systems: applications to other art media will be explored.

ARTS 5860   Projects in Composing, Editing, and Motion Graphics

This course covers advanced projects in editing, compositing, and motion graphics. Student are exposed to, and master, the concepts and techniques of nonlinear editing, compositing of layers of computer generated imagery and live action video, and design of titling and motion graphics. Emphasis is placed upon skill, craft, and development of visual and heuristic comprehension.
Prerequisite: ARTS 5810, repeatable once.

ARTS 5870   Projects in Storyboarding and Design

Projects in design techniques and narrative storytelling used by animators and filmmakers to create and execute animated films on a professional level. Brainstorming, script writing, production design, storyboarding and animatics fill the balance of assignments, reinforced by classroom critique, lectures on cinematic technique, film history, and film and animation screenings in class.
Prerequisite: None.

ARTS 5880   Cell Animation Projects

Projects involve the concepts and techniques used in the art of traditional cell animation. Study the in-depth and practical use of methods to extend drawing into kinetic motion with an emphasis on the development of an understanding of physics, kinetics, as well as cause and effect in the context of animated film. Develop the ability to communicate psychological and emotive characterization through drawing and animation.
Prerequisite: None.

ARTS 5890   Projects in Drawing for Animators

Advanced study of human anatomy and drawing the figure in action. This course will expand upon the creation and development of character and the expression of movement and the dynamic posing of a live model in the drawing studio.

Prerequisite: None.

ARTS 5950   Internship

As approved and to be arranged

ARTS 5990   Selected Topics

A topic not covered by an existing course is offered as recommended by the department and approved by the dean.

Prerequisite: Permission of the department chair 1-6 credits

ARTS 6100   Advanced Projects: Sculpture

Advanced sculpture projects and further development enhances this individual approach to sculptural media.

Prerequisite: ARTS 5100

ARTS 6110   Sculpture Studio

This course is intended to be a summation of the students' studies in sculpture. Projects should be of an independent nature and synthesize techniques and visual judgment in a cogent body of work.

Prerequisite: ARTS 6100

ARTS 6120   Sculpture and Digital Media II

This course extends the use of digital media in the creation of sculpture. It builds on existing software skill sets by teaching to the use of CNC milling hardware and software, and 3D Scanning for design and milling. It draws upon multiple aspects of contemporary sculptural

practice including installation, performance, video, and object building. Conceptual issues in contemporary practice is also addressed.

Prerequisite: permission of the instructor

ARTS 6200   Advanced Projects: Painting

This is a means of clarifying an artist's objective in pictorial form through advanced painting technique. A student-determined program of work is essential. Discusses and critiques current ideas relevant to the student's aesthetic interests.

Prerequisite: ARTS 5200

ARTS 6210   Painting Studio

Independent projects in painting that emphasize the synthesis of aesthetics and technique and the production of a cohesive body of work.

Prerequisite: ARTS 6200

ARTS 6300   Advanced Projects: Printmaking

Advanced printmaking projects that emphasize the development of a personal aesthetic and advancing printmaking.

Prerequisite: ARTS 5300

ARTS 6310   Printmaking Studio
Independent projects in printmaking that emphasize the synthesis of technique and the production of a cohesive body of work.
Prerequisite: ARTS 5300

ARTS 6400   Advanced Projects: Ceramics
Examines advanced individual ceramics problems. Outside work is required.
Prerequisite: ARTS 5400

ARTS 6410   Ceramics Studio
This course involves independent studio work. Projects done by candidate should lead to the final thesis exhibition. Work should synthesize philosophical, technical, and creative aspects of the student.
Prerequisite: ARTS 6400

ARTS 6700   Advanced Project: Photography
A classroom experience involving a sharing of individual explorations of photography as an art form. Emphasis is on development of the student's special interest area and the development of one's personal vision through photography.
Prerequisite: Instructor's permission

ARTS 6740   Alternatives Photo Methods
An interdisciplinary graduate seminar about using photography, its methods, materials, and processes to make art in forms other than the framed print on the gallery wall. The course surveys alternative methods of presentation including the page, the book, the projection or computer screen, photo-sculpture, installation, and environmental work. Students explore the techniques of direct manipulation of the image before, during or after photographing, and the use of photographically derived images combined with other media.

ARTS 6830   Interactive Online Media Projects
Projects explore the aesthetics and techniques of creating interactive content for the Web. Students create animations and interactive experiences such as games, stories, personal portfolios, presentations, Web toys, etc., using Web and multimedia authoring tools. Emphasis is on navigation techniques, user-friendly features, interface design, basic programming, creativity, and the history and future of the Internet and multimedia.
Prerequisite: None, repeatable once.

ARTS 6840   Interactive Multimedia Project
Projects explore the aesthetics and techniques of creating interactive content for output to DVD. Student can create DVD'S, multi-user environments, Web games, interactive video, virtual environments, as well as projected art installations using multimedia authoring tools. Emphasis is on navigation, user-friendly features, interface design, basic programming, creativity, and both the history and future of multimedia.
Prerequisite: None, repeatable once.

ARTS 6850   Introduction to 3-D Computer Animation
This course covers advanced projects in 3-D computer graphics modeling and object animation. Recent technological advances and mathematical principles involved in modeling are covered. Emphasis is placed upon skill and development of

visual comprehension.

Prerequisite: Previous study in 2-D and 3-D modeling

ARTS 6860   Character Animation Projects

Through the creation of projects in character animation, the course explores the fundamental principles, concepts, and processes used to develop character and create computer animated sequences. Skills and knowledge gained in Advanced 3D Computer Graphics are applied to the animation processes. Class work includes the production of several short computer animated pieces that are output to videotape.

Prerequisite: ARTS 5800

ARTS 6870   Advanced Character Animation Projects

Continue an advanced exploration of character animation through the creation of advanced animation projects. Focus on character driven computer animated sequences, combined with pre- and post-production techniques, applied to planning and execution of advanced animated pieces.

Prerequisite: ARTS 6860, repeatable twice.

ARTS 6880   Advanced Cell Animation Projects

Develop an advanced understanding of the concepts and techniques used in the art of traditional cell animation. Study in-depth, practical uses of various methods, such as kinetic motion and physics with an emphasis on the development of the ability of the articulation and communication of a character's personality, motivation, and psychological expression.

Prerequisite: ARTS 5880, repeatable once.

ARTS 6890   Projects in Media Arts

An advanced course environment enables students to pursue advanced concepts in media arts in conjunction with producing their thesis, or to facilitate advanced research into artistic and technical endeavors not addressed as a normal part of the curriculum.

ARTS 7000   Independent Study and Tutorials

Student proposes an independent studio project, tutorial, or research study with a specific faculty member. Approved by the supervising faculty member, the graduate program director, the department chair, and the dean.

1-6 credits

ARTS 7100   Thesis in Progress (course not yet approved)**

This is a required continuation course in a sequence that facilitates completion of the Master of Fine Arts Thesis Project beyond the 60 credits required for the MFA/Art degree. Students who have completed the 60 credits of required coursework but have not completed their Thesis Exhibition by the end of Graduate Thesis II must enroll in this course continuously each semester, including summer session, until they have successfully exhibited and defended their thesis project and completed their written thesis corollary document. It is expected that in this phase students will work primarily with their graduate thesis committee. 1 credit per semester, maximum 2 semesters

MFA Advisement Basics

The Graduate Program Director is the gatekeeper for graduate enrollment.
Each student must have a waiver from the Graduate Director for any course they wish to take, before they can register online.
Graduate program advisement is by appointment with the Graduate Program Director.

Dates for Registration
- **Fall/Summer registration** opens in early April. It is best to **complete Fall/Summer advisement in late March.**

- **Spring semester registration** opens in early November. **It is best to complete Spring advisement in late October**.

to optimize course availability, it is best to get advisement and obtain course waivers early.
Early advisement *may allow a graduate section that you need or want to be added to the schedule.*

- All required Graduate Forum and Graduate Seminar courses can be taken <u>one time only</u> for credit, and are graduate student only courses.
- All Graduate Studio courses are ganged with undergraduate courses. All graduate studio courses are repeatable once, which means that they can be taken 2 times for 6 credits. If a course is mistakenly taken a third time, the credit <u>cannot </u>count toward the degree.
  ARTS 1000-4000 and ARTH 1000-4000 course numbers are for <u>undergraduate credit only</u>.
  ARTS 5000-7000 and ARTH 5000-7000 course numbers are for <u>graduate credit</u>.

First year students are provided with important writable pdf documents that pertain to their enrollment records: <u>The MFA Curriculum Control Form</u> and a <u>Long-term Planning Form</u>.

- Students should create a folder on their computer that holds these advisement forms for future use.

The Graduate Assistant that works in the Graduate Program office can provide those documents, but each student is expected to take responsibility for their own record keeping.
Academic transcripts can be easily accessed online through WP Connect.

Alternate PIN: the alternate PIN for graduate students is your birthdate expressed in 6 digits: mm/dd/yy
MFA Curriculum Control Form

• The <u>MFA Curriculum Control Form</u> provided to you corresponds to the Fall/year that you entered the MFA Program. Copies of the MFA Curriculum Control Form are inserted at the end of this handbook.

• There are periodic changes in the 60 credit curriculum requirements because the curriculum is adjusted or tweaked over time.

• Be sure that you are using an <u>MFA Curriculum Control Form</u> that corresponds to the Fall/year that *you* entered the program. There will be a header on the document that designates the Fall Semester pertaining to that control sheet.

↓

MFA Graduate Control Sheet 5/2018, entering Fall 2018 and afte

MASTER OF FINE ARTS GRADUATE CURRICULUM CONTROL & PLANNING SHEET   DATE_____

Name: _____ ID#: _____Full time _____
Address: _____Part time _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____
Intended field of specialization_____

	Semester	Completed
INTERDISCIPLINARY FORUMS (6 credits)		
(required courses, Fall/first year and Fall/second year)		
ARTS 5900 Tracking the Artist's Way (F18, F20, F22, F24, F26)	_____	_____
ARTS 6900 The Nature of Imagination and Creativity (F19, F21, F23, F25, F27)	_____	_____
STUDIO CRITIQUE SEMINARS (6 credits)		
(required, all students, Spring semester, year 1 and year 2)		
ARTS 5010 Studio Practice and Critique Seminar I	_____	_____
ARTS 6010 Studio Practice and Critique Seminar II	_____	_____
ART HISTORY (9 credits) (ARTH 5110, 5120 are Pre-requisites for Graduate Thesis)		
(required, all students, Spring semester, year 1 and year 2)		
ARTH 5110 Graduate Seminar, Modern & Contemporary Art (SP19, SP21, SP23)	_____	_____
ARTH 5120 Graduate Seminar Art Criticism & Theory (SP 20, SP 22, SP 24, SP26)	_____	_____
ARTH_____ _____(elective)	_____	_____
STUDIO ELECTIVES (33 credits)		
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
GRADUATE THESIS (6 credits)		
(Pre-requisites, ARTS 5900, ARTS 6900, ARTS 5010, ARTS 6010, ARTH 5110, ARTH 5120-minimum 48 credits)		
ARTS 6980 _____	_____	_____
ARTS 6990 _____	_____	_____
OTHER COURSEWORK:		
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Candidate Signature_____Date_____

Graduate Director Signature_____Date_____

• At the end of the semester students should regularly use the check box on the form to track the courses completed and fill in the courses they have actually registered for in the next semester.

Long-term Planning Forms

This MFA program is a 3-year full-time or 5-year part-time program.

There are 3-years and 5-year planning forms. Each of the long-term planning forms are pre-printed with required courses in place.

- Most <u>required courses</u> are offered in alternate years, and in specific semesters. Therefore, it is very important that you follow the curriculum expectations.

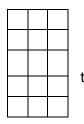*Some exceptions can be made through the advisement process by the Graduate Program Director.*

3-year Full Time Long-term Planning Form
9 credits/semester = 18 credits/year x 3 years = 54 credits
To finish in 3 years students need to take 6 extra credits either in the summer or take 3 courses in two different semesters.
(note that there are limited course offerings in the summer).

Internships
Students can do a 3 credit Internship with a professional artist (including our own faculty) or a professionally relevant organization.

Independent Study is available on a <u>very limited</u> basis. An Independent Study requires the approval of the Associate Dean and cannot replicate an existing course. Independent studies are only granted to students when there are not other options for a timely degree completion.

5-year Part Time Long-term Planning Form
6 credits/semester = 12credits/year = 60 credits
In order to maintain sufficient immersion and intensity in art making, part-time
Exceptions can be made when there are temporary personal issues that require attention.

Keep Records
Students should pencil in rough long-term plans on the accompanying 3-year or 5-year planning form and discuss it with the Graduate Program Director at advisement.

Planning forms can be obtained in writable PDF form from the Graduate Program Office.

MFA REPEATABLE COURSES

The following courses are repeatable one time, for a total of 6 credits
check your transcripts, you cannot receive more than 6 credits for any of these courses

ARTS 5100 – SCULPTURE – Repeatable
ARTS 5110 – SCULPTURE/DIGITAL MEDIA I – Repeatable
ARTS 5200 – PAINTING – Repeatable
ARTS 5230 – CHINESE INK PAINTING – Repeatable
ARTS 5300 – PRINTMAKING-INTAGLIO – Repeatable
ARTS 5310 – PRINTMAKING-LITHOGRAPHY – Repeatable
ARTS 5320 – PRINTMAKING-SCREENPRINTING – Repeatable
ARTS 5330 – PRINTMAKING-NEW MEDIA ETCHING – Repeatable
ARTS 5400 – CERAMICS – Repeatable
ARTS 5600 – FIBERS TEXTILE DESIGN – Repeatable
ARTS 5700 – PHOTOGRAPHY – Repeatable
ARTS 5730 – PROJECTS IN PHOTOGRAPHY – Repeatable
ARTS 5740 – PHOTOGRAPHY AS TOOL FOR ARTIST – Repeatable
ARTS 5750 – PROJECTS IN DIGITAL PHOTO – Repeatable
ARTS 5820 – PROJECTS IN 2D DIGITAL ARTS - Repeatable
ARTS 5830 – PROJECTS IN WEB DESIGN - Repeatable
ARTS 5850 – INTRODUCTION TO 3-D COMPUTER MODELING – Repeatable
ARTS 5860 – COMPOSITING, EDIT, MOTION – Repeatable
ARTS 5870 – STORYBOARDING & PRODUCT CTN DESIGN – Repeatable
ARTS 5880 – CELL ANIMATION PROJECTS – Repeatable
ARTS 5890 – PROJECTS DRAWING FOR ANIMATORS – Repeatable
ARTS 5950 – INTERNSHIP – Repeatable
ARTS 5990 – SELECTED TOPICS – Repeatable
ARTS 6100 – ADV PROJECTS SCULPTURE – Repeatable
ARTS 6110 – SCULPTURE STUDIO – Repeatable
ARTS 6120 – SCULPTURE & DIGITAL MEDIA II – Repeatable
ARTS 6200 – ADV PROJECTS PAINTING – Repeatable
ARTS 6210 – PAINTING STUDIO – Repeatable
ARTS 6300 – ADV PROJECTS PRINTMAKING – Repeatable
ARTS 6310 – PRINTMAKING STUDIO – Repeatable
ARTS 6400 – ADV PROJECTS CERAMICS – Repeatable
ARTS 6410 – CERAMICS STUDIO – Repeatable
ARTS 6600 – FIBERS TEXTILE STUDIO – Repeatable
ARTS 6620 – ADV TEXTILE STUDIO – Repeatable
ARTS 6700 – ADV PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHY – Repeatable
ARTS 6740 – ALTERNATIVE PHOTO METHODS – Repeatable
ARTS 6830 – INTERACTIVE ONLINE MEDIA PROJECT – Repeatable
ARTS 6840 – INTERACTIVE MULTIMEDIA DVD – Repeatable
ARTS 6850 – INTRO TO 3-D COMPUTER ANIMATION – Repeatable
ARTS 6860 – CHARACTER ANIMATION PROJECTS – Repeatable
ARTS 6870 – ADV CHAR ANIM PROJECTS – Repeatable
ARTS 6880 – ADV CELL ANIMATION PROJECT – Repeatable
ARTS 6890 – PROJECTS IN MEDIA ARTS – Repeatable
ARTS 7000 – INDEPENDENT STUDY – Repeatable
ARTS 7100 - THESIS IN PROGRESS – Repeatable 2x

Graduate Students in Undergraduate Classes/ Guidelines

Due to the size of the MFA program, many of our graduate studio classes are clustered with undergraduate classes.

It is expected, when a graduate student is not an absolute beginner in the medium covered by a class, that the graduate student should be treated by the professor as an independent worker, giving guidance on a project, the parameters of which are negotiated between the professor and the graduate student. The graduate student is expected to be fairly independent, meeting with the professor during the class only as the professor determines is necessary. The graduate student is expected to present at least one presentation or demonstration related to the course content each semester and to show their work in progress to the undergraduate class. In effect it is akin to mentor/student relationship. It can be interesting to all involved, if the graduate student participates in some major class critiques.

In the case where a graduate student is an absolute beginner, then the graduate student is expected to do the same course work as the undergraduates, but at a more advanced level than the undergraduates, with extra requirements to be determined by the instructor. These can include lectures, written papers, or extra projects. In some cases, where the graduate student has an eccentric use of the course media in question, there have been agreements between the teacher and the student that allows the graduate student to pursue a project involving the basic media processes of the course without the necessity of mastering the particular techniques or assignments addressed in the course.

It is expected that, in the beginning of the semester, the instructor and the student discuss and outline the general parameters of meetings and assignments as a negotiated agreement. The graduate student should then submit a written proposal describing their semester's investigation.

Professors should give graduate students a graded assessment at regular intervals during the semester.

Graduate Portfolio Production Reviews
Annual or semi-annual review of MFA Candidates
Each year the Department of Art Graduate Committee reviews work of all graduate students who have fewer than 50 credits or are not actively involved in the Graduate Thesis Project with their official Faculty Thesis Project Committee.

The parameters and frequency of this review process will be determined each semester by the Department of Art Graduate Committee.

MFA THESIS PROPOSAL AND EXHIBITION GUIDELINES

1.   REGISTER FOR THESIS I: Get Advisement waiver from the Graduate Director for the required Thesis course. Register for ARTS 6980 Thesis I. In this course, candidates develop, under the supervision of the Thesis I professor and with input from peers, a viable and conceptually supported Visual Thesis Project Proposal. Students will not be permitted to register for ARTS 6980 if they have not completed the following pre-requisites: ARTS 5900, ARTS 6900, ARTS 5010, ARTS 6010, ARTH 5110, ARTH 5120

2. THESIS PROJECT PROPOSAL _The Visual Thesis Project is a cohesive body of work created specifically for thesis and is not a summary of earlier work._

Forming the Individual Faculty Thesis Committee and Thesis Project Proposal Approval: Upon completion of Graduate Thesis I, candidates will have completed a Thesis Project Proposal. The Visual Thesis Project is supervised by an individual Faculty Thesis Committee. Students must obtain a signed agreement from the three Department of Art faculty who agree to serve on the Individual Faculty Thesis Committee. It is best that Masters of Fine Arts candidates arrange for at least one meeting with the members of the Individual Faculty Thesis Committee for a review of a draft outline for the idea for the Thesis Project before completion of the formal Thesis Project Proposal. The committee should have input at this juncture because they can help give direction to the proposed project. From the beginning it is important to know that the committee is supportive and in agreement with the Project Proposal.

Make up of the Individual Faculty Thesis Committee: The thesis committee must be made up of three faculty from the Department of Art and one member of the committee must be an art historian (two studio and one art history faculty). There must always be at least one full time faculty member on the committee. There must be a faculty member, preferably full time, who has expertise in the student's concentration. The membership of each Faculty Thesis Committee must be approved by the Department of Art Graduate Committee. The thesis committee must be presented to the Graduate Committee by the third week September of the candidate's thesis year at the latest (for subsequent dates and deadlines, see **4. Thesis Project Reviews** below).
The Visual Thesis Project will be accompanied by a written corollary document. The choice of medium, the balance of written and creative work, and the manner of presentation must have the prior approval by your Faculty Thesis Committee. The Individual Faculty Thesis Committee will base the final awarding of the MFA Degree on the evaluation and acceptance of the final thesis project, the thesis presentation, the thesis defense, the written corollary, and the required documentation of the project.

3.   THESIS PROJECT PROPOSAL PRESENTATION
For the Thesis Proposal Presentation, the candidate is required to produce <u>five </u>copies of a bound document. One bound copy of the thesis proposal goes on file in the Graduate Fine Arts office, three for your committee, and one copy for yourself. The following is a checklist of required information to be included in both the paper document and the digital document.
  - Written document declaring the thesis proposal that includes concept and vision
  - Media to be used and scale of the project
  - Special equipment requirements
  - Timeline
  - Type of place/space needed for the thesis exhibition and final review to be held
  - An up to date resume of accomplishments, awards, and exhibitions, etc.
  - Visual samples of current work and written statement about that work
  - Preparatory notes and citation of initial research towards the thesis project
  - Related bibliography

Review Forms should be filed and signed by the committee and submitted to the student who scans them and submits them to gradart@wpunj.edu

4. THESIS PROJECT REVIEWS (work in progress)
All graduate students who are in the thesis process or the thesis in progress process are required to meet with their Individual Faculty Committee for a progress review (1-) at the beginning of the fall semester, by September 30. (2-) at the beginning of the spring semester by January 30.   (3-) before the end of spring semester.
As soon as you know your expected graduation date, apply for graduation to the Registrar.
Review Forms for each meeting should be filed and signed by the committee and submitted to the student who scans them and submits them to gradart@wpunj.edu

Thesis in Progress: *Thesis students who elect to complete the Thesis Project Exhibition after completing 60 credits must register each successive semester for the one credit pass/fail course **ARTS 7100 Thesis in Progress** to keep their matriculation active. This course may only be taken two times. Example: completing 60 credit program requirements in the spring and arranging the Thesis Exhibition in the fall will require registration for ARTS 7100 in the summer and the fall.*

5. EXHIBITION ARRANGEMENTS: (arrange a semester in advance)
After your thesis proposal has been approved and signed by your committee and submitted to the Graduate Program Director, schedule a time slot for Thesis Exhibition in Power Art Center or other space that is approved by your committee. Arrange for postcards for the exhibition using department format and if you want to hold a reception, submit info and schedule it with the Art Department Office, Bernard Suchit and the MFA Graduate office.

6. THESIS EXHIBITION PREVIEW: Before the actual installation of the Thesis Exhibition, the committee must preview the work to be shown and pre-approve your editing and ideas for your presentation before the end of your semester of proposed graduation.
Review Forms for each meeting should be filed and signed by the committee and submitted to the student who scans them and submits them to gradart@wpunj.edu . Depending on your thesis exhibitions' available gallery dates, your Exhibition Preview may also coincide with your Thesis Defense (see below).

7. FINAL THESIS REVIEW- THE THESIS DEFENSE: Along with your exhibition being installed or presented, the final step in the process of completing your MFA is the Final Thesis Review, referred to as the Thesis Defense. By this time the committee will have reviewed your final written corollary to make any suggestions for changes.

8. **THE STRUCTURE OF THE THESIS DOCUMENT**
Title page
Signature approval sheet
Abstract (derived from the original thesis proposal)
Table of contents
List of illustrations
The body of writing should be approximately 20-25 pages
- Introduction (thesis statement)
- Influences and context (life experiences that informed your aesthetic understanding, formal visual education, historical and contemporary influences)
- The body of work (Beginnings, Development, Conclusion)
Illustrations (interspersed throughout the text or placed at the end of the text)
Endnotes
Bibliography
(See MFA Written Thesis Document Structure in Appendix)

To be cleared for graduation, you must submit, to the MFA Graduate office, <u>two</u> simply bound copies of your approved written corollary. Include *an official signed signature page inserted immediately after the cover page. Inside the back cover. You must upload of your paper and a folder of jpegs or a digital video of your visual art (300dpi, 10" max dimension) to the Visual Resources database.* *<u>Thesis Approval Signature Page</u> must be signed by the committee.* If your committee members would like to have a copy of the thesis you must provide them a bound copy. *--contact gradart@wpunj.edu for a file that includes the letterhead*

General deadlines for submission of final Thesis Written Corollary:
Unless otherwise specified by your thesis committee or the Graduate Committee of the Department of Art, Final paper due dates are as follows:
For May Graduation: First Draft of paper due on November 15, Second Draft due on February 15 and final paper due on April 15
For August Graduation: First Draft of paper due on December 1, Second Draft due on April 15, final paper due July 15
For January Graduation: First Draft of paper due on March 25, Second Draft due on October 1 and final paper due on December 1

MFA Written Thesis Document Structure

Title (1 page- use the template attached below)
(1) The title of your research paper
(2) Your name and William Paterson University, Department of Art, Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts
(3) Your Thesis Writing Instructor/Committee
(4) Month and Year of Graduation

Abstract (75-150 words, 1/3 page on a separate page) or Thesis Proposal
An abstract is a summary of your research paper. It is advised that you re-edit your abstract after you have concluded and analyzed the entire scope of your research. A good abstract draws in the reader. It is the "selling tool" to get your audience engaged in your research paper. Start your abstract with a strong sentence that clearly describes your point of view, research conducted, its content, and significance to your field of interest. The abstract should end with what conclusions and results you came up with in your research.

Table of Contents

List of Illustrations

Introduction or Thesis Statement (100-200 words, 1/2-3/4 of a page)
Describe the topic of your research, its scope, and what your personal views are. This means raising the key issues of your subject, and the relevance your research has to the field of art. The introduction is there for you to set the stage for the reader. This section needs to be accessible, an overview of what you will address in the larger scheme of the writing. View the introduction as the means of keeping your thoughts organized. Each sentence in the introduction will be expanded in the main body of the paper in the order that you address them. It is recommended that you write a rough introduction at first and fine-tune this section after the historical, theoretical and cultural context section is completed.

Main Body: Work, History, Theory, Artists, etc. (1,000-4,000 words, 8-12 pages, not to exceed 15)

This is where you define the body of your work; its beginnings, development, Influences and context (life experiences that informed your aesthetic understanding, formal visual education, historical and contemporary influences) and the conclusions or results of your project, along with its supporting research, documentation and illustrations. In order to make your research paper unique, you must go beyond the existing body of knowledge. The way to do this is through research. The research paper supports the ideas behind your creative approach with historical and theoretical references that interest and inspire you. You need to learn about and describe the creative and theoretical work that other people have done before you. Realize that history, theory, and culture are all connected. Theory and culture do not exist without the history that prompted their existence. The theory you are seeking to address is a product of the culture and historical moment that produces it.
When you write this section you need to imagine yourself as a participant in a conversation that has existed before you and will exist after you. Therefore, you need to successfully situate your ideas within it. To do this you need to know where you stand historically: where do you fit in the timeline of your discipline. You need to know the theory that informs your discipline and who/where it comes from and where it is going; and you need to understand the cultural context that produces the work you are interested in. Nothing in art exists in a vacuum, especially computer art. While the artists who fascinate you may not be followers of, say, new media theory, someone has influenced them and your task is to find out who or what that influence is/was. However, it doesn't end there. Once you have established who influenced the artists who influence you, you must then attempt to understand how the work has evolved from that.

Here are some suggested questions you could ask yourself when preparing this section:
What is the general background and reason for my research?
What projects, films, art movements, animations, theories, and cultural events support my point of view?
Who are other (3-5) artists, writers, animators, etc. have done similar work?

Conclusion (100-200 words, 1/2-1 page)

In one paragraph, describe the new knowledge you have gained throughout the course of research as well as how it reflects to your aesthetics.

Endnotes

You are expected to include footnotes throughout your Research Paper to cite a quote or any bibliographic notes. Limit your references to 5-10 citations.

Bibliography (1-2 pages)

List all URLs, books and reference materials, i.e. articles, videotapes, films, audio recordings, and programming code. This bibliography should have at least 15-20 references. Please use the MLA Guidelines. There is a free online bibliography generator, Easybib that uses MLA – http://easybib.com.

NOTE: Including all elements listed herein, from title page to bibliography, the thesis document should be approximately 16-20 pages in length. THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE ILLUSTRATIONS, which should come after the end of the document and be numbered in the same order as the List of Illustrations.

* Please note that your document should be formatted on a "US Letter" (8.5 inches wide by 11 inches tall) page size. Page margins are 1 inch for the top, left, right and bottom margins. The title and section headers should be set in Arial typeface, 14-point bold type on single line spacing. The body of your document should also be set in Arial typeface, 12-point type on 1.5 lines spacing.

Thesis Title Page template

The Title of Your Thesis
Goes Here
(Typestyle of Your Choice)

Your name here

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of
Master of Fine Arts

Department of Art
College of the Arts and Communication
William Paterson University of New Jersey

Thesis Instructor/Thesis Committee

Semester/year

Thesis approval page template

WILLIAM PATERSON
U N I V E R S I T Y

DEPARTMENT OF ART • POWER ART CENTER
300 POMPTON ROAD • WAYNE, NEW JERSEY 07470-2103
973.720.2401 FAX 973.720.3273 • WWW.WPUNJ.EDU

GRADUATE THESIS PROPOSAL APPROVAL

We, the undersigned approve the Thesis Project Proposal of _____ _____
and agree to serve as members of their Individual Faculty Thesis Committee as
they pursue the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Art.   We agree to meet
the candidate for a progress review three times each academic year until they
have fulfilled all the requirements of the degree:
(1-) at the beginning of the fall semester, by September 30
(2-) at the beginning of the spring semester by January 30.
(3-) at the end of spring semester by the by the last day of the semester

_____
(Signature)   (Print Name)   Date

_____
(Signature)   (Print Name)   Date

_____
(Signature)   (Print Name)   Date

The makeup of the Individual Faculty Thesis Committee must be pre-approved by
the Graduate Director and the Department of Art Graduate Committee. The
candidate is now cleared to schedule their thesis exhibition with the Department
of Art Gallery (Exhibition) Coordinator.

Final thesis signature approval page--contact gradart@wpunj.edu for a file that includes the letterhead

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ART • POWER ART CENTER
300 POMPTON ROAD • WAYNE, NEW JERSEY 07470-2103
973.720.2401 FAX 973.720.3273 • WWW.WPUNJ.EDU

GRADUATE ARTS THESIS REVIEW

We, the undersigned, as members of the graduate review committee for

_____ _____ hereby approve the candidate as successfully satisfying the

requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art.

_____

(Faculty Name), (Faculty Rank) of Art (or) of Art History*   Date

_____

(Faculty Name), (Faculty Rank) of Art (or) of Art History*   Date

_____

(Faculty Name), (Faculty Rank) of Art (or) of Art History*   Date

*use official faculty titles, ie, Rank such as:
Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, of Art or of Art History

MASTER OF FINE ARTS GRADUATE CURRICULUM CONTROL & PLANNING SHEET (sample)

Name: _____ ID#: _____Full time _____

Address: _____Part time _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Intended field of specialization_____

INTERDISCIPLINARY FORUMS (6 credits)	Semester	Completed
(required courses, Fall/first year and Fall/second year)		
ARTS 5900 Tracking the Artist's Way (F18, F20, F22, F24, F26)	_____	_____
ARTS 6900 The Nature of Imagination and Creativity (F19, F21, F23, F25, F27)	_____	_____

STUDIO CRITIQUE SEMINARS (6 credits)
(required, all students, Spring semester, year 1 and year 2)

	Semester	Completed
ARTS 5010 Studio Practice and Critique Seminar I	_____	_____
ARTS 6010 Studio Practice and Critique Seminar II	_____	_____

ART HISTORY (9 credits) (ARTH 5110, 5120 are Pre-requisites for Graduate Thesis)
(required, all students, Spring semester, year 1 and year 2)

	Semester	Completed
ARTH 5110 Graduate Seminar, Modern & Contemporary Art (SP19, SP21, SP23)	_____	_____
ARTH 5120 Graduate Seminar Art Criticism & Theory (SP 20, SP 22, SP 24, SP26)	_____	_____
ARTH_____ _____(elective)	_____	_____

STUDIO ELECTIVES (33 credits)

	Semester	Completed
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____
ARTS_____ _____	_____	_____

GRADUATE THESIS (6 credits)
(Pre-requisites, ARTS 5900, ARTS 6900, ARTS 5010, ARTS 6010, ARTH 5110, ARTH 5120-minimum 48 credits)

	Semester	Completed
ARTS 6980 Graduate Thesis I	_____	_____
ARTS 6990 Graduate Thesis II	_____	_____

OTHER COURSEWORK:
ARTS 7100 Thesis in Progress—1st Semester____2nd Semester____

	Semester	Completed
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Candidate Signature_____Date_____

Graduate Director Signature_____Date_____

NAME_____   **MFA/3 year plan (Sample)**

Fall 2018	Spring 2019	Summer 2019
ARTS 5900 Tracking the Artist's Way (F18, F20, F22, F24, F26) XX OR ARTS 6900 Imagination&Creativity (F19, F21, F23, F25, F27) _____ Elective: XX _____ Elective: XX _____	ARTH 5110 Modern & Contemporary Art (Sp19, Sp21, Sp23, Sp25, Sp27) XX OR ARTH 5120 Art Criticism & Theory (Sp20, Sp22, Sp24, Sp26, Sp28) _____ ARTS5010 Studio Practice&Critique XX Elective: XX _____	Elective: _____ _____
Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Summer 2020
ARTS 6900 Imagination & Creativity (F19, F21, F23, F25, F27) XX OR ARTS 5900 Tracking Artist's Way (F18, F20, F22, F24, F26) _____ Elective: XX _____ Elective: XX _____	ARTH 5110 Modern & Contemporary Art (Sp19, Sp21, Sp23, Sp25, Sp27) OR ARTH 5120 Art Criticism & Theory (Sp20, Sp22, Sp24, Sp26, Sp28) XX ARTS6010StudioPractice&Critique XX Elective: XX _____	Elective: _____ _____
Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022
ARTS 6980 Graduate Thesis I XX Elective: _____ Elective: _____	ARTS 6900 Graduate Thesis II XX Elective: _____ Elective: _____	Elective: _____ _____

9 credits per semester in Graduate credits is considered full time. This schedule yields 54 credits. To complete degree requirements of 60 credits students must complete 6 credits in the summer, which has limited offerings, or take 12 credits in two other semesters.

NAME_____   **MFA/5 year plan (Sample)**

Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Summer 2020
ARTS 5900 Tracking the Artist's Way (F18, F20, F22, F24, F26) XX _____ OR ARTS 6900 Imagination & Creativity (F19, F21, F23, F25, F27) _____ Elective:_____ _____ _____	ARTH 5110 Modern & Contemporary Art (Sp19, Sp21, Sp23, Sp25, Sp27) XX _____ OR ARTH 5120 Art Criticism & Theory (Sp20, Sp22, Sp24, Sp26, Sp28) _____ _____ ARTS 5010 Studio Practice and Critique XX _____ _____	_____
Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Summer 2021
ARTS 6900 Imagination & Creativity_____ (F19, F21, F23, F25, F27) XX OR ARTS 5900 Tracking Artist's Way (F18, F20, F22, F24, F26) _____ Elective:_____ _____ _____	ARTH 5110 Modern & Contemporary Art (Sp19, Sp21, Sp23, Sp25, Sp27) OR ARTH 5120 Art Criticism & Theory_____ (Sp20, Sp22, Sp24, Sp26, Sp28) XX _____ ARTS 6010 Studio Practice and Critique XX _____ _____	_____
Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022
Elective:_____ _____ Elective:_____ _____ _____	Elective:_____ _____ Elective:_____ _____ _____	_____
Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023
Elective:_____ _____ Elective:_____ _____	Elective:_____ _____ Elective:_____ _____	
Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2024
ARTS 6980 Graduate Thesis I _____ Elective:_____ _____	ARTS 6900 Graduate Thesis II _____ Elective:_____ _____	

6 credits per semester = 12 credits per year x 5 years = 60 credits Required courses, Forums and Seminars….18 credits
ARTS, 11 Elective studios............................33 credits
ARTH elective…... 3 credits
Graduate Thesis I, II.....................................6 credits
Total credits 60 credits