

ART

Undergraduate Program Information

Within the scope of the university's land-grant mission, the Department of Art capitalizes on its unique geographic location to serve and reflect diverse border communities, support learning that combines innovative and hybrid techniques, critical and cultural theory, contemporary exhibitions, and art historical inquiry. Capitalizing on the specialties and research agendas of our faculty, we provide an environment and a platform for aesthetic and critical engagement through the application of studio, art historical and theoretical methodologies. Our curriculum fosters learning through immersion in experimental, collaborative and cross-disciplinary activity. Students develop their artistic aesthetic and professional growth by engaging with a variety of approaches to their individual research practice. Students research also includes critique and discourse related to the context of both historical and contemporary issues, and the development of new strategies of inquiry into contemporary culture and knowledge. As artists, historians, and conservators, we provide a space for active engagement with varied disciplines in local, national and international communities.

The department offers four undergraduate degrees: a Bachelor of Arts (BA) with a concentration in Studio Art, a BA with a concentration in Art History, a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Studio Art and a BFA in Museum Conservation. Our studio degrees provide students with the opportunity to either specialize or diversify their program of study in the following media areas: graphic design and media arts, ceramics, sculpture, metals and jewelry, photography and lens-based media, painting and drawing and museum conservation. We also support students who are interested in research practices in installation, performance and multi-media.

BA in Art History – This program is designed to give students a broad familiarity with the visual arts through the study of aesthetics, cultural contexts, pictorial traditions, stylistic development and technical practices.

BA in Studio Art – The BA provides a solid background in materials, techniques and idea development across all media areas combined with art historical studies. Students have the opportunity to specialize or generalize in various medias.

BFA in Studio Art – The BFA curriculum provides students with a multidisciplinary understanding of contemporary visual arts. Students who wish to embark on a professional career in art apply to the BFA program through a portfolio process in their sophomore year. Areas of potential specialization include photography and lens-based media, graphic design and media arts, ceramics, drawing, painting, jewelry/metalsmithing, and sculpture. Students may also elect to focus on several areas of specialization for an intermedia concentration. This degree culminates with a BFA thesis exhibition.

BFA in Museum Conservation - the BFA in Museum Conservation is an interdisciplinary degree, combining the studio arts, art history, anthropology, history, chemistry and conservation technologies to yield skills in the conservation of material objects of all types and historical value. NMSU offers one of only a few undergraduate degrees in museum conservation in the country.

The study of art provides an appropriate background for the pursuit of careers in studio art and art history in such areas as: the visual arts; graphic design; conservation; library work; museum work; advertising; architecture and interior design; photography; crafts; cinematography;

education and art therapy; publishing; theatre; set design; television; industry and business; communication; management and research in the creative and academic areas. A major in art also provides students with a broad humanistic background appropriate to preparation for advanced degrees in other fields.

Graduate Program Information

The Department of Art offers a Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art and Master of Arts with an emphasis in Art History. Graduate students focus on an individualized program of study, supported by required coursework and mentorship with the graduate faculty. Students are encouraged to work across disciplines and cultivate their personal research within the broad context of 21st-century art, art history and theory. The department supports work in and across the following areas: ceramics, graphic design, time-based media, lens-based media, jewelry and metalsmithing, painting and drawing, sculpture and museum conservation.