

Art

Studying art can include anything from learning how to paint and take pictures to learning how to design a website or decorate a house. General studies in art may include taking a variety of classes such as photography, sketching, sculpting, woodworking, etc. These classes are usually taken during the undergraduate level. However, as one advances their level of education (e.g. graduate studies), they begin to take classes pertaining to one or two specific areas of study (e.g. computer design or interior decorating). Although most undergraduate programs are designed to study a variety of art programs, if you already have an interest in a specific skill (e.g. sculpting) there are also programs that will focus solely on these areas of study.

Art Institute vs. College or University

For those wanting a program that is designed to preserve and perfect the knowledge of a specific area of art, an independent “Art Institute” may be preferred over a typical university. Art institutions offer programs of study focused primarily on the practice and performance related to the particular concentration of art. A college or university will offer diverse and comprehensive programs in the various concentrations in the field, incorporating a more multidisciplinary approach which will include general education courses.

Undergraduate: Students pursuing an undergraduate program in art may receive a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), or Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Art or in the area of specialized study. The BA degree provides well-rounded academic programs, including general education course requirements in social sciences and humanities, while courses required for a BFA degree may be only within the art department. The Bachelor of Art degree requirements are determined by the institution’s Art Department and may or may not include a multidisciplinary academic approach.

Graduate: Students pursuing a graduate program in art may earn a Master of Arts (MA), Master of Fine Arts (MFA), or a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Art. Degree titles vary by institution and academic program. Graduate students usually choose among a variety of degree concentrations in the field such as painting, sculpting, illustration, paint making, fashion design, interior design, ceramics, glass, textiles, wood, metal, art history, art therapy, media arts, art administration, decorative arts, museum studies, etc.

Occupations in Art:

With a degree in art, consider professional opportunities as a painter, sculptor, illustrator, cartoonist, sketch artist, museum curator, graphic designer, web designer, advertising agent, package designer, design strategist, jewelry designer, glass maker, pottery craftsmen, filmmaker, character designer, 3-D animator, game designer, art therapist, and others.

Choosing an Art Program:

If you are considering continuing your education in this field, you should become familiar with academic trends and current developments. Utilize current literature and consider the existing research of professors in matching your academic and career goals with the right institutions for you. EducationUSA Centers provide advising services and a diverse collection of materials to assist students searching for schools and financial aid program. To find the nearest EducationUSA Advising Center, visit

www.educationusa.info/centers.php.





In addition to researching regionally accredited colleges and universities which offer study in art, prospective students, particularly for graduate-level study, can also identify academic programs with professional accreditation. The professional accrediting organization for the field of art is the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, www.nasad.arts-accredit.org.

Associations and organizations affiliated with the study of art:

- American Arts Alliance, www.americanartsalliance.org/
- Association for Art History, <http://mypage.iu.edu/~aah/>
- Association of Clay and Glass Artists of California, www.acga.net/index.html
- College Arts Association (CAA), www.collegeart.org/
- National Association of Schools of Art and Design, www.nasad.arts-accredit.org

Scholarly Journals related to the study of art: Art Bulletin, Art Design and Communication in Higher Education, Computers and the History of Art, and Journal of Art and Design Education.

Undergraduate Program Search Print and Online Resources:

- College Board, www.collegeboard.com
- Peterson's Performing Arts Major's College Guide and Visual and Performing Arts
- Search for schools with the College Board's online, "College Matchmaker."
- Read about specific majors and careers using the "Major and Career Profiles" search www.collegeboard.com/csearch/majors_careers/profiles/

Graduate Program Search Print and Online Resources

- Peterson's, www.petersons.com
- Peterson's Graduate Program Guide, Book 2; Visual and Performing Arts; Graduate Programs in Arts and Architecture

Find scholarships to study art

- EducationUSA Financial Aid links, www.educationusa.info/pages/students/finance.php
- Funding U.S. Study, www.fundingusstudy.org
- Peterson's Scholarship Directory, www.petersons.com
- The Fulbright Program, <http://fulbright.state.gov/>
- Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program, www.ed.gov/programs/jacobjavits/index.html

If you are interested in pursuing higher education in the U.S. and would like further guidance please contact your local EducationUSA Advising Center