University of Houston – School of Art
MFA Requirements

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Academic Requirements

Students are required to meet the requirements set forth in the Graduate and Professional Studies Catalog, which can be viewed on the University of Houston website: http://www.uh.edu/graduate-catalog/

The major requirements for graduation are:

1. 60 hours of course credit at the graduate level
2. GPA of 3.0 or higher
3. No more than 3 grades of C+ or lower. A student is automatically dropped from the program upon receipt of the Fourth grade lower than a B-. This is known as the "Four C" rule.
4. Committee approval of the Thesis Exhibition and MFA Catalog, passing the Oral Exam, and submission of the MFA Catalog to the School of Art Graduate Office.

The School of Art requires that the 60 hours of credit be divided as follows:

- 18 hours Studio courses in Major Area
- 12 hours Art History or Critical Studies
- 24 hours Related Arts *
- 6 hours Seminar **

* Related Arts: No more than 12 hours may be taken in the major area. Graduate course work outside the School of Art is encouraged. The Area-Coordinator and the Graduate Advisor must approve courses taken outside the School of Art.

** Seminar: Art 6380 required during first semester and Art 6381 required in the FALL semester of the final year

Each student’s Concentration is determined at the time of admission. Each area has established policies and programs for graduate students. Students should consult regularly with their Area-Coordinators to assess their progress in the program.
SPECIFIC CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS (within the 18 hours of required coursework):

*note: the specifics listed below are IN ADDITION to hours needed to satisfy the 18 hour requirement of coursework in the area of concentration. These hours may NOT be satisfied with Independent Study.

PAINTING:

The Graduate Painting Program requires that all first year graduate students take both the Graduate Drawing section (ART6300) and the Graduate Painting section (ART6305) in BOTH the FALL and the SPRING of the First year in conjunction with First Year Graduate Seminar (ART6380). It is strongly recommended that they take no more than 9 hours in the Fall semester.

After the First Year, they are no longer required to enroll in ART6305 Graduate Painting or ART6300 Graduate Drawing. They may take other graduate level drawing and painting courses. (beyond the remaining 6 hours required to satisfy the 18 hours in Concentration distribution)

Painting students MUST take History of Contemporary Painting (ARTH6331) to satisfy one of their Art History requirements.

GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION:

EVERY semester students are required to enroll in Graphic Communication Studio (ART6330). This will total 12 hours of coursework. They are encouraged to also enroll in ART7330 whenever possible.

PHOTO/DIGITAL MEDIA:

Photography Studio (ART6370) is required a minimum of four times as follows: BOTH semesters of the first year, one semester of the second year and the SPRING semester of the third year.

Photography Students are required to take Readings in 20th and 21st Century Photography (ARTH6320) to satisfy one of their Art History requirements.

SCULPTURE:

EVERY semester students are required to enroll in Sculpture Studio (ART6360). This will total 12 hours of coursework.
IPEF (Interdisciplinary Practices in Emerging Forms):

IPEF students are required to take Interdisciplinary Studio (ART6385) a minimum of three times. It is suggested that this be taken once per year.

The Graduate Committee and Graduate Reviews

First Year Students: Faculty from the student’s major area will serve as the review committee. One faculty member from outside their area may be added to the committee.

Initial Reviews: At the end of the fall and spring semesters, each first year student will meet with their committee. During this meeting the committee and the student will discuss the student’s work, progress in the program, and plans for future study.

Attendance at the Graduate Review is mandatory. If there is a conflict with the scheduled time for the review, it may be rescheduled in consultation with the Area-Coordinator and at the convenience of the committee. The student may not cancel the review. The Graduate Office of the School of Art must be notified of any changes in the review schedule.

Second Year Students: In the fall semester of the second year students will assemble a permanent committee. The committee will consist of no less than four faculty members, with a minimum of one from the student’s major area and a minimum of one from outside the major area but within the School of Art. A committee member from outside the School of Art is encouraged where appropriate. A committee member from the major area will serve as Committee Chair. Each committee member and the student will sign the Graduate Committee form. The student will turn this form in to the Graduate Advisor by October 15.

CHANGES TO COMMITTEE:
Any changes to the Graduate Committee must be made IN WRITING. An email sent to both the new committee member and the Graduate Advisor confirming the appointment is preferred.

Students are strongly encouraged to meet with their committee members throughout the year.

Second Year Review: Prior to the end of the spring semester of the second year students must arrange a meeting of the committee as a group to review their work and progress toward the degree, and discuss plans for the final year. All faculty members
present at this meeting will sign the Graduate Review form, which will be returned by the Committee Chair to the Graduate Advisor and kept in the student’s permanent file.

**Third Year Students:** In the fall of the final year, the student will begin preparations for graduating in the spring. The student will notify the Graduate Office of the School of Art of their intention to graduate, meet with the Graduate Advisor to assure that all the academic requirements will be met and meet regularly with their committee to discuss their progress in the program. By the end of the spring semester, students are required to complete the Thesis Exhibition, Oral Examination, and MFA Thesis Catalog.

**Failure to meet deadlines will result in the postponement of graduation until the following spring**

A student will be permitted to graduate upon completion of their course requirements, Thesis Exhibition, Oral Examination, and MFA Thesis Catalog.

**Graduate Writing Course ART6381:** During the fall of the final year, the student is required to register for Art 6381, the Graduate Writing Seminar.

**MFA Thesis Catalog:** The MFA Thesis Catalog will include the long artist’s statement from the Graduate Writing Course, documentation of the student’s work, and any additional supporting materials. The work in the Thesis Exhibition must be included in the MFA Catalog. On or before a designated date in the spring (which will be posted at the fall meeting of MFA candidates), the student will submit a copy of the MFA Thesis Catalog to the Graduate Advisor, in PDF Format (viewable by Adobe Reader) on a CD or DVD, for final approval.

**Thesis Exhibition:** A representative from the Blaffer Gallery will meet with the graduating MFA students approximately 6 months prior to the exhibition. At this time each student will receive a copy of the schedule of the deadlines for the exhibition. At this meeting the student must be prepared to give the Blaffer Gallery a preliminary estimate of the scope of their work for the exhibition. Students must consult with the Blaffer Gallery regarding work that requires unusual or specific accommodations in installation.

**Oral Examination:** The student will schedule a meeting with their committee for the oral examination, the final and comprehensive discussion of their work. The oral examination may be held at any time during the spring semester, but must be held prior to the closing of the student’s MFA Thesis Exhibition (exceptions to this time constraint may be arranged with the approval of the Graduate Advisor). At least two weeks prior to the oral examination, the student will deliver a printed copy of their long artist’s statement to all members of the committee. For oral examinations held in the Blaffer Gallery, the student will schedule the oral examination in the Blaffer Gallery after the installation of the exhibition. No more than one week after the completion of the oral examination the Committee Chair will deliver the signed MFA Candidate Report Form to the Graduate Advisor.