Fine art is a form of human expression that involves the realization of ideas and the creation of meaning through the production of images, objects, experiences, or performance. The Department of Art at Ohio State facilitates students’ acquiring the visual skills and manipulative and conceptual abilities necessary to create works of art.

The diverse faculty is comprised of professionally recognized artists dedicated to the craft of teaching. The studio facilities, located on the Oval and West Campus, are excellent. The department also maintains an active exhibition schedule in its own galleries and critique spaces supplemented by the OSU Urban Arts Space, and the highly publicized Wexner Center for the Arts.

Pursuing Art at Ohio State
All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions.

Admitted students can directly enroll as art students within the College of Arts and Sciences. Acceptance into the major is by application.

Students may apply to the Bachelor of Arts in Art, a liberal arts major program, after successfully completing five courses within the department’s foundation program. The BA in Art is appropriate for students who wish to intensively study art, but who aspire to careers related to the arts.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) is the professional major for students seeking careers in the studio arts. After the completion of the core courses during third first and second year, BFA candidates submit a portfolio for a review by a committee of faculty. Following this review, students may pursue one of seven rigorous and challenging studio endeavors: art and technology, ceramics, glass, painting and drawing, photography, printmaking, or sculpture. It is advised that students submit work in their area of concentration as part of their portfolio.

Educational Objectives
Students will achieve the following learning outcomes:
- demonstrate competency in composition and design
- demonstrate competency in a variety of media and techniques
- demonstrate well-conceived, thoroughly executed, and highly crafted work in a variety of materials appropriate to area of focus that exhibit a high level of sophistication and attention to detail
- demonstrate safe use of materials and methods
- articulate verbally and in writing ideas reflective of the student’s own production and concepts related to a variety of contemporary and traditional idioms in the field and which reflect creative thinking and the ability to synthesize and make connections with the larger world

The BFA program concludes with the completion of a participation in a senior project and participation in a group exhibition, complemented by an artist’s statement and contextual information describing their project.

Co-Curricular Opportunities
Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

These opportunities enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about other cultures, and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.

- Opportunities at the Wexner Center: wexarts.org
- Learning communities for art majors: go.osu.edu/vpalc

Honors & Scholars Programs
The Honors Program offers students the opportunity to pursue bachelor’s degrees “with distinction” or “with Honors.” Honors students benefit from the smaller size and more challenging approach of Honors classes, work with faculty honors advisors, have access to priority scheduling, and are eligible for Honors housing. Visit honors-scholars.osu.edu to learn more.

For more information, check these websites:
Department of Art: art.osu.edu
Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu
Career Prospects in Art

The Bachelor of Arts in Art provides students with an excellent liberal arts background, useful in any field related to fine art, education, or communication. The Bachelor of Fine Arts provides students who successfully complete the concentrated studio art curriculum a professional degree considered to be the gateway to a career as an artist. This degree also provides excellent preparation for furthering one's artistic education by entering graduate school.

Art provides students with unique, creative approaches to problem solving and project management, and is good preparation for a number of careers. In addition to establishing careers as artists, recent graduates have entered such diverse professions as law, medicine, architecture, and fund-raising. Many art majors also eventually find their way into arts administration positions, either within museums, galleries, or public agencies (such as state or city arts councils) or within educational institutions.

Salaries vary greatly within the arts. Many artists try to earn their living exclusively from the sale of their art. Part-time employment in art-related fields is commonplace and offers supplemental income.

Career Counseling and Job Placement

Ohio State’s professional counseling staff specializes in personal development and academic growth. In addition, Ohio State’s career and job placement offices around campus offer help in career planning and, as students move closer to graduation, resume writing, writing application letters, and job placement. These offices can help students match interests and strengths with a promising career. Ohio State recognizes that students’ needs for career support services vary and offers special services for disabled students, veterans, minority students, and international students.

Revised December 2013. Information is subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the art program, visit art.osu.edu.

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