

Art

The School of Art and Design offers two undergraduate degrees, the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) and the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.). The B.F.A., a professional degree, includes five specializations: art education, communication design, industrial design, pre-art therapy, and studio art. Students enrolled in the B.F.A. studio art specialization may pursue an area of emphasis or multiple emphases in ceramics, drawing, glass, metalsmithing, painting, printmaking, or sculpture. The B.A. degree in art includes four specializations: art education, art history, general studio, and photography.

The B.F.A. – Studio Art degree specialization prepares students to practice as studio artists, go on to advanced study, or enter a number of careers related to their specialization and/or area(s) of emphasis. B.F.A. – Studio Art students are offered the opportunity to forge a degree reflecting their media interests and career aspirations. Both interdisciplinary approaches as well as more tightly focused studies in one or more areas of emphasis are welcomed and encouraged. Students are advised and mentored by faculty while developing strong portfolios and perspectives that equip them to take on the many facets of contemporary art production and career management.

The B.F.A. specializations in industrial design and communication design prepare students with the intellectual, technological, and practical knowledge required in the professional world of design. With a specialization in industrial design, students are prepared to practice in the industrial field of contemporary product development.

Communication Design is the specialization that creates, informs, and modifies the world around us. Its curriculum provides students with a thorough understanding of and competence in communication in a digital-based society. It includes broad-based technical instruction along with instruction in typography, digital graphic technology, design concepts, information design, and industry standards required by the communication field.

Art History is a study of visual culture in its historical contexts. The B.A. specialization in art history provides rigorous liberal arts training in analytical and critical viewing, reading, thinking, speaking, and writing. It prepares students for graduate study, professional school, and careers in museums, auction houses, publishing, and other fields. Majors take courses in art history, studio art, and the University's Core Curriculum and enjoy a wide choice of electives.

The specialization of art education is offered within a liberal art (B.A.) as well as a professional (B.F.A.) curriculum format. Upon completion of either program, students in art education are prepared and licensed to teach in the public schools. However, the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program offers the student more studio electives in art and design. With the B.F.A. degree in art education, students are better prepared to teach studio arts in American schools or go on for advanced study either in art or art education.

The specialization of pre-art therapy is a pre-professional degree. Upon completion of this degree program, students in pre-art therapy are prepared for admission to graduate programs in the field of art therapy here they will earn an advanced degree and pursue licensure as a Registered Art Therapist (ATR). Careers in Art Therapy include private practice and practice in hospitals, crisis centers, senior centers, detention centers, mental health agencies, and homeless shelters.

The general studio specialization is the most flexible program. By means of both requirements and elective options, students may plan interdisciplinary programs in art or develop programs leading toward a specific career objective.

The education of teachers, scholars, artists, and designers requires a comprehensive program in the specializations and a university core program outside of the major. In meeting these objectives, the School emphasizes theory and practice in its specializations. Studies are sequentially planned to facilitate orderly matriculation through the baccalaureate curricula.

Within their first semesters of coursework, all majors are required to complete foundation studies: beginning coursework in art history, drawing, and two- and three-dimensional design. B.F.A. students must participate in a portfolio review of work from previous art studies (at SIUC or elsewhere) upon completion of the foundation studio courses and one or two courses specific to a specialization. This assessment portfolio review will evaluate the students' technical, conceptual and creative abilities, and provide feedback for further improvement.

Students in a design specialization must own a laptop computer and software as specified by Design faculty for subsequent courses. The hardware and software will be utilized throughout the Design course sequence beginning with the 300-level specialization courses. Financial aid may be available to eligible students. Students must consult the SIU Carbondale School of Art and Design website for current details on hardware and software requirements. Information is also available from faculty and the School's advisement office.

Transfer students seeking admission from another program at Southern Illinois University must meet the same requirements as those seeking admission from another institution. Evaluation of a studio course for transfer credit from another institution will be made on the basis of a presentation of the work (or professional quality images of the work) executed in the course to determine whether the course will be considered equivalent to a specific course or accepted as studio elective credit.

Most prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of C or better before a student may advance into the next course. Students should refer to individual course descriptions for specific information. All specialization-specific courses in the B.F.A. programs must be completed with a C or better.

Courses in art and design have limited enrollment, and enrollment may be canceled for students who do not attend the initial class session of the semester. Courses in some programs must be taken in a certain sequence, and not all classes are offered every semester. Admission to certain courses is restricted, and permission must be obtained prior to registration. For some courses, permission to register is based upon submission of a portfolio.

Instructional Support Equipment Fee

The School of Art and Design assesses all undergraduate art and design majors an instructional support equipment fee of \$10 per credit hour; a maximum of 12 credit hours will be charged each for fall and spring semesters and six credit hours for summer.

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) in Art

Art Education Specializations

The specialization in art education is offered within a liberal art (B.A.) as well as a professional (B.F.A.) curriculum format. Upon completion of either program, students in art education are prepared and licensed to teach in the public schools. However, the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program offers the student more studio electives in art and design. With the B.F.A. degree in art education, students are better prepared to teach studio arts in U.S. schools or go on for advanced study either in art or art education.

B.F.A. Art - Art Education Specialization Degree Requirements

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
University Core Curriculum Requirements	39
The following must be taken in order to satisfy state teacher licensure requirements: EDUC 211 and EDUC 214.	
AD 100A or AD 100B should be taken as the University Core Curriculum fine arts course	
Two from AD 207A, AD 207B, or AD 207C should be taken as the humanities courses	

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
Requirements for Specialization in Art Education	(9)+57
Foundation requirements: AD 100A, AD 100B, AD 110, AD 120; two from AD 101 and/or AD 207A, AD 207B, AD 207C	(9)+9
Studio requirements: AD 201, AD 202, AD 203, AD 204, AD 219	15
Art education requirements: AD 208, AD 308, AD 318, AD 328, AD 338	15
Art and Design history elective: AD 300- or AD 400-level	3
Art Education or Studio Electives	15
Professional Education Requirements: EDUC 301, EDUC 302, EDUC 303, EDUC 308, EDUC 313, EDUC 319, EDUC 401A.	24
Total	120

B.A. Art - Art Education Specialization Degree Requirements

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
University Core Curriculum Requirements	39
To include EDUC 211 and EDUC 214	
AD 100A or AD 100B should be taken as the University Core Curriculum fine arts course	
Two from: AD 207A, AD 207B, or AD 207C should be taken as the humanities courses	
Requirements for Specialization in Art Education	(9) + 57
Foundation requirements: AD 100A, AD 100B, AD 110, AD 120, and three from AD 101, AD 207A, AD 207B, or AD 207C	(9) + 12
Studio requirements: AD 201, AD 202, AD 203, AD 204, AD 219	15
Art Education requirements: AD 208, AD 308, AD 318, AD 328, AD 338	15
Electives- to include one Art History Elective	15

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
Professional Education Requirements: EDUC 301, EDUC 302, EDUC 303, EDUC 308, EDUC 313, EDUC 319, EDUC 401A	24
Total	120

Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) in Art

Communication Design Specialization

The B.F.A. communication design specialization creates, informs, and modifies the world around us. Its curriculum provides students with a thorough understanding of and competence in communication in a digital-based society. It includes broad-based technical instruction along with instruction in typography, digital graphic technology, design concepts, information design, and industry standards required by the communication field. Communication design students learn to combine and develop concepts and employ visualization techniques that instruct, interpret, and persuade. This curriculum focuses on message content and theory in print, web, and interactive/multimedia design. Job titles in the fields of design include Multimedia Design, Web Designer, Web Communication Designer, Graphic Communication, Digital Imaging, Multimedia, Interactive Graphic Design, Internet Communication, Motion Graphics, Art Director, or Creative Director.

B.F.A. Art - Communication Design Specialization Degree Requirements

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
University Core Curriculum Requirements	39
AD 100A or AD 100B should be taken as the University Core Curriculum fine arts course. Two from AD 207A, AD 207B, or AD 207C should be taken as the humanities courses.	
Requirements for Specialization in Communication Design	(9)+81
Foundation requirements: AD 100A, AD 100B, AD 110, AD 120, and two from AD 207A, AD 207B, and AD 207C	(9)+9
Major requirements: AD 101, AD 122, AD 219, AD 222, AD 249; one from AD 302A, AD 302B, AD 302C, or AD 302D; AD 322, AD 332, AD 337, AD 352 -AND- 16 credit hours from AD 372A or AD 372B, AD 452, AD 472, and AD 489D 1	46
Art and Design Electives (5 hours at 300-400 level)	12
Electives	14
Total	120

¹ AD courses numbered 322 and above require ownership of a MacIntosh laptop computer.

Industrial Design Specialization

The B.F.A. specialization in industrial design prepares students with the intellectual, technological, and practical knowledge required in the professional world of design. With a specialization in industrial design, students are prepared to practice in the industrial field of contemporary product development.

B.F.A. Art - Industrial Design Specialization Degree Requirements

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
University Core Curriculum Requirements	39
AD 100A or AD 100B should be taken as the University Core Curriculum fine arts course. Two from AD 207A, AD 207B, or AD 207C should be taken as the humanities courses.	
Requirements for Specialization in Industrial Design	(9)+81
Foundation requirements: AD 100A, AD 100B, AD 110, AD 120, and two from AD 101, AD 207A, AD 207B, and AD 207C	(9)+9
Major requirements: AD 101, AD 200, AD 213, AD 219, AD 223, AD 313, AD 323, AD 332, AD 337, AD 363, AD 383, AD 423, AD 489A -AND- 12 credit hours from AD 203, AD 204, AD 205, AD 300, AD 303; AD 304A, AD 304B, or AD 304C; AD 305A, AD 424, or AD 433	55
Art and Design or cognate electives	17
Total	120

Pre-Art Therapy Specialization

The B.F.A. specialization in pre-art therapy is a pre-professional degree. Upon completion of this degree program, students in pre-art therapy are prepared for admission to graduate programs in the field of art therapy where they will earn an advanced degree and pursue licensure as a Registered Art Therapist (ATR). Careers in Art Therapy include private practice and practice in hospitals, crisis centers, senior centers, detention centers, mental health agencies, and homeless shelters.

B.F.A. Art - Pre-Art Therapy Specialization Degree Requirements

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
University Core Curriculum Requirements	39

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
To include ANTH 202, EDUC 214, and SOC 108 AD 100A or AD 100B should be taken as the University Core Curriculum fine arts course. Two from AD 207A, AD 207B, or AD 207C should be taken as the humanities courses.	
Requirements for Specialization in Pre-Art Therapy	(9) +81
Psychology requirements (fulfills Psychology minor): PSYC 102, PSYC 301, PSYC 303, PSYC 331, PSYC 340	15
Foundation requirements: AD 100A, AD 100B, AD 110, AD 120, and two from AD 101, AD 207A, AD 207B, and AD 207C	(9) +9
Studio requirements: AD 201, AD 202, AD 203, AD 204, AD 219, AD 300; AD 301A, AD 301B, or AD 301C; AD 304A, AD 304B, or AD 304C	24
Art Education requirements (fulfills Art Education minor): AD 208, AD 308, AD 318, AD 328, AD 338, AD 459	21
Art History or Studio Electives	12
	120

Studio Art Specialization

The B.F.A. studio art specialization prepares students to practice as studio artists, go on to advanced study, or enter a career related to their specialization or area(s) of emphasis. B.F.A. studio art students have the opportunity to forge a degree reflecting their media interests and career aspirations. Interdisciplinary approaches as well as more tightly focused studies in one or more areas of emphasis are welcome and encouraged. Faculty mentor students in the development of strong portfolios and perspectives, equipping students to take on the many facets of contemporary art production and career management.

B.F.A. Art – Studio Art Specialization Degree Requirements

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
University Core Curriculum Requirements	39
AD 100A or AD 100B should be taken as the University Core Curriculum fine arts course. Two from: AD 207A, AD 207B, or AD 207C should be taken as the humanities courses.	
Requirements for Specialization in Studio Art	(9) + 81

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
Foundation requirements: AD 100A, AD 100B, AD 110, AD 120, two from AD 101, AD 207A, AD 207B, and/or AD 207C	(9) + 9
Studio requirements: AD 219, AD 389	6
Introductory Level Course Requirements: Choose 4 AD 200, AD 201, AD 202, AD 203, AD 204, AD 205, AD 214, AD215A, AD215B	12
Intermediate Level Course Requirements: Choose 6 AD 300, AD 301A, AD 301B, AD 301C, AD 302A, AD 302B, AD 302C, AD 302D, AD 303, AD 304A, AD 304B, AD 304C, AD 305A, AD 305B, AD 305C, AD 305D, AD 314A, AD 314B, AD 314C, AD315A, AD315B, AD315C	18
Advanced Level Course Requirements: Choose 4 AD 400A, AD 400B, AD 401A, AD 401B, AD 402A, AD 402B, AD 403A, AD 403B, AD 404A, AD 404B, AD 405A, AD 405B, AD 414A, AD 414B, AD415A, AD415B	12
Thesis: Choose 1 AD 400C, AD 401C, AD 402C, AD 403C, AD 404C, AD 405C, AD 414C, AD415C	3
AD History Electives (AD 300- or AD 400-level)	6
Studio Art Electives (AD 300-, AD400- to AD 400- level):	15
Total	120

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Art

Art History Specialization

The B.A. in art history specialization is a study of visual culture in its historical contexts. The art history specialization provides rigorous liberal arts training in analytical and critical viewing, reading, thinking, speaking, and writing. It prepares students for graduate study, professional school, and careers in museums, auction houses, publishing, among others. Majors take courses in art history, studio art, and the University's Core Curriculum. Majors also enjoy a wide range of electives.

B.A. Art - Art History Specialization Degree Requirements

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
University Core Curriculum Requirements	39
AD 100A or AD 100B should be taken as the University Core Curriculum fine arts course.	

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
Two from AD 207A, AD 207B, or AD 207C should be taken as the University Core Curriculum humanities courses.	
Requirements for Specialization in Art History	(9)+81
Foundation requirements: AD 100A or AD 100B; AD 207A, AD 207B, AD 207C	(9)+3
Studio Courses ¹	(3)+6
Major requirements: Two from AD 497A, AD 497B, AD 497C, and AD 497D (topical seminars, may be repeated when topic varies) One from AD 310A, AD 310B, AD 310C, AD 311, AD 312, AD 316, AD 330, AD 497A, AD 497B, or other approved pre- or early-modern course One from AD 317I, AD 320, AD 358, AD 368, or other approved non-Western course	12
Art History electives	18
Foreign language (French or German recommended)	6
Humanities electives (classics, east Asian, English, French, German, history, linguistics, or philosophy)	9
Approved electives (studio arts, design, museum studies, humanities, social sciences, foreign language, architecture, and other approved areas) ²	27
Total	120

¹ AD 100A or AD 100B counts towards University Core Curriculum requirements.

² At least 27 credit hours of art history electives and approved electives must be: Ad 300- or 400-level.

General Studio Specialization

The B.A. in general studio specialization is the most flexible program. By means of requirements and elective options, students plan interdisciplinary programs in art or develop programs leading toward a specific career objective.

B.A. Art - General Studio Specialization Degree Requirements

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
University Core Curriculum Requirements	39

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
AD 100A or AD 100B should be taken as the University Core Curriculum fine arts course. Two from AD 207A, AD 207B, or AD 207C should be taken as the humanities courses.	
Requirements for Specialization in General Studio	(9)+81
Foundation requirements: AD 100A, AD 100B, AD 110, AD 120, AD 207A, AD 207B, AD 207C	(9)+12
Major requirements: Five courses from AD 200, AD 201, AD 202, AD 203, AD 204, AD 205, AD 213, AD 214, or AD 249	15
AD 219	3
AD 300-level and 400-level studio courses in at least three disciplines	27
AD 400C, AD 401C, AD 402C, AD 403C, AD 404C, AD 405C, or AD 414C	3
Art and Design History elective (AD 300-level or AD 400-level)	3
Electives (at least six credit hours must be AD 300-level or AD 400-level)	18
Total	120

Photography Specialization

The B.A. in photography specialization includes study of fine art and commercial photography. Fine art photography instruction encourages you to realize your own personal vision. Study topics include digital imaging, large format photography, and advanced color photography. The courses all allow for experimental digital and wet chemistry darkroom techniques. There are opportunities for individual artistic expression through studio workshops and advanced courses. Commercial photography courses offer the chance to learn professional skills in areas including large format photography and digital imaging. The program explores advertising, illustration and publication/editorial photography.

B.A. Art – Photography Specialization Degree Requirements

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
University Core Curriculum Requirements	39
AD 100A or AD 100B should be taken as the University Core Curriculum fine arts course.	

Degree Requirements	Credit Hours
Two from AD 207A, AD 207B, or AD 207C should be taken as the humanities courses.	
Requirements for Specialization in Photography	(9) + 39
Foundation requirements: AD 100A, AD 100B, AD 110, AD 120, and two from AD 207A, AD 207B, or AD 207C	(9) + 9
Major requirements: AD 360A, AD 360B, AD 360C, AD 360D, AD 460A	18
9 credit hours from AD 460B, AD 460C, AD 460D, AD 460E, AD 460G, AD 460H	9
Capstone requirement: AD 460C or AD 489E	3
Electives	42
SoAD Electives, at least 9 at 300-400 level (to reach 42)	15
General Electives	27
Total	120

Art Education Minor

A total of 21 credit hours is required for the minor. The student must complete AD 100A, AD 100B, AD 208, AD 318 and AD 459 for 15 credit hours and may then select one art education elective from AD 308, AD 328, or AD 338 in addition to one studio elective of their choice.

Art History Minor

A minor consists of 18 credit hours of art history coursework. Students are strongly encouraged to take AD 207A, AD 207B, and AD 207C, which serve as prerequisites for many 300- and 400-level art history courses. Transfer students must have taken at least nine credit hours of art history coursework at SIU Carbondale in order to obtain a minor.

Communication Design Minor

A total of 15 credit hours is required for the minor. The student must complete AD 122, AD 219, AD 222, AD 249 and AD 322. Students enrolled in the Communication Design minor will need to purchase computer hardware and /or software to meet minimum course requirements. All courses for this minor must be complete with a grade of C minus or better.

Industrial Design Minor

A total of 15 credit hours is required for the minor. The student must complete AD 101, AD 213, AD 223, AD 313, and AD 337. Students enrolled in the Industrial Design minor may need to purchase computer hardware and/or software to meet minimum course requirements.

Studio Art Minor

A total of 15 hours is required for the minor. The Student must complete either AD 100A or AD 100B and complete the remaining 12 hours in studio art classes of the student's choosing. At least 3 hours need to be completed at or above the AD 3XX level. Transfer students must have taken at least 9 credit hours of art coursework at SIU in order to obtain a minor. All courses for this minor must be complete with a grade of C minus or better.

Last updated: 04/16/2025