

# MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN THE FIELD OF FINE ARTS

The master of fine art (MFA) is an interdisciplinary program that approaches contemporary art practice as a vital site of creative, critical, and social action. The program supports the development of new material and technical skills, experimentation with hybrid processes across media, the growth of creative practices with an understanding of their social contexts, and research-driven approaches to critical engagement. Graduate students become part of a supportive community of peers, faculty, and visiting artists, where ongoing discourse facilitates re-imagining the boundaries of art.

The MFA is a two-year, 60-credit program. Students register for 15 credits per semester, per the standard recommended for a terminal degree by the College Art Association.

Visit the program website (<https://corcoran.gwu.edu/fine-arts/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

Admission deadlines: Fall - April 1 (February 1 for priority fellowship consideration)

Spring - October 1

Standardized GRE is not required.

Test Scores:

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of all applicants except those who hold a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States or from an institution located in a country in which English is the official language, provided English was the language of instruction.

Minimum scores for the program are:

- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 6.0 with no individual score below 5.0; or

- TOEFL: 550 on paper-based or 80 on Internet-based; or

- PTE Academic: 53

Applicants to the program who do not meet minimum English language requirements may be eligible for our full-time Applied English Language program.

Recommendations: Two (2) recommendations required:

Prerequisite A bachelor's degree in the field of fine arts or related field, and/or a strong portfolio and statement of purpose.

Prior academic records:

Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission.

If transcripts are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translation alone should be uploaded into your application.

Statement of purpose: A 250-500 word Statement of Purpose describing your artistic intent, conceptual foundation, research interests, and impetus to complete an MFA degree.

Additional requirements: Digital Portfolio with Image List; 20 images of artwork and/or up to 10 minutes of time-based work. The Image List and Images must be compiled into a single PDF document. If you have video or sound files, please include a page in your PDF portfolio document with a link to Vimeo or Soundcloud along with any necessary passwords.

International applicants only: Please follow this link - <https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants> (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants/>) - to review the International Applicant Information carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Office of Graduate Studies  
The George Washington University  
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 107  
Washington DC 20052

For additional information about the admissions process visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate-admissions-faq/>) page.

Contact:

[askccas@gwu.edu](mailto:askccas@gwu.edu)  
202-994-6210 (phone)

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationtext>).

60 credits, including 36 credits in required courses, 18 credits in elective courses, and 6 credits in thesis, including a thesis exhibition.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
CSA 6015	Social and Contextual Art Practices Seminar	
CSA 6091	Contemporary Art and Theory for Artists	
CSA 6093	Professional Practices	
CSA 6094	Writing in Practice	
CSA 6095	Master of Fine Arts Studio and Creative Research (taken for a total of 12 credits)	
CSA 6096	Studio Visits (taken for a total of 12 credits)	
Thesis exhibition		
CSA 6999	Thesis Research (taken twice for a total of 6 credits)	
A thesis exhibition consisting of the execution of creative work along with a critical statement about this work must be completed under the supervision of a committee consisting of at least two full-time members of the departmental faculty.		

#### Electives

9 credits in CSA studio electives. Courses should be relevant to student's practice and goals and selected in consultation with the director of graduate studies.

9 credits in open electives. Courses should be relevant to the student's practice and can be taken in any studio or academic program. Specific courses are selected in consultation with the director of graduate studies and faculty in the unit offering the course.