

Master of Fine Arts Curriculum & Requirements

Master of Fine Arts Program

The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program at PAFA is an intensive, two-year experience that focuses on studio practice and individual artistic development. The program is interdisciplinary in nature and welcomes students working in a variety of media with a wide range of interests. Through seminars, studio classes, critiques, and visiting artist lectures, students are exposed to diverse viewpoints and approaches to art-making. The program fosters a strong sense of community and students are both supported and challenged by their peers and faculty. The MFA program enables students to become independent, critical thinkers and makers who are engaged members of their artistic communities.

The PAFA MFA offers seminars in theory, contemporary art, writing and professional practices. Students also enroll in studio classes with a range of topics that include: figure drawing, contemporary themes in painting, and video and animation. In addition, students have the option of taking an array of undergraduate courses such as mold-making and landscape painting. PAFA is a school that cares deeply about how things are made as well as the ideas behind them. The curriculum is structured to help students improve their abilities to see and make while also broadening and deepening their conceptual framework and skills to discuss and write about art.

The core of the program is students' individual studio practice. Through experimentation, one on one discussion with critics, and group critiques, students develop their work and ideas into a sustainable, thoughtful artistic practice. In their studio work, students are encouraged to be independent, self-motivated and open to the new possibilities and ideas that arise through the course of making. Students have a private studio with 24-hour access and access to the print and sculpture shops, the cast hall and the tremendous museum collection.

During the second year of the program, students begin to focus towards a body of work that constitutes their thesis. The program of study culminates in an exhibition of thesis work within the museum galleries of the Samuel M.V. Hamilton Building.

Master of Fine Arts Curriculum

First Year	30.0 Credits
<u>Critiques</u>	<u>18.0 Credits</u>
Complete the following critiques:	
MFA 700 Visiting Critic	1.5 (fall & spring)
MFA 710 Core Critique Group	7.5 (fall & spring)
<u>Seminars</u>	<u>6.0 Credits</u>
Complete the following classes:	
MFA 730 Seminar: Reframing Theory	3.0 (fall)
MFA 731 Seminar: Contemporary Art	3.0 (spring)
<u>Studio Courses</u>	<u>6.0 Credits</u>
Complete the following classes:	
MFA 740 Graduate Studio electives	3.0 (fall & spring)
<u>Electives</u>	<u>0 – 3.0 Credits</u>
Graduate students may take one undergraduate course as an elective that will count towards graduation credit. Students may also audit one undergraduate course per semester to develop particular skills.	

Second Year **30.0 Credits**

Critiques 18.0 Credits

Complete the following critiques:

MFA 700	Visiting Critic	1.5 (fall & spring)
MF700.XX	Critics (3 @ 2.0 credits)	6.0 (fall & spring)
MFA 710	Core Critique Group	1.5 (fall & spring)

Seminars 6.0 Credits

Complete the following classes:

MFA 830	Seminar: Studio & Beyond	3.0 (fall)
MFA 831	Seminar: Special Topics	3.0 (spring)

MFA 850 Written Thesis (fall) 3.0 Credits

MFA 851 Thesis Exhibition (spring) 3.0 Credits

Electives 0 – 3.0 Credits

Graduate students may take one undergraduate course as an elective that will count towards graduation credit. Students may also audit one undergraduate course per semester to develop particular skills.

Total MFA Curriculum 60.0 Credits