Welcome,

Thank you for your interest in our Department!

Who are we?
We are creators, thinkers, and doers. We offer BA, BFA, and MFA degrees in the Studio Arts, a BA in Art History, as well as a program in Art Education. Many students from across the university also choose our programs as minors. They have the opportunity to minor in studio art, art history, or in our specialized Architectural Studies. Our programs are interdisciplinary, the result of collaborations with departments as diverse as engineering, history, and classics.

Where are we?
The Visual Arts, Music, Theater, and Dance Departments cohabitate in the Paul Creative Arts Center, known around here as the PCAC. It is the hub for everything art and culture. Walking through its halls you might find art students working on the walls, hear an impromptu piano solo, or see performers warming up for a play at the Johnson Theater. At the heart of this is the Museum of Art, which hosts many exciting exhibitions that showcase renowned contemporary artists. In April the Museum opens its pristine space for a professional exhibit of graduating BA, BFA, and MFA students.

What do we do?
In the Studio Arts we offer courses in painting, drawing, photography (both digital and wet lab techniques), printmaking, sculpture (all media: steel, aluminum bronze casting, clay and wood), furniture design and fabrication, and ceramics. In the Art History program students explore the timeline from ancient to contemporary art, and as they move through the program to advanced courses, they discover specialized periods of study that interest them most. Internships at area design firms, architecture studios, ceramic studios, and other arts related businesses are also available to our students.

So how does one embark on the study of art and art history?
We have four gateway courses through the Discovery Program: Introductory Drawing, Introduction to Art History, Architectural History, and Digital Photography. We suggest you start with one or two of these courses to get a
feel for the department at the same as you establish a strong college-level base of study.

But is the study of art practical?  
Yes. To succeed as a professional of any sort, you must have a developed sense of culture, a muscular imagination, and a fearless approach to solving problems – all of which are fundamental attributes of the artist. Our students enter a myriad of different careers when they graduate. From professional sculptor to founder of an architectural firm, from head of the graphics department in a web development agency to curator in a museum, from art conservator to publishing CEO – whatever work you choose, as one of our graduates we know you’ll approach it in a engaged and creative way.

Do we offer scholarships?  
Our program includes internships and work-study opportunities, which give our students experience they need to land jobs after graduating. We offer six fellowships of full in-state tuition remission for upper-level students and many merit-based scholarship opportunities to help with tuition costs.

Do we offer extra-curricular opportunities?  
The Visiting Artist Program brings in artists from near and far; it's a chance for students to interact with professional artists and hear about their lives and career choices post-graduation. Students can participate in the Alumni Lecture Series, Student Art Sale and much more.

And what about you?  
If you would like to visit, we would like to meet you and learn about your plans for the future. Contact us to visit a class in action, talk to current students, Have a portfolio review, take a tour of the studios, stroll through the museum, or even come to an artists opening reception!

I hope to speak to you soon.

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