

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The first two years of the 60-hour M.F.A. program include interdisciplinary seminars, disciplinary studios, and elective coursework. Students work closely with their graduate committees to research, define, and develop the direction of their graduate work and to outline their academic plan of study.

QUALIFYING REVIEW

At the end of the first year or at the end of the semester that the student completes 18-21 credit hours, students must pass a **qualifying review** conducted by the entire faculty in the Department of Art & Design. The faculty members in the student's discipline evaluate first-year portfolios to determine whether or not the student may continue in the M.F.A. degree program.

PLAN OF STUDY

Early in the third semester or early in the semester that the student completes 27-30 hours, students who have passed the qualifying review file their **Plan of Study** with the graduate school. Once the graduate school has approved their plan, students' classification will change from graduate student to M.F.A. candidate.

Students must earn a B or better on all courses listed on the Plan of Study. Grades lower than a B may negatively affect the qualifying review decision. If a student earns less than a B on a course listed on the POS, then he/she must retake the course or replace it with another course.

In the third year of study, students focus on production of their M.F.A. exhibition and thesis/non-thesis.

M.F.A. Exhibition Project

Candidates are required to present a substantial and professional-quality gallery installation of their M.F.A. exhibition project. This body of work will demonstrate professional competence in studio art or design. Candidates also are required to present a public gallery talk during their exhibition.

The M.F.A. exhibition is work created specifically in response to the candidate's MFA project proposal and approved by their graduate committee. The M.F.A. Exhibition is **not** a retrospective of all work produced since the student entered the graduate program.

M.F.A. Written Component: Thesis and Non-thesis options

All M.F.A. candidates produce a written component as part of the requirements of the degree. The student's graduate committee will determine whether the written component is to be a formal thesis or a non-thesis.

The **formal thesis** is a scholarly research project on the objectives, theoretical context, and/or historical and cultural points of reference of the M.F.A. work. Candidates writing a formal thesis must register for six hours of A&D 698 (Research MFA Thesis) in addition to the 60 hours required for the M.F.A. They must also adhere to the Graduate School thesis requirements. For more information see: <http://www.gradschool.purdue.edu/thesis.cfm>.

The **non-thesis** written component might be a process paper, a research paper, or other written creative endeavor, such as an artist book. Candidates not required to write a formal thesis are also **not** required to take research hours in addition to the 60 hours required for the M.F.A.

The written component (whether thesis or non-thesis) does NOT constitute nor substitute for the exhibition of the final body of work.

At the end of their program, candidates defend their exhibition and thesis in an oral examination conducted by their graduate committee.