

BA versus BFA

Similarities and Differences

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What are the similarities and differences between the BA and the BFA degree?

SIMILARITIES

- i) Both require all UCA Core general education courses EXCEPT a Fine Arts course
 - ii) Both require all art foundation courses
 - iii) Both require a student to take Major Advancement Portfolio (MAP), Creative Practices Seminar, and complete the MAP Review
 - iv) Both require Art History courses
 - v) Both require a culminating senior exhibition in the Baum Gallery
 - vi) Both require 40 hours of upper division credit (3000 level or above)
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DIFFERENCES

B.A. in Art: Fine Arts Emphasis (80 hours of Art)

- (1) Is a general degree in the studio arts containing 120 credits. In addition to the above it is required students have:
 - (a) 36 studio art credits, 9 art history credits, and a total of 3 professional track course credits
 - (b) 18-24 hours in a minor program of study
 - (c) 3-9 hours of a foreign language (2000 level competency) as a special degree requirement
- (2) Covers a breadth of studio areas
- (3) Does not have a studio area emphasis

- (a) Students are required to take at least three courses in one studio area
 - (b) BA is usually completed after one independently driven upper division studio art course (ART 4388)
- (4) Students with a BA degree in the arts may find a job in the arts but will just as likely find a job in an unrelated field that requires a college degree with a breadth of experiences. It will be difficult to enter directly into a MFA graduate program from undergraduate school with only a BA degree. Generally if a student wants to work as a professional in the arts, experiences beyond a BA degree (such as residencies, internships, unclassified graduate study, graduate study) will be necessary.

B.F.A. in Studio Art (83 hours of Art)

- (1) Is an art degree with a specific studio emphasis
 - (a) BFA degrees are offered with an emphasis in Ceramics, Drawing & Illustration, Painting, Graphic Design, Printmaking, Sculpture and Photography.
 - (i) You will take more studio courses in your emphasis area than in any other studio area.
 - (ii) while students must choose an emphasis students may choose to work in a cross-disciplinary way
- (2) Requires 120 credits
 - a) 65 hours of studio art credits, 15 hours of art history and 5 hours of professional track and BFA track courses.
 - b) the BFA degree DOES NOT require a minor course of study
- (3) There is an application process and review to get into the BFA program. This requires:
 - (a) 2.5 GPA in all courses
 - (b) 3.25 GPA on a minimum of 24 hours of art
 - (c) completion of the MAP review
 - (d) an application submitted for faculty review containing at least 20 works and a letter of intent (application may be submitted in fall and spring semesters. Check the Department of Art & Design homepage under “current students” for deadlines).
- (4) Once accepted into the program students must:

(a) complete a minimum of 24 hours in art including the 3 one hour credit BFA

professional track courses

(b) Take ART 4325 Experimental Drawing

(c) complete a 300 hour internship

(d) propose a project, following the BFA practicum proposal guidelines, for faculty approval and exhibit a mature body of work in the Baum gallery at the end of the course of study

(5) Students who successfully achieve a BFA degree are prepared to

(a) apply to jobs in their related fields

(b) apply to graduate programs

(c) apply to residencies and fellowships

(d) enter the world of professional artists

(e) apply to jobs that require a college degree