

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

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## SIMILARITIES

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- 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 Portfolio I, Portfolio II, and complete the SMAI
- 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)

## DIFFERENCES

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### **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 portfolio assessment 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, 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 Portfolio 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 SMAI
  - (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 art department 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 Drawing IV
  - (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