ABOUT THE MASTERS OF FINE ART DEGREE PROGRAM

The Master of Fine Arts degree program at Fort Hays State University is designed to provide professional competency for students pursuing or furthering a career as a studio artist, teacher or in public roles. Students are accepted into the program in the following areas of concentration: Ceramics, Drawing, Graphic Design, Intermedia, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, and Sculpture.

Fort Hays State University is located in Hays, Kansas, nestled midway between Denver and Kansas City. It is a great location, just outside of the hustle and bustle of the city but close enough that many museums and cultural opportunities are just a short drive on the Interstate. Kansas City, Denver, Wichita, Lawrence and other cities are all within a day’s drive. As an arts-centered community, Hays offers great opportunities for your work to be exhibited in the active local art scene. We have seasonal gallery walks every year with fantastic community support. In addition, our visiting artist program, utilization of technology and travel opportunities provide exposure, stimulation, and inspiration balanced with a focused studio practice to engage with the global community of artists.

Tuition for a Masters of Fine Arts Degree at FHSU is affordable at around $200 per credit hour for residents and contiguous state residents (please check our website for current tuition and fees). For a modest investment, you will receive a superior education grounded in skills with an eye on contemporary art practice. Graduate assistantships are awarded based on merit and departmental resources and offer tuition assistance and a stipend. Fort Hays State University was listed as an elite university in the nation for the quality of its education programs, according to a survey by U.S. News & World Report.

The custom tailored MFA curriculum is founded on building skills with a strong focus on contemporary art and the roles of artists. Our professors are inspirational and motivate students to hone their individual talents and develop a unique voice. As a result, our graduates establish a work ethic, deep appreciation for knowledge, professional skills and the confidence that give them a competitive edge in their careers. The attention our faculty devotes to MFA students is
Exceptional. Program requirements allow students freedom in the curriculum you will likely find nowhere else. With the mentoring of an experienced and accessible faculty, be prepared to work hard and have fun as you pursue your passion for art.

The campus provides an accommodating environment for concentration on work. The entire Department of Art and Design and its facilities are conveniently located on FHSU’s beautiful 200-acre campus. Each graduate student is provided with a studio space and open access to the facilities and labs.

Professional opportunities abound in FHSU’s MFA program. Building writing and technology skills in support of creative practice assists students when participating in the many occasions and venues for solo and group exhibitions, including participation in prestigious regional and national exhibitions. Students gain curatorial experience by organizing exhibitions in regional galleries.

The Master of Fine Arts degree program at Fort Hays State University is truly a transformative experience.

FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
FORWARD THINKING. WORLD READY.

Fort Hays State University is the region’s leading forward-thinking, entrepreneurial university that values social, civic and professional engagement. We attract goal-oriented students with a strong work ethic who want to live and learn in a caring community.

We have an enrollment of more than 13,000 students and offer hundreds of certificate and degree programs at the associate’s, bachelor’s and master’s levels through 28 academic departments. We attract students who want premier learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom combined with extraordinary one-to-one attention and support.

FHSU is a welcoming community in the heart of historic Hays, a community that celebrates its frontier roots and its modern sensibility – coffee shops, one-of-a-kind restaurants, shopping, and a vibrant arts scene.
“The transformative impact the MFA program had on me is at least two-fold: one, it raised my awareness to what contemporary ceramic art of the highest quality is and therefore it allowed me to push my own artwork onto a much higher level.”

“Two, it helped me connect my European, traditional knowledge of art and art making to the contemporary use of emerging technologies in art and to apply them with confidence.”

“Because of the passionate support of my professors, opportunities to exhibit my work on the national and even international scene were presented to me. The success was well worth all the hard work. Never before in my life have I felt better about my art and work (and about myself) than I do right now.”

Michaela Valli Groeblacher
MFA Ceramics, 2014

“My experience at FHSU was defined by excellent coursework and intellectual collaboration among students and professors.”

“I feel my experience at FHSU prepared me to compete with painters from any university in the country. Opportunities to interact with nationally recognized visiting Artists were everywhere.”

The time I spent in the FHSU Fine Arts program was absolutely transformative. I received an education from inspired, challenging, and caring teachers in a variety of fields.

The Art and Design department at FHSU gave me the kind of education that would be hard to surpass anywhere.

Michael Kent Knutson
MFA Painting, 2013
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN
Our studio classrooms are spacious and fully equipped with the latest tools and technology. We offer state of the art technology in our classrooms to enhance learning. Modern computer labs Accessible studios A foundry Computerized kilns State of the art technology in each of the studio art labs

MOSS-THORNS GALLERY OF ART
In 1969, John C. Thorns Jr. first presented his vision to the college administration for a regional art gallery with educational laboratories to house the Department of Art. With the completion of Rarick Hall in the spring of 1981, Thorns’ vision was realized. Located on the first floor of Rarick Hall, the Moss-Thorns Gallery is home to various student art exhibits, faculty shows and traveling exhibits throughout the year. During the fall and spring, the gallery is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

MASTER OF FINE ARTS DEGREE
The Department of Art and Design offers the Master of Fine Arts degree. The degree program consists of a minimum of sixty (60) hours of graduate work and is structured accordingly.
35 semester credit hours, studio major (to include terminal thesis project of 8 credit hours).
12 semester credit hours of Art History and Aesthetics
13 semester credit hours in studio art other than the major area.

AREAS OF MAJOR STUDIO CONCENTRATION:
Ceramics Drawing Graphic Design Intermedia Painting Photography Printmaking Sculpture
FACULTY

CHARM ARTHUR
Interior Design
MLS Art

ALAN CRAVEN
Associate Professor - Foundations and Art Education
MFA Painting

JOEL DUGAN
Assistant Professor - Painting
MFA Painting

TOBIA FLORES
Associate Professor - Sculpture
MFA Sculpture

LINDA GANSTROM
Associate Professor - Ceramics
MFA Ceramics

OPPOSITE PAGE
Top: Tobias Flores
Middle: Linda Ganstrom
Bottom: Amy Schmierbach
GORDON SHERMAN
Associate Professor - Printmaking
MFA Printmaking

ZORAN STEVANOV
Associate Professor - Photography
Ph.D. Art Education, MFA Sculpture

CHAIWAT THUMSUJARIT
Associate Professor - Graphic Design
MFA Graphic Design

KARRIE SIMPSON VOTH
Associate Professor - Graphic Design
MFA Graphic Design

FACULTY CONT.

LELAND POWERS
Department Chair
MFA Printmaking

AMY SCHMIERBACH
Associate Professor - Drawing
MFA Printmaking

GORDON SHERMAN
Associate Professor - Printmaking
MFA Printmaking

ZORAN STEVANOV
Associate Professor - Photography
Ph.D. Art Education, MFA Sculpture

CHAIWAT THUMSUJARIT
Associate Professor - Graphic Design
MFA Graphic Design

KARRIE SIMPSON VOTH
Associate Professor - Graphic Design
MFA Graphic Design

Previous Spread (listed Left to Right)
Top
Shawna Wangseng
Isaac Sandoval
Sharon McCoy
Michael Knutson
Ned Day
Michaela Groeblacher
Middle
Michaela Groeblacher
Josh Novak
Michael Knutson
Molly Walters
Katy Jones
Bottom
Isaac Sandoval
Casey Starbuck
Molly Walters
Josh Novak
Michael Knutson

OPPOSITE PAGE
Top: Joel Dugan
Middle: Leland Powers
Middle Center: Alan Craven
Middle Left: Chaiwat Thumsujarit
Bottom: Gordon Sherman
GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS
The department offers a limited number of graduate assistantships. Applications are available from the Graduate School and are due in that office April 1 of each year.

Announcement of awards are made around May 1 of each year. In the first year of graduate study, the graduate assistant should enroll in no less than six (6) and no more than twelve (12) graduate hours per semester. Graduate assistantships are limited to two years; however, a student may take more than three years to complete the degree.

Low Residency Program (available for Ceramics, Drawing, & Painting)
The Low Residency option in our MFA program offers students the opportunity to pursue an advanced degree from a distance. Minimal travel to campus is expected for workshops and critiques. Communication by telephone, e-mail and blogs allows interaction between faculty and students. This option is recommended only for students who are highly self-motivated and skilled and who have a studio with their own equipment set up. Students are encouraged to work with their local arts communities and mentors as well as the students and faculty at FHSU. Extensive written records of research and results is expected. Once accepted into the program, students can use the low residency option for one semester or an entire program. Progress is monitored at the end of each semester with a committee meeting. If satisfactory achievement is not documented, a student can be suspended or removed from the program.

APPLICATION TO THIS PROGRAM
Application Deadline
Rolling Deadline
Graduate Assistantship Deadline
April 1

Complete your online application at:
http://www.fhsu.edu/academic/gradschl/apply/

GENERAL ADMISSIONS POLICY
For all graduate programs, you must have earned a bachelor's degree with a minimum 2.7 overall GPA. All transcripts must be official copies. International
students with 3-year degrees will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the graduate dean. The applicant should have a bachelor's degree with a major in art from an accredited institution and have completed a minimum of 36 credit hours in art on the undergraduate level. Deficiencies must be completed before the candidate is allowed to proceed to the MFA degree program. A minimum of 10 hours in a studio concentration on the undergraduate level must be completed before the student is considered a major on the graduate level.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

It is expected the applicant have a 3.0 (B) average on the last 60 hours of undergraduate work.

Provide an official undergraduate transcript and an application of admission to the Graduate School. Submit three letters of recommendation from people who are, or have been associated with, the applicant as an artist (e.g., instructors, colleagues, etc.).

Submit a statement of purpose concerning motivation in seeking the degree. The student must indicate what his/her concentrations will be.

Submit 20 images of his/her work. Each image must be properly identified with the artist’s name, title, medium, date and size of work. Images should include: a minimum of 10 images from the major concentration. Include an image identification sheet, numbered to correspond with the images. There will be no waivers of image portfolios. The portfolio is the major component in deciding acceptance.

Submit a resume including exhibition record and professional employment. The MFA Admissions Committee will review all applications, and at its discretion, may require completion of particular courses to remove deficiencies in undergraduate training. Such courses would be requirements in addition to the minimum required for the graduate degree. The MFA Admissions Committee will make a recommendation about admission to the graduate dean, who makes the decision regarding admission. No decision will be announced over the phone.

An appropriate advisor will be assigned to each MFA candidate and is determined by the studio major indicated on the application of admission. This advisor works with the student throughout his/her graduate study.
PROGRESS REVIEWS
Admission to the MFA degree program does not guarantee graduation or that the student will be awarded a degree. He/she may be dropped from the enrollment or held in attendance beyond the customary two to three years if his/her progress does not measure up to the standards of the Department of Art and Design. Incompletes are not viewed as satisfactory progress. Courses must be completed before enrollments are allowed in subsequent program courses.
There will be a minimum of three reviews conducted by the candidate’s graduate committee to determine graduate progress: First Review, Preliminary Oral Examination, and the Final Oral Examination.

FIRST REVIEW
The student should complete at least 9 hours of graduate credit but no more than 12 hours before they will be required to have their First Review. The major professor has the option to invite relevant faculty. The committee will exercise one of three options:
1. Continuation in the program without interruption.
2. A semester of probation with a second review at the end of that period.
3. Termination in the program.
A degree plan must be filed with the Department of Art and Design and the Graduate School after the first review.

MID-PROGRAM REVIEW
The Preliminary Oral Examination is to be held mid-way through the program after completion of approximately 30 semester hours. This exam must be done prior to enrolling in thesis hours. The student’s graduate committee will conduct this exam and make one of the following decisions:
1. Continuation in the program without interruption.
2. A semester of probation with a second review at the end of that period.
3. Termination in the program.

FINAL EXAMINATION
Following the opening of the thesis exhibition, the graduate committee will meet for the oral examination over the thesis project. The student must then pass a written comprehensive exam to complete the program. Upon the committee’s approval and recommendation, the candidate will be allowed to graduate with the terminal MFA degree, provided all other degree requirements have been fulfilled.
ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY AND FILING OF PROGRAM

Admission to candidacy means the following conditions have been met. The student has:

1. Demonstrated satisfactory achievement in course work presented for admission to candidacy with at least a 3.0 grade point average.
2. Received recommended candidacy approval from the graduate committee.
3. Presented a thesis project approved by the major professor.
4. Filed in the Graduate School a degree program worked out at the recommendation of the major professor and approved by the graduate dean.

CHANGE OF MAJOR

If a graduate student decides to change the major, he/she must reapply to the Department of Art and Design and the Graduate Admissions Committee by submitting images in the new area of concentration. If the student’s request is approved, the student must realize the need to restructure his or her program, if one has been formally established, which may result in additional requirements and time required to complete the degree program.

GRADUATE COMMITTEE

The graduate committee of the candidate must be composed of the advisor as chair, two additional faculty members from the Department of Art and Design and one campus graduate faculty member outside the department. The chair of the department may be considered an ex-officio member of all graduate committees but may be an active member upon the request of the student. The student must personally invite all faculty members to serve on the graduate committee and keep the committee informed of progress.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

FHSU.EDU/FHSU.EDU/ARTANDDESIGN

Please contact the Graduate School
785-628-4236

Department of Art and Design
785-628-4247

Linda Ganstrom (head of MFA graduate program)
785-628-4273
MASTER of FINE ART

DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN
Ceramics
Drawing
Graphic Design
Intermedia
Painting
Photography
Printmaking
Sculpture