What can I do with a degree in... STUDIO ART?

Why study **STUDIO ART?**

Western Carolina University's studio art programs prepare students for careers as artists and arts professionals. Guided by a faculty of successful and award-winning artists, students follow a rigorous curriculum that allows them to immerse themselves in their chosen area of study. Each student becomes acquainted with professional practices by meeting one-on-one with experts, developing résumés and portfolios, using the latest facilities and technologies, and applying hands-on techniques and practices. WCU's small class sizes provide ample opportunity for students to participate in critical discussions and develop their abilities to write and talk about art.

What are the **DEGREE OPTIONS?**

Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A) in Studio Art
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Art
NOTE: *Students in the BA program also choose a second major or minor, and a foreign language, allowing them to make connections between art and other areas of study, and to understand art in the context of a larger world.*

Students interested in Art Education should refer to the Education major map.

What are the **AREAS OF STUDY?**

Students in the B.F.A degree program may choose between the following areas of study: **Ceramics, painting and drawing, photography, print and book arts, and sculpture.** Each concentration will teach students traditional and contemporary techniques within the discipline with the intent on giving each student the resources needed to visually express themselves.

Students in the BA degree program may choose a **Studio Art** concentration or **Art History.**

What is the **ADMISSION PROCESS?**

There are no portfolio requirements to become a Studio Art major. Incoming students interested in Studio Art should declare the major when admitted to the university. Please see the department's **guidelines for admissions.**

What **JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?**

Depending on the concentration and other qualifications, our graduates are prepared to become a variety of professionals including art directors, art appraisers, educators, restoration specialists, art therapists, commercial designers, exhibit designers, fashion designers, graphic designers, illustrators, painters, ceramicists, photographers, sculpturists, textile designers, web art designers, among other professions. ***NOTE:*** *Advanced degrees may be required for some of the listed professions. Please see a career counselor or a Studio Art advisor for more information.*

Who employs **STUDIO ART** graduates?

Thanks to their professional resumés and portfolios and hands-on experience, WCU art graduates are often ahead of the curve when it comes to entering the most sought-after fields and major markets in the public and private sectors. From design, advertising and public relations firms to museums, galleries, libraries and historical societies, a wealth of professional employment opportunities are available to graduates. Some establish their own businesses, art studios or community art centers. Others opt to pursue graduate studies in order to deepen their knowledge and build their professional credentials.

MAJOR MAP

How to use this map: Review the four categories and suggestions of activities and when you should consider engaging in them. Remember, these are just suggestions! There is a fillable space for you to add in any other ideas you have to set yourself up for success in life after college.

	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR
EXCEL IN ACADEMICS	Many first-year students will focus on the liberal studies requirements as well as introductory art courses. **Check out the BFA 8-semester plan** or the **BA 8-semester plan** and make an appointment with your advisor.	Students in their second year will likely continue with liberal studies electives, intermediate Studio Art courses topics, as well as introductory courses with their minor. **Check out the BFA 8-semester plan** or the **BA 8-semester plan** and make an appointment with your advisor.
GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE	Check out **WCU's DegreePlus program** and choose which events in any of the four categories you want to attend. Categories include: Professionalism, Teamwork, Leadership, or Cultural Responsiveness. See what on-campus employment opportunities are available by logging in to JobCat via your MyWCU.	Volunteer or get a paid position with the Bardo Arts Center, Fine Arts Museum, or the Arts and Cultural Events (ACE) at WCU. If you are thinking about attending a graduate school, start engaging in hands-on experiences required in graduate school admissions. Engage deeper with **DegreePlus;** choose an additional competency to complete
BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY	Connect with the **Center for Service Learning** and ask about the **Spark Award,** a program aimed to encourage students to be connected with their community.	Job shadow with professionals in the career area you wish to pursue. Volunteer with area non-profits or organizations which interest you. Consider the **study abroad programs related to Studio Art.** Talk with a study abroad advisor about targeted experience for your areas of interest.
PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE	Further explore your career options or career interests using the **Center for Career and Professional Development's** online resources, **Focus 2,** and **Onet Online.** Connect with a career counselor early on to explore opportunities and experiences you can do while in college to further develop your professional resume.	Check out **CCPD's list of career-building activities** and participate in an activity this year, such as attending Career Fair Plus. Start a spreadsheet of graduate schools, if applicable, you wish to apply to in a few years with their admission requirements so that you are aware of the expectations.

Looking for a minor? Consider these options:

Anthropology
Dance
English
History
Philosophy
Psychology
Sociology

3rd YEAR	4th YEAR
Third level courses focus on upper-level Studio Art courses, special topics relating to your career path, or your chosen minor. **Check out the BFA 8-semester plan** or the **BA 8-semester plan** and make an appointment with your advisor.	Courses in your final year will complete the major coursework requirement, concentration courses, as well as your chosen minor electives. Be sure to **check out the BFA 8-semester plan** or the **BA 8-semester plan** make an appointment with your advisor, complete your degree audit, and **apply for graduation!**
Consider internship experiences that will give you practical and hands-on experience to put on a resume. Start building your online portfolio to showcase the works of art you have created. Consider networking with professionals in your field at national or regional professional conferences such as the **College Arts Association's annual conference.**	Investigate requirements for full-time jobs. Assess what skills or experiences you're lacking and invest time in seeking additional opportunities such as certification programs, classes, or professional development workshops during your last year to fill that gap. Connect with your faculty advisor or career counselor.
Develop deeper relationships with the organizations for which you volunteer. Ask for special projects or responsibilities that you can highlight on a resume. Connect with alumni in your field through **LinkedIn**	Join professional organizations such as **Americans for the Arts, College Arts Association,** or **American Ceramic Society** Network with employers and non-profits at the annual Career Fair Plus event, held each October and February.
Visit the CCPD to hone your professional resume and cover letter. Apply for internships. Utilize the **Writing and Learning Commons** for MCAT, GRE, and other professional exam preparation sessions. Use **Big Interview** to learn more about professional interviews. Schedule a visit to tour graduate schools of your choice, if applicable.	Apply to graduate schools, if applicable. Look for and apply for jobs between 4 and 6 months before graduation. Polish your resume, cover letter, and interview skills by vising the **CCPD.**

DID YOU KNOW? Internships are still the number-one educational experience employers look for in a recent college graduate resume. (Chronicle of Higher Education's study on 50,000 employers)

MORE INFORMATION

INTERNSHIP Information

At Western Carolina University there are numerous internship opportunities for students. In some cases internships are established through a faculty member in the student's major. Oftentimes students find part-time jobs in an area related to their field of study. When this happens, students should discuss with their academic advisor the possibility of receiving college credit. Generally, three hours of general elective credit can be earned for a minimum of 150 hours of experience.

SKILLS LEARNED in the classroom

The core competencies will center on developing skills, knowledge, and attitudes such as:

- Printmaking
- Book Arts
- Photography
- Painting
- Drawing
- Ceramics
- Sculpture

KNOWLEDGE Base

This program will prepare students to:

- Understand basic principles of art and design
- Use knowledge and skills in he use of tools and technology sufficient to work from concept to finished product
- Conduct creative and scholarly research and to write and speak about art and design
- Use a broad knowledge of the history, philosophy and professional practices of art

Professional **RESOURCES**

- Americans for the Arts: americansforthearts.org
- American Ceramics Society: ceramics.org
- College for the Arts: collegeart.org
- College Book Art Association: collegebookart.org
- Professional Photographers of America: ppa.com

QUESTIONS?

For questions, please call the Studio Art program at 828-227-7210 or visit https://www.wcu.edu/learn/departments-schools-colleges/FPA/artdesign/index.aspx

To schedule an appointment with a career counselor, contact the Center for Career and Professional Development, 828-227-7133 or careerservices@wcu.edu.

Western Carolina UNIVERSITY