

Visual Arts Program

Visual Arts is an exploratory program designed for high school juniors and seniors who have an artistic interest, dedication and enthusiasm they wish to pursue in a structured course of study. The program is a carefully planned arts curriculum that promotes intellectual, aesthetic and emotional growth. Discipline is emphasized as an essential component of a personal work ethic.

Students take studio classes in drawing, graphics, color theory, two-dimensional design, sculpture, and photography, as well as survey classes in art history, tracing visual arts from prehistory to contemporary philosophies. Studio assignments are designed to introduce the student to a variety of media and the nature of the creative process and art objects. The Visual Arts faculty also stresses the importance of the academic program as an integral part of each student's education.

Standards of Achievement and Evaluation

Admission to the Visual Arts Program

Enrollment in Visual Arts is primarily limited to North Carolina residents who qualify for in-state tuition status, as defined in the North Carolina General Statute 116.143.1.

This program is designed for incoming high school juniors and seniors. The presentation of a portfolio (20 pieces of work) and an interview are prerequisites for admission. Although many students have had previous art training, this is not a requirement. Final decisions concerning admission are based on the artistic potential of each applicant, letters of recommendation, and a high school transcript.

Continuation in the Visual Arts Program

To remain in the Visual Arts Program, the student must maintain a 3.0 average in studio art classes and an average of 2.0 in the academic courses. Failure to meet this requirement will result in a one-term probationary period in which the student must attain a 3.0 average in each studio art class to continue in the program. Students are evaluated by the faculty each term and are invited to continue only as long as they demonstrate substantial growth toward artistic excellence.

High School Diploma

The University of North Carolina School of the Arts high school diploma with special concentration in visual arts is awarded to students who satisfactorily complete the requirements of the Visual Arts Program and UNCSEA High School Academic Program graduation.

First-Year Program (3 units per Year)

Each term, students will normally have two two-hour studio art classes every day, which will include drawing, fundamentals of design and color, sculpture, and three-dimensional design. Classes will stress individual development and critique to encourage analysis and self-evaluation.

Second-Year Program (3 units per Year)

Daily studio art classes will continue on an advanced level. Students also are required to take Art History. Although structure and technique are addressed, greater emphasis is placed on the interpretive style of each individual and the development of a portfolio.

Visual Arts Course Descriptions

The following information is a guide to course numbers and course descriptions for the Visual Arts Program. All courses listed may not be offered each year. A list of courses available in any given year may be obtained from the Visual Arts office.

VIA 011, 012, 013: Drawing (1/3 credit per term)

A practical study to expand the students' ability to experience and to state their world in graphic terms, and to better understand the options and obstacles that confront an individual when drawing, as well as to expose the student to a wide range of media and material.

VIA 014, 015, 016: Advanced Drawing (1/3 credit per term)

A continuation of beginning drawing designed to help the student broaden an understanding of the concepts, potentialities and processes involved in drawing.

VIA 021, 022, 023: Design (1/3 credit per term)

An introduction to the basic elements of design, focusing on the application of these elements in a series of two-dimensional assignments which involve visual problem-solving and graphic decision-making. A variety of black-and-white (and color) media are used with an emphasis on vocabulary and craftsmanship refinement. Critique sessions are a major component of this class, where students verbally articulate visual ideas and concepts.

VIA 024, 025, 026: Advanced Design (1/3 credit per term)

A continuation of Level I Design stressing the refinement of technique and further sophistication of form and content. Projects include two- and three-dimensional works in a variety of media including the introduction of light, sound, and space as they relate to visual imagery. Discussions focus on conceptual issues, materials, and the refinement of artistic intent.

VIA 031, 032, 033: Sculpture (Level I) (1/3 credit per term)

The first year is devoted to problems in three-dimensional design (first term), using paper and other materials; leading to an introduction to sculpture (second term), using plaster, wood and other sculpture media. Third term is devoted to a further exploration of sculptural media and the development of conceptual and aesthetic aspects of the work.

VIA 034, 035, 036: Advanced Sculpture (Level II) (1/3 credit per term)

A continuation of introductory sculpture with an emphasis on casting. Second term is devoted to exploring new sculptural problems and ideas using a variety of media, both traditional and experimental. Third term: advanced studio problems for half the term. Second half of the term is devoted to a senior project that will satisfy the course demands of all three art classes.

VIA 599: Intensive Arts Projects (1/3 credit per term)

Special projects, programs, classes, seminars and performances, developed by each of the arts areas, during the two-week period immediately following the Thanksgiving break. These may be either intradisciplinary or interdisciplinary among arts areas and/or academics. Students must enroll in the course each fall term they are in attendance at UNCSA. The course will be graded pass/fail.