School of Arts and Humanities

Visual and Performing Arts with Communication Concentration (BA)

Students who complete the major in Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) pursue an interdisciplinary study of the arts by selecting among courses in historical context, studio practice, performance ensemble, creative writing, and ideas and interpretation of the arts. In the VPA core course, students will experience the theory and practice of the arts in a workshop setting and, in studio or ensemble courses, will gain practical experience in at least one area of the visual or performing arts or creative writing. Courses in the historical context and interpretation of the arts will enable students to understand how style, subject matter, and materials may respond to different motivations and purposes. Students may also choose to enroll in courses associated with concentrations in communication, dance, theatre, film, music, or visual arts.

Since the following catalog course descriptions are very general, students are urged to consult the detailed course descriptions available on the web site for the School of Arts and Humanities.

Unless otherwise noted, courses in Visual and Performing Arts are open to all students in the University.

Bachelor of Arts in Visual and Performing Arts with Communication Concentration

Degree Requirements [120 semester credit hours]¹

View an Example of Degree Requirements by Semester

Faculty

Associate Professor: Shelley D. Lane

Clinical Associate Professor: Maribeth (Betsy) Schlobohm

Senior Lecturers: Barbara Baker, Karen Baynham, Janece Glauser, Christopher (Chris) Ryan, Allison Templeton, Patricia Totusek

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 semester credit hours²

Communication: 6 semester credit hours

COMM 1311 Survey of Oral and Technology-based Communication
**RHET 1302** Rhetoric

**Mathematics: 3 semester credit hours**
Choose one course from the following:
- **MATH 1306** College Algebra for the Non-Scientist
- **MATH 1314** College Algebra
Or select any 3 semester credit hours from Mathematics core courses

**Life and Physical Sciences: 6 semester credit hours**
Select any 6 semester credit hours from Life and Physical Sciences core courses

**Language, Philosophy and Culture: 3 semester credit hours**
Choose one course from the following:
- **HUMA 1301** Exploration of the Humanities
- **LIT 2331** Masterpieces of World Literature
- **PHIL 1301** Introduction to Philosophy
- **PHIL 2316** History of Philosophy I
- **PHIL 2317** History of Philosophy II
Or select any 3 semester credit hours from Language, Philosophy and Culture core courses

**Creative Arts: 3 semester credit hours**
Choose one course from the following:
- **ARTS 1301** Exploration of the Arts
- **AHST 1303** Survey of Western Art History: Ancient to Medieval
- **AHST 1304** Survey of Western Art History: Renaissance to Modern
- **AHST 2331** Understanding Art
- **DANC 1310** Understanding Dance
- **THEA 1310** Understanding Theatre
- **FILM 2332** Understanding Film
- **MUSI 1306** Understanding Music
- **MUSI 2322** Music in Western Civilization

**American History: 6 semester credit hours**
Choose two courses from the following:

- **HIST 1301** U.S. History Survey to Civil War
- **HIST 1302** U.S. History Survey from Civil War
- **HIST 2301** History of Texas
- **HIST 2330** Themes and Ideas in American History
- **HIST 2332** Civil War and Reconstruction

**Government / Political Science: 6 semester credit hours**

- **GOVT 2305** American National Government
- **GOVT 2306** State and Local Government

**Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester credit hours**

Select any 3 semester credit hours from Social and Behavioral Sciences core courses

**Component Area Option: 6 semester credit hours**

Choose two courses from the following or other Component Area Option courses:

- **ARHM 2340** Creativity
- **ARHM 2342** Connections in the Arts and Humanities
- **ARHM 2343** Science and the Humanities
- **ARHM 2344** World Cultures

II. Major Requirements, Lower-Division: 6 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum

Lower-division preparatory courses from one of the following (3 semester credit hours):

- **COMM 1320** Interpersonal Communication
- **COMM 1321** Business and Professional Communication
- **COMM 1315** Public Speaking
- **COMM 2314** Oral Interpretation
- **COMM 2317** Topics in Communication
- **THEA 1351** Acting 1
- **THEA 1352** Acting 2
- **THEA 2372** Improvisation
THEA 2373 Languages of the Body

Choose one course from the following: 3 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum:

AHST 1303 Survey of Western Art History: Ancient to Medieval
AHST 1304 Survey of Western Art History: Renaissance to Modern
AHST 2331 Understanding Art
ARTS 1301 Exploration of the Arts
DANC 1310 Understanding Dance
THEA 1310 Understanding Theatre
FILM 2332 Understanding Film
HUMA 1301 Exploration of the Humanities
MUSI 1306 Understanding Music

III. Major Requirements, Upper-Division: 42 semester credit hours

Major Core Courses: 9 semester credit hours

AP 3300 Elements of Art and Performance
AP 3340 Writing in the Arts
ARHM 3342 Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies in the Arts and Humanities

Major Distribution and Elective Courses: 24 semester credit hours

3 semester credit hours of upper-division Historical Context courses:

COMM 3351 History and Theory of Communication

6 semester credit hours of upper-division courses from the following communication performance courses:

COMM 3320 Readers' Theater
COMM 4340 Small Group Communication
COMM 4313 Advanced Public Speaking
THEA 3372 Advanced Improvisation

15 semester credit hours of upper-division Visual and Performing Arts electives:

COMM 4360 Communication Ethics
COMM 4314 Persuasion and Interpersonal Influence

And
9 semester credit hours of COMM Electives

**Major-Related Courses: 9 semester credit hours**

Students may select any combination of upper-division courses in Arts and Humanities, Humanities, Historical Studies, Philosophy, Literature, and/or Languages.

IV. Elective Requirements: 30 semester credit hours

**Free Electives: 30 semester credit hours**

Both upper- and lower-division courses may be used as electives, but students must complete at least 51 semester credit hours of upper-division courses to qualify for graduation.

Incoming freshmen must enroll and complete requirements of [ARHM 1100](#).

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1. Incoming freshmen must enroll and complete requirements of UNIV 1010 and the corresponding school-related freshman seminar course. Students, including transfer students, who complete their core curriculum at UT Dallas must take UNIV 2020.

2. Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from institutions of higher education. The courses listed are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at UT Dallas.

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