School of Arts and Humanities

Visual and Performing Arts with Visual Arts 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 Visual Arts Concentration

Degree Requirements (120 semester credit hours)¹

View an Example of Degree Requirements by Semester

Faculty

Professors: John J. Pomara, Marilyn Waligore

Clinical Assistant Professor: Lorraine Tady

Senior Lecturers: Diane Durant, Greg L. Metz

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: 9 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum

**Lower-division preparatory courses (6 semester credit hours):**

- **ARTS 2380** 2D Design Foundations

And one of the following:

- **ARTS 1316** Drawing Foundations
- **ARTS 2316** Painting Foundations
- **ARTS 2350** Photography: Design Basics
- **ARTS 2381** Introduction to Sculpture

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  
FILM 2332 Understanding Film

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

Major Core Courses: 9 semester credit hours

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

Major Distribution and Elective Courses: 24 semester credit hours

3 semester credit hours of upper-division Art History courses  
6 semester credit hours of 3000-level courses from Visual Arts studios  
3 semester credit hours of 4000-level courses from Visual Arts studios  
12 semester credit hours of upper-division Visual and Performing Arts 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: 27 semester credit hours

Free Electives: 27 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 1100.¹

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.