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

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 semester credit hours²

Communication: 6 semester credit hours

RHET 1302 Rhetoric

And choose one course from the following:

COMM 1311 Survey of Oral and Technology-based Communication

COMM 1315 Public Speaking

Mathematics: 3 semester credit hours

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
FILM 1303 Transnational Film and Video

Or select any 3 semester credit hours from Language, Philosophy and Culture core courses

Creative Arts: 3 semester credit hours

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
MUSI 1306 Understanding Music
MUSI 2322 Music in Western Civilization

Or select any 3 semester credit hours from Creative Arts core courses

American History: 6 semester credit hours

Select any 6 semester credit hours from American History core courses

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

DANC 1305 Introduction to World Dance Forms

Or select any 6 semester credit hours from Component Area Option core courses

II. Major Requirements, Lower-Division: 0-3 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 1305 Introduction to World Dance Forms
DANC 1310 Understanding Dance
FILM 1303 Transnational Film and Video
THEA 1310 Understanding Theatre
FILM 2332 Understanding Film
MUSI 1306 Understanding Music
MUSI 2322 Music in Western Civilization

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: 33-36 semester credit hours

Free Electives: 33-36 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. 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.
3. A required Preparatory course that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. Semester credit hours may be counted in Core Curriculum.
4. 0 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum, if the student has not previously completed other courses to satisfy these core curriculum requirements.

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