School of Arts and Humanities

Visual and Performing Arts (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

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 courses

II. Major Requirements, Lower-Division: 0-3 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum

Choose one course from the following:

**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
THEA 1310  Understanding Theatre
FILM 1303  Transnational Film and Video
FILM 2332  Understanding Film
MUSI 1306  Understanding Music
MUSI 2322  Music in Western Civilization

And
3 semester credit hours of lower-division Visual and Performing Arts electives

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 Historical Context courses
6 semester credit hours of upper-division courses from Studio and Ensemble courses
15 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: 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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