

What are the similarities and differences between the BA and the BFA degree?

SIMILARITIES

- i) Both require all Gen. Ed. courses EXCEPT the Fine Arts requirement
- ii) Both require all art foundation courses
- iii) Both require a student to take Portfolio I and pass SMAI
- iv) Both require Art History courses
- v) Both require a culminating senior exhibition in the Baum Gallery
- vi) Both require 40 hours of upper division credit (3000 level or above)
- vii) Both require 3-9 hours of a foreign language (2000 level competency) as a special degree requirement

DIFFERENCES

B.A. in Art: Fine Arts Emphasis

- (1) Is a general degree in the studio arts requiring 124 credits. In addition to the General Education and Foreign Language requirements, students take:
 - (a) 36 studio art credits, 9 art history credits, and 3 portfolio assessment credits
 - (b) 18-24 hours in a minor program of study.
- (2) Covers a breadth of studio areas.
- (3) Does not have a studio area emphasis
 - (a) Students are required to take at least three courses in one studio area
 - (b) BA is usually completed after one independently driven upper division studio art course (ART 4388).
- (4) Students with a BA degree in the arts may find a job in the arts but will just as likely find a job in an unrelated field that requires a college degree with a breadth of experiences. It will be difficult to enter directly into a MFA graduate program from undergraduate school with only a BA degree. Generally if a student wants to work as a professional in the arts, experiences beyond a BA degree (such as residencies, internships, unclassified graduate study, graduate study) will be necessary.

B.F.A. in Studio Art

- (1) Is an art degree with a specific studio emphasis
 - (a) BFA degrees are offered with an emphasis in Ceramics, Painting, Graphic Design, Printmaking, Sculpture and Photography
 - (i) Students take more studio courses in their emphasis area than in any other studio area
 - (ii) While students must choose an emphasis, they may choose to work in a cross-disciplinary way.
- (2) Requires 127 credits. In addition to the General Education and Foreign Language requirements, students take:
 - a) 60 hours of studio art credits, 15 hours of art history credit (including senior seminar) and 5 one hour portfolio credits
 - b) The BFA degree DOES NOT require a minor course of study .
- (3) There is an application process and review to get into the BFA program. This requires:
 - (a) 2.5 GPA in all courses
 - (b) 3.25 GPA on a minimum of 24 hours of art
 - (c) Successful completion of the SMAI
 - (d) An application submitted for faculty review containing at least 20 works and a letter of intent. Application may be submitted in fall and spring semesters. Check art department homepage under “current students” for deadlines.
- (4) Once accepted into the program students must:
 - (a) Complete a minimum of 24 hours in art including the 3 one hour credit professional track courses
 - (b) Complete a 300 hour internship (Art 4675 BFA Internship)
 - (c) Take Senior Seminar (art history) and Drawing IV
 - (d) Exhibit a mature body of work in the Baum gallery at the end of the course of study.
- (5) Students who successfully achieve a BFA degree are prepared to
 - (a) Apply to jobs in their related fields
 - (b) Apply to graduate programs
 - (c) Apply to residencies and fellowships
 - (d) Enter the world of professional artists
 - (e) Apply to jobs that require a college degree.