

**Degrees Available at SIUE**

- Master of Fine Arts, Art and Design

**Program Format**

The program coursework is offered as traditional daytime courses and evening courses.

**Art and Design Studio at SIUE**

The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) is a terminal studio degree designed to further the individual development of degree candidates and to provide them with professional competency in the studio arts. Areas of concentration include:

- Ceramics
- Drawing
- Graphic design
- Metalsmithing
- Painting
- Photography
- Printmaking
- Sculpture
- Textiles

At SIUE, all areas of study are taught by faculty who are practicing art professionals who, maintaining vigorous national exhibition schedules, make SIUE one of the most comprehensive studio art programs in the region.

SIUE is home to two connected buildings devoted exclusively to art and design. Art and Design West was completed in 2012, and is a LEED-certified building. The renovation of Art and Design East was completed in 2013, and includes larger, improved studio spaces. Each graduate student in the art studio program has their own private studio with year-round, 24-hour building access.

**Career Opportunities**

A graduate degree in art studio is intended to prepare students for a wide variety of careers, including work in museums, art galleries, cultural institutions and academia.

Many alumni from the Department of Art and Design live and work in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Recent graduates from the MFA program at SIUE have found successful careers at many established institutions, including Craft Alliance, St. Louis Artworks and the Laumeier Sculpture Park and Museum. They have exhibited in local and regional galleries and museums. Many of our alumni have gone on to receive commissions, become master printers, preparators, gallery directors, designers, museum staff and university educators.

**Hands-on Learning**

At SIUE, our students have access to the extensive collection of cultural objects housed in the University Museum and installed around campus. This allows for the firsthand study of original works of art, as does SIUE's location in the St. Louis metropolitan area. St. Louis is home to many museums and cultural institutions, including the Saint Louis Art Museum (SLAM), Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM), Laumeier Sculpture Park, Cahokia Mounds and many others. SIUE students also participate in AIGA student events and have earned internships at the St. Louis Science Center and Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Students in the art and design program at SIUE have the opportunity for their work to be on display in the SIUE Art and Design West Gallery, a recently constructed, 3,600-square-foot exhibition space. The Gallery hosts approximately 10 exhibitions each year, featuring national artists, as well as SIUE students and faculty members. Our students have also been regularly represented in exhibitions at the Edwardsville Art Center.

Our students have the opportunity to participate in the annual Sculpture on Campus event. This event gives 12 students the opportunity to design and install large-scale outdoor sculpture throughout campus. Students whose designs are chosen receive a stipend and the professional benefits of proposing, designing and installing major sculptural works that are on view for a full year. Each year, guest jurors award student prizes at the Sculpture on Campus reception after the campus-wide sculpture walk.

To enhance the academic program at SIUE, the Department of Art and Design has robust exhibition and visiting artist programs. These programs provide an opportunity for both art majors and non-majors to become acquainted with well-known artists and artwork brought to the University, as well as allowing for exhibition opportunities for students and faculty.

**Assistantships**

The Department of Art and Design awards assistantships to many graduate students. While an assistantship is not guaranteed, students selected for an assistantship receive a 25% assistantship for the duration of the three-year program, which provides a full tuition waiver and a monthly stipend. The assistantship may include teaching introductory courses, assisting in studio labs/fabrication areas, or in our 3,600-square-foot art gallery.

**Graduate Faculty**

**Jane A. Barrow, MFA**  
1990, Indiana University

**Steven C. Brown, MFA**  
1994, University of Delaware - Newark

**Ivy Cooper, PhD**  
1997, University of Pittsburgh

**John R. DenHouter, MFA**  
1994, Eastern Michigan University

**Graduate Program Director**  
**Brigham A. Dimick, MFA**  
1991, Indiana University

**Paul A. Dresang, MFA**  
1975, University of Minnesota

**Thad A. Duhigg, MFA**  
1989, Syracuse University

**Shelly E.M. Goebel-Parker, MSW, ATR-BC**  
2004, Washington University

**Jayashree George, DA, ATR-BC, LMFT, SEP**  
2000, New York University

**Aimee Howard-Clinger, MFA**  
2009, University of Kansas

**Ryan Horvath, MFA**  
2012, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

**Barbara JK Nwacha, MFA**  
1998, The University of Iowa

**Joseph Page, MFA**  
2008, Alfred University

**Sangsook Park, MFA, EdD**  
2004, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Katherine M. Poole-Jones, PhD**  
2007, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

**Megan A. Robb, MA, ATR-BC**  
2002, The George Washington University

**Laura Strand, MFA**  
1993, University of Kansas

**Rodrick Whetstone, MFA**  
2012, The University of Iowa

## Admission Requirements

- Graduate School application and \$40 fee
- Submission of all postsecondary academic transcripts
- Successful completion of a bachelor's degree prior to enrollment
- Minimum GPA of 2.50
- International Applicants: Proof of English Proficiency, minimum requirements are TOEFL (79), IELTS (6.5) or equivalent
- Submit three letters of recommendation by those familiar with your current artwork
- Provide a cover letter, resume/cv, artist statement and letter of intent of approximately 500 words, indicating professional aspirations and more immediate objectives you will pursue while in graduate school at SIUE
- Submit a digital portfolio (PPT or PDF) of 20 images

Program application materials may be uploaded during the application process, but official transcripts must be sent directly from the school attended and test scores must be verifiable with the appropriate testing service. Please contact the Graduate Admissions Office with questions regarding the application submission process at [graduateadmissions@siue.edu](mailto:graduateadmissions@siue.edu).

A committee consisting of the graduate studio faculty who offer MFA classes will review the applications. Letters of acceptance will be mailed approximately one month following the deadline, initially by the Graduate Admissions Office, with a follow up letter from the Department of Art and Design. Persons with deficiencies may enroll as unclassified graduate students for a limited time. Upon completion of the deficiencies, the student submits a portfolio of recent work to the graduate faculty before admission to the program is granted.

So that the MFA program can achieve a broader perspective, students who receive their undergraduate art degrees at institutions other than SIUE will be given higher priority in acceptance for admission.

Students pursuing the MFA at SIUE are required to explore additional electives in other studio areas in order to inform and enhance their personal work. An open dialogue with materials and media is encouraged, as is refining one's singular medium interests. With this said, students must apply to a single area of studio concentration and work to develop their interests in concert with their studio advisor. Applications for the MFA should be limited to one studio concentration at the time of applying.

## Application Deadline

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure the application, transcript(s), letter and portfolio arrive at SIUE on time. The deadline for admission is February 1 of the preceding spring semester. Additional applications will be considered after this date on a space-available basis.

## Graduation Requirements

The final examination for the MFA includes both written and oral forms, including a thesis defense. Upon acceptance of the thesis, the student's graduate committee and other members of the graduate faculty are invited to be present for the final oral examination. This examination is typically scheduled during or after the thesis exhibition. The candidate is expected to defend the thesis and exhibition, and to show knowledge of the general area of investigation and related areas of art and art history.

## Curriculum

The full-time student should expect to spend a minimum of three academic years in residency to complete the MFA. The program is based on the individual's area of interest and undergraduate training, and is jointly planned by the student, a committee of the graduate faculty and a professor who serves as advisor to the student in their principal studio area.

Total 60 hours (at least 30 at the 500-level)

- (21-30 hours) Major Studio Area
- (9 hours) Art History
- (6-15 hours) Electives (outside major studio area)
- (3 hours) ART 505 Seminar
- (3 hours) ART 506 Professional Practices
- (3 hours) ART 441 Drawing
- (3 hours) ART 599A Thesis
- (3 hours) ART 599B Thesis

## First-Year Review

At the end of their first year, each graduate student goes through a pass/fail/probation evaluation by a three-person committee comprised of studio faculty members outside of the student's discipline who are randomly selected by the Art and Design office. In addition, student's academic status in their art history course(s) will be factored into the evaluation for the first year. The evaluation consists of a presentation by the student of their progress for the year, followed by a question and answer period. Although the process is similar in structure to the final orals, it is not as rigorous and is designed to measure and inform students as to where they stand in terms of the department's expectations for the first year.

## Mid-Course Review

Prior to the beginning of a student's fourth term, or upon completion of 30 hours of graduate credit (whichever comes first), the candidate will undergo a rigorous mid-course academic review. This is conducted by the candidate's MFA Committee, which should consist of at least three members of the graduate faculty, at least one of whom must be a specialist from the student's major studio area.

The mid-course review consists of an oral interview in which the candidate shall present the creative work completed since arriving at SIUE. In addition, the candidate shall present evidence of his/her knowledge of art history and other material deemed pertinent by the committee for successful completion of the degree.

Additional evidence will also be submitted in the form of written essays, composed in response to questions from members of the candidate's graduate committee who will evaluate the candidate's answers for clarity of expression, as well as for correctness of factual detail.

## Thesis and Thesis Exhibition

The final examination for the MFA includes both written and oral forms, including a thesis defense. During their final year, all candidates for the MFA in art studio must complete six semester hours of thesis. The full first draft of the thesis, a written exposition of the candidate's artwork, is written in ART 599A in consultation with the candidate's committee. In ART 599B, the candidate designs and mounts the thesis exhibition. Upon acceptance of the written thesis, the student's graduate committee and other members of the graduate faculty are invited to be present for the final oral examination. The candidate is expected to defend the thesis and exhibition, and to show knowledge of the general area of investigation and related areas of art and art history. One piece of artwork from the thesis exhibition, chosen by the candidate in consultation with the thesis committee, is retained by the Department of Art and Design for the permanent art collection of the SIUE University Museum.

## Contact Information

Department of Art and Design  
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville  
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