

# FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY



**FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY** offers a B.A. degree in Visual Arts in a program accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art & Design.

**THE VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM** focuses on developing the artistic abilities of students within the liberal arts tradition. Students majoring in Visual Arts select an area of specialization within the studio arts:

- \* painting
- \* ceramics
- \* photography
- \* graphic design

After learning the concepts and skills underlying all the visual arts, the students spend several semesters learning the more advanced concepts and techniques of their chosen area of specialization.

The purpose of the art major is to give students a solid foundation in the studio arts and to develop visual awareness. The actual production of works in the studios, followed by critiques of their works, enhances the students' understanding. They are

prepared for graduate school or for independent work in the arts through their coursework in the studio areas, supplemented by art history and related fields of study. Graduates of this program have gone on to graduate studies and jobs in art related careers.

## **THE CURRICULUM**

A well-rounded education that prepares students to succeed in the modern world is at the heart of the traditional liberal arts education. Therefore, students in this program are required to successfully complete 59 hours of General Education Requirements. In addition to this foundation, the art major must successfully complete 12 hours of art history, 9 hours of basic studio courses, and 15 hours in drawing, design and technology courses. After selecting an area of specialization, the student will complete an additional 12 hours of more advanced work in the studios, 18 hours of work in a minor area, and conclude with a 1 hour senior seminar and the presentation of a senior exhibition as part of the requirements for graduation.

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## FACILITIES

The visual arts program facilities in the Hyman Fine Arts Center were created to capture the north light, so constant and essential to the working artist. This light, the spacious, high-ceilinged studios and adjacent open patio create an environment for study and the making of art. The facility contains a well-equipped woodshop for supervised student learning. The primary lecture hall was designed for quiet still image and video presentations to enhance the teaching of art history. The educational image collection contains well over 180,000 digital and slide images of works of art, and the Rogers Library holdings in art include at least 10,000 volumes, one of the best collections in the state.

The **ceramics** program provides a broad range of learning experience for students in the traditions of pottery and ceramic sculpture. The studio is equipped with electric wheels, extruders and slab rollers. In addition to electric kilns, several gas fired kilns are located on the Art Center's patio, including one of the largest high-fire reduction kilns in the southeast, with 125 cubic feet of firing space. These kilns allow for the firing of large-scale sculptural works from three-dimensional design classes as well as pottery from ceramics classes.

The digital **photography** classroom, photography studio and lab are fully handicapped accessible and outfitted with equipment to explore the fundamentals of camera technique, composition, lighting and digital manipulation. Students use a variety of camera formats, become familiar with professional digital imaging software, and can also explore alternative photographic processes. Emphasis is placed on individual self-expression and knowledge of contemporary photographic issues as well as an understanding of the history of the medium.

The **painting** studio is designed to offer a well-ventilated space for working in oils, acrylics or other media. An industrial-size exhaust booth is provided for spray painting. Students explore painting styles both traditional and modern; acquire thorough experience in color mixing and color theory; and learn to construct their own canvases in the frame shop.

In the **graphic design** lab, only professional level hardware and software are used to give students experience in the applications that are used in the industry. With its laser engraver, cutter/plotter, 3D and large format printers, the lab is equipped for instruction and production. Artworks are both created and adapted for use to give experience in the theory and professional application of visual design.

## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The Fine Arts Center boasts two Art Galleries. The Galleries Curator schedules the Art Gallery Series, exhibitions by students and distinguished regional artists with shows changing throughout the academic year.

Visiting artists often give gallery lectures or master classes to interested students and members of the FMU community.

Faculty lead student art history tours to visit major museums and galleries including Atlanta, Baltimore, Washington, New York, Boston, London and Ecuador. There is no substitute for actually standing in the presence of historically significant art and architecture.

Students have participated in community enhancement by painting murals and taking part in arts festivals.

Visual Arts alumni have gone on to successful graduate study and careers as

Studio Artist	Illustrator
Advertising Designer	Photographer
Art Educator	Print/Layout Designer
Museum Curator	Website Developer

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the academic scholarships and grants available to all Francis Marion University students through the University's Financial Assistance Office, the Department of Fine Arts is sometimes able to assist deserving students in a variety of ways. For additional information, please visit [departments.fmarion.edu/finearts/schol01.htm](http://departments.fmarion.edu/finearts/schol01.htm)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please visit our website for additional information about our Visual Arts Program: [departments.fmarion.edu/finearts](http://departments.fmarion.edu/finearts)

To arrange a visit to campus and the Department of Fine Arts, call admissions at 843-661-1231.

For more specific information about studies in Visual Arts at Francis Marion University, call (843) 661-1385 or contact:

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