Photography Emphasis Portfolio Review

Students in the Photography Emphasis develop skills in traditional and digital photography while refining their creative and conceptual approaches to the medium. The Photography curriculum emphasizes individual artistic development that integrates the history of photography, critical theory, and contemporary practice. Through an exploration of photographic techniques, students are given the tools to create visually compelling images that communicate their artistic ideas.

The Photography course sequence begins in the fall semester. Students who apply for entrance into the Photography program as a major or a minor must complete a portfolio submission that includes: a written statement; a portfolio of images; and official or unofficial transcript(s) from The University of Colorado Denver and all previous post-secondary educational institutions. Students who meet the requirements and are accepted into the program will be eligible to register for upper-division Photography courses.

ELIGIBILITY

University of Colorado Denver students and transfer students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 in Fine Art and Art History courses.

In order to apply to the Photography program as a major, students must have completed or be in the process of completing the following Visual Arts Foundation courses:

FINE 1100 Drawing I
FINE 1150 Introduction to Darkroom Photography
FINE 1400 Two Dimensional Design
FINE 2155 Introduction to Digital Photography
FINE 2600 Art History Survey I

In order to apply to the Photography program as a minor, students must have completed or be in the process of completing the following Photography courses:

FINE 1150 Introduction to Darkroom Photography
FINE 2155 Introduction to Digital Photography
PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Photography portfolio submissions must include a written statement, a portfolio of images, and official or unofficial transcripts from The University of Colorado Denver and all post-secondary educational institutions. All portfolios will be submitted online through Slidroom.

Written statements should be limited to one page in length (400-500 words) and saved as a .pdf file. Statements should address the following:

• Why do you want to study photography?

• What goals and expectations do you have regarding a career as a photographer? (For majors only)

• What are your creative strengths, and what areas need further development?

• Are there additional accomplishments that you would like the committee to know about (such as Dean’s List, GPA, internships, art-related extracurricular activities or relevant professional experience)?

The Photography portfolio must include 10 image files of creative work. At least 6 portfolio images should be photographic, demonstrating the student’s understanding of concept, form, composition and technique. The remaining 4 portfolio pieces may be photographic or they may be examples of design, drawing, painting, mixed media, sculpture, installation and/or printmaking.

For each portfolio image, students should write a brief description (150 words or less) that identifies the medium (silver gelatin print, ink jet print, charcoal drawing, etc.) and explains the student’s approach to the project.

Images must be submitted in jpeg format, 12 inches on the longer side, sized at 72 pixels per inch, saved at the highest setting available (usually 10 or 12). Files should be named with the student’s last name, then first name and image title using underscores to separate. Example: Doe_Jane_ImageTitle.jpg.

PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION PROCESS

Step 1: Register and create an account in Slidroom. Please go to the following link to complete this process: https://ucdvisualarts.slideroom.com. (Please note that Slidroom charges a $20.00 fee to process your portfolio submission).

Step 2: When prompted, answer all questions about your application.

Step 3: Upload documents including your written statement and transcripts from the University of Colorado Denver and all post-secondary institutions.

Step 4: Upload 10 image files of creative work.
PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Properly prepared application submissions must be uploaded to Sliderroom by 5:00 P.M. Mountain Standard Time on November 1st. Applications are only accepted online and must be formatted to the specifications listed above.

It is strongly recommended that students visit the submission website early and begin uploads two weeks before the due date. Late submissions due to technical difficulties on the part of the applicant will not be accepted.

THE EVALUATION PROCESS

A committee of Photography faculty members will review portfolio submissions. Acceptance into the Photography Emphasis is based on the portfolio images, written statement, completion of required courses, and GPA.

If not admitted into the Photography Emphasis as a major or minor, students have the choice to resubmit a portfolio the following year or they may select another Emphasis. Students not admitted into the Photography Emphasis are encouraged to schedule a meeting with the Area Head of Photography to learn strategies for improving their portfolio for future submissions.

The application is evaluated on the following criteria:

Technical Skill - The portfolio should demonstrate strong knowledge of the fundamental tools of photography including camera functions, analog film development and printing, digital imaging, as well as an understanding of design, form, composition and color.

Creativity – The portfolio should demonstrate creative choices in content and aesthetics.

Conceptual Skills - The portfolio and written statements should reflect analytical thinking and conceptual exploration of the photography medium.

Written Statement - The statement should outline academic and artistic goals, addressing any potential strengths and weaknesses.

Academic Performance - The grades must reflect a commitment to learning and growth.

QUESTIONS

Please contact CAMadvising@ucdenver.edu for Emphasis and Portfolio information, or contact the Photography Area Head, Carol Golemboski, at carol.golemboski@ucdenver.edu.