

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Art Practices is a professional degree program in studio art, where students self-select two studio art concentrations. The emphasis provides students with dynamic knowledge of the materials, methods, concepts and subjects to make them competitive in the global contemporary art world.

Art Practices provides comprehensive education in visual art practices, which includes creative influences, ideas, materials, tools and skills, as well as theory and art history, with an emphasis on current trends in contemporary art. Art Practices is designed for students whose creative ideas moves across media and who are looking for a more comprehensive critical approach to developing their art practice. The program provides students with focused professional skills in two self-selected areas of studio art to develop a fully formed and thoughtful body of work with conceptual impact.

The work of contemporary artists is a dynamic combination of materials, methods, concepts, and subjects that challenges traditional assumptions and definitions. Contemporary artists give voice to the varied and changing landscapes of identity, values, and beliefs in the increasingly global culture of our diverse and technologically advancing world. Artists today explore ideas, concepts, questions, and practices that examine the past, describe the present, and imagine the future. This program is designed to address the needs of students looking to become successful emerging artists with the skills to become active individuals in the art world through multiple outlets— both exhibition/sales routes as well as arts education and business employment.

Graduates exhibit work in galleries and museums, produce commissioned work, operate businesses in the arts, create public art and performance art, and collaborate within national arts collectives. Visual Arts alums own galleries such Foolproof Contemporary Art, are fabricators at Swanson Stone, collaborate with Meow Wolf, and chair major arts programs.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Freshmen with fewer than 30 credits and/or CAM students who are Undeclared are assigned to the Center for Undergraduate Exploration and Advising (CUE&A). All other College of Arts & Media (CAM) students with more than 30 credits who have declared CAM majors are assigned to the CAM Office of Advising and Student Services.

Students can connect with the internal CAM admissions team to learn more about the program, additional admission requirements, spaces, equipment and technology.

Students with a declared CAM major that have more than 30 credits are encouraged to meet with a CAM advisor every semester prior to registration.

Freshmen with fewer than 30 credits and/or CAM students that are Undeclared students are assigned to the Center for Undergraduate Exploration and Advising. These students are required to meet with an advisor every semester prior to registration.

CAM Recruitment and Enrollment

CAMinfo@ucdenver.edu

Visit the CAM website [here](#)

Arts Building, Suite 177
303-315-7400 (option 1)

CAM Office of Advising and Student Services

CAMadvising@ucdenver.edu

Visit the CAM website [here](#)

Arts Building, Suite 177
303-315-7400 (option 1)

Center for Undergraduate Exploration and Advising (CUEA)

CUEA@ucdenver.edu

Visit the CUEA website [here](#)

Student Commons 1113
303-315-1940

GENERAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

All CU Denver CAM students are required to complete the following minimum general graduation requirements:

1. Complete a minimum of 120 semester hours.
2. Achieve a minimum 2.0 CU cumulative grade point average (GPA).
3. Complete a minimum of 45 upper division (3000/4000 level) credits.
4. Complete all college and major requirements.
5. Residency: complete a minimum of 30 CU Denver hours in good standing at CU Denver.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

Students choose from two areas for their primary concentration: Painting and Drawing OR Transmedia Sculpture. They then select a secondary concentration—different from their primary concentration from the following: Painting and Drawing, Illustration, Transmedia Sculpture or Photography. Students take 21 semester hours in their primary concentration and 15 semester hours in their secondary concentration.

Students are responsible for meeting with a CAM advisor to confirm degree progress. Students completing the Fine Arts BFA Degree with an emphasis in Art Practices are required to complete the following minimum program requirements:

1. Complete 34 semester hours of **CU Denver Core Curriculum coursework**.
2. Complete a minimum of 77 semester hours of **major-area coursework** with a grade of C (2.0) or better in each course.
3. Complete a 3-credit College of Arts & Media graduation requirement.

ART PRACTICES

Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) – Catalog Year 2026-2027

Courses	Credits	Notes
Required CU Denver Core Curriculum Coursework	34	CU Denver Core Curriculum
Required College of Arts & Media graduation requirement Non-Major Arts (Theatre, Film, or Music)	3	
General Electives	2	
Visual Arts Foundation Requirements	18	
FINE 1100 Drawing I	3	
FINE 2200 Painting I	3	
FINE 1500 3- Dimensional Design	3	
FINE 2155 Intro to Digital Photography	3	
FINE 2600 Art History Survey I	3	
FINE 2610 Art History Survey II	3	
Primary Visual Arts Concentration Courses	24	<i>Complete 12 required credits; courses listed to the left below</i>
Art Practices Required Courses	12	
FINE 2030 Life Drawing (Both Fall and Spring)	3	
FINE 2510 Shaping Material (Spring)	3	
FINE 3300 Painting, Drawing, and the Printed Image (Fall)	3	*Prereq: FINE 1100.
FINE 3500 Immersive Installation Art (Fall)	3	
Art Practices Choice Courses	12	<i>Complete 12 additional credits. Select 4 other courses to take out of those listed on the left below. Must not repeat courses through secondary concentration selection.</i>
FINE 2500 Beginning Foundry (Fall)	3	*Prereq: FINE 1500.
FINE 3030 The Media of Drawing (Spring)	3	
FINE 3040 Color Theory (Both Fall and Spring)	3	*Prereq: FINE 1100.
FINE 3050 Figure Drawing and Painting (Both Fall and Spring)	3	*Prereq: FINE 2030 and 2200.
FINE 3200 Intermediate Painting and Drawing (Spring)	3	*Prereq: FINE 2200.
FINE 3240 Abstract Painting and Drawing (every other Fall, even years)	3	
FINE 3405 Video and Performance Art (every other Spring, even years)	3	*Prereq: FINE 1500.
FINE 3450 Digital Painting (Both Fall and Spring)	3	*Prereq: FINE 1100.
FINE 3505 Character and Product Prototyping (Spring)	3	
FINE 3510 Form and Play	3	*Prereq: FINE 1500.
FINE 3515 Public and Environmental Art (every other Spring, odd years)	3	*Prereq: FINE 1500.
FINE 3545 Intermediate Sculpture (Fall)	3	*Prereq: FINE 1500.
FINE 4225 Advanced Painting and Drawing (Spring)	3	*Prereq: FINE 3200.
FINE 4505 Sculptural Drawing (Fall)	3	*Prereq: FINE 1500.
FINE 4530 Advanced Sculpture (Fall)	3	*Prereq: FINE 3545.
FINE XXXX Art Travel Study (If a 6-credit program, 3 others may be electives)	3	
Secondary Concentration Choice Courses	15	<i>Complete all 15 credits (five courses) from ONE of the five secondary concentration options listed below to the left. Note: Secondary concentration courses must be different than the choices selected for the primary concentration above.</i>
Art History	15	
FINE XXXX Art History Elective	3	
FINE XXXX Art History Seminar	3	
FINE XXXX Art History Elective	3	
FINE XXXX Art History Seminar	3	
FINE XXXX Art History Seminar	3	
Illustration	15	
FINE 2XXX Drawing for Story	3	
FINE 3010 Illustration I: Image Making	3	
FINE 3450 Digital Painting OR FINE 3014 Graphic Novel Workshop	3	
FINE 3410 Illustration II: Digital Media	3	

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FINE 3414 Motion Design I OR FINE 3455 Intro to 2D and Traditional Animation	3	
Photography	15	
FINE 1150 Intro to Darkroom Photography	3	
FINE 3161 Silver Fine Print	3	
FINE 3162 Digital Fine Print	3	
FINE 3171 Experimental Photo	3	
FINE 4195/4196 Photography Portfolio I and II	3	
Painting & Drawing	15	
FINE 3030 The Media of Drawing	3	
FINE 3040 Color Theory	3	
FINE 3050 Figure Drawing & Painting	3	
FINE 3200 Intermediate Painting & Drawing	3	
FINE 4225 Advanced Painting & Drawing	3	
Transmedia Sculpture	15	
FINE 2500 Beginning Foundry	3	
FINE 3405 Video and Performance Art	3	
FINE 3510 Form and Play	3	
FINE 3545 Intermediate Sculpture	3	
FINE 4530 Advanced Sculpture	3	
Additional Required Courses	15	
FINE 4990 Contemporary Art History	3	<i>*Prerequisites: FINE 2600 + 2610.</i>
FINE ____ Upper Division Art History Elective	3	<i>*Prerequisites: FINE 2600 + 2610.</i>
FINE ____ Visual Arts Electives (3)	9	
Capstone Courses	9	
FINE 4215 Interdisciplinary Studio (<i>Fall only</i>)	3	<i>*Prerequisite: FINE 3500.</i>
FINE 4515 Advanced Art Practices (<i>Spring only</i>)	3	<i>*Prerequisite: FINE 3500. Co-requisite with FINE 4950.</i>
FINE 4950 Studio BFA Thesis (<i>Spring only</i>)	3	<i>*Prerequisites: Restricted to senior FINE-BFA majors in the College of Arts & Media.</i>
TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS	120	

ART PRACTICES

Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) – Catalog Year 2026-2027

SAMPLE ACADEMIC PLAN OF STUDY

The following academic plan is a *sample* pathway to completing degree requirements for this major. The plan below is intended for first-time, First-Year students. This sample schedule can be adjusted to accommodate AP, IB, and/or CLEP credits, as well as courses taken during the summer sessions. In addition, students should tailor this plan based on transfer credit, course availability, and individual preferences related to course load, schedules, or add-on programs such as minors or double majors. **Students deviating from this plan must fulfill course prerequisites and should meet with an advisor to confirm course sequencing and degree requirements.**

YEAR ONE

Semester 1	CRS
FINE 1100 Drawing I	3
FINE 2155 Intro to Digital Photography OR FINE 1150 Intro to Darkroom Photography	3
FINE 2600 Art History Survey I	3
ENGL 1020 Core Composition I	3
CU Denver CORE Math requirement	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	15

Semester 2	CRS
FINE 2220 Painting I	3
FINE 1500 3D Design	3
FINE 2610 Art History Survey II	3
ENGL 2030 CORE Composition II	3
CU Denver CORE Science with Lab	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	15

YEAR TWO

Semester 3	CRS
FINE 2030 Life Drawing (Fall Only)	3
FINE 2510 Shaping Material	3
FINE XXXX Secondary Concentration Area Course	3
General Elective	3
CU Denver CORE Science w/out Lab	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	15

Semester 4	CRS
FINE 3030 The Media of Drawing	3
FINE XXXX Primary Concentration Area Course	3
FINE XXXX Secondary Concentration Area Course	3
Non-Major Arts (Film/TV or Music)	3
CU Denver CORE Behavioral Science	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	16

YEAR THREE

Semester 5	CRS
FINE 3500 Installation Art (Fall only)	3
FINE XXXX Primary Concentration Area Course	3
FINE XXXX Secondary Concentration Area Course	3
FINE XXXX Visual Elective #1	3
CU Denver CORE Social Sciences	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	15

Semester 6	CRS
FINE XXXX Primary Concentration Area Course	3
FINE XXXX Primary Concentration Area Course	3
FINE XXXX Secondary Concentration Area Course	3
FINE XXXX Upper Div. Art History Elective	3
FINE XXXX Visual Elective #2	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	15

YEAR FOUR

Semester 7	CRS
FINE 4215 Interdisciplinary Studio (Fall only)	3
FINE XXXX Secondary Concentration Area Course	3
General Elective	3
CU Denver CORE Cultural Diversity	3
CU Denver CORE Humanities	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	15

Semester 8	CRS
FINE 4515 Advanced Art Practices (Spring only)	3
FINE 4950 Studio BFA Thesis (Spring only)	3
FINE 4990 Contemporary Art History	3
FINE XXXX Visual Arts Elective #3	3
CU Denver Core International Perspectives	3
TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS	14

^M Major Course Available ^{PE} Prerequisite Enforced ^{PR} Prerequisite Recommended