



Master of Fine Art (MFA) in Studio Art

We appreciate your interest in the Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison! As you take the exciting step of applying to our program, we understand that you may have many questions about the application process and the program itself. To help guide you through this process, we have prepared a comprehensive question and answer document that covers many common questions and concerns. We hope that this resource will serve as a helpful reference as you complete your application and learn more about our program.

If you find that your questions are not addressed within this document, please do not hesitate to reach out to us for additional assistance. Our Graduate Program Manager is available to answer any further questions you may have, and can be contacted via email at branden.martz@wisc.edu.

Notice for prospective students interested in graphic design or metalsmithing:

The Art MFA program will not be accepting students for the areas of graphic design or metalsmithing for the fall 2025 term.

Thank you again for your interest in our program, and we wish you the best of luck in the application process!

Is the MFA program at the University of Wisconsin - Madison interdisciplinary?

Yes, the program offers students the opportunity to cross media and encourages them to research their studio practice as it relates to other disciplines and areas of research on campus. Students will work with faculty both within and outside their discipline or media area. We strongly encourage students to take full advantage of what the campus has to offer.

Does the MFA program offer application fee waivers?

The MFA program does not offer application fee waivers. However, the UW-Madison Graduate School offers a limited number of application fee grants to eligible students who may have financial constraints.

The fee grants are available to U.S. citizens, permanent resident applicants, and students with DACA status who can provide documentation of:

1. Participation in a recognized research or pipeline program designed to prepare students for graduate studies (for a complete list of programs, visit the Graduate School's fee grant eligibility page).
2. A financial background from a low-income family prior to or during college.

If you believe you may be eligible for a fee grant, please visit the [Graduate School's website to learn more about the application process and requirements](#). It is important to note that the number of fee grants is limited, and they are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Does the MFA program offer tuition remission?

Yes, the program offers full tuition remission to all students throughout their three years in the program, regardless of in-state, out-of-state, domestic, or international status.

Do students need to pay university and lab fees?

Yes, students are responsible for paying university segregated fees and lab fees on a semester-by-semester basis. [SEGREGATED FEES](#)

Does the MFA program offer graduate assistantships, and will I need to apply annually to receive funding?

The program guarantees students graduate assistantships in the form of Teaching Assistants, Lecturing Student Assistants, and Project Assistantships. Students are guaranteed an assistantship each year in the program and are automatically assigned an assistantship annually.

Does the MFA program offer graduate fellowships?

Yes, the MFA program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison offers fellowships to eligible students. Students completing their second year in the program may apply for a fellowship, which provides funding during their third year of study. Fellowships are awarded based on the merit of the student's research proposal.

Fellowships are awarded through an annual application process within the department, and are typically granted to rising third-year graduate students whose research would benefit from a fellowship year. Fellowship recipients are not required to provide service through a graduate appointment, which allows them to conduct research away from campus if necessary.

Does the MFA program offer stipends?

Yes, each student receives a stipend attached to their assigned graduate appointment. Students can expect to receive a stipend of at least \$26,000, which is intended to offset the cost of attending the program and can be used at the student's discretion to support their living expenses.

Do graduate students receive access to health insurance?

Yes, all graduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison have access to health insurance. UW Health Insurance coverage can be extended to a spouse and/or dependent children. For more information about [GRADUATE HEALTH INSURANCE](#)

I'm an international student and have questions about application requirements and test scores.

As an international applicant, it is important to ensure that you meet all the requirements for admission to the University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate School. You can find the most up-to-date information regarding international applications and requirements on the university's [INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE ADMISSIONS](#) website.

It is important to note that the Art Department adheres to the Graduate School's requirements regarding test scores, and there are no exceptions to these requirements. Therefore, you should carefully review the Graduate School's admission requirements and ensure that you meet all the necessary criteria.

Does the MFA program require the completion of the GRE to apply for admission?

No, the program does not require the GRE for admission.

Do I need to have a BFA in Art to be considered for admission?

No, it is not a requirement for your bachelor's degree to be in Art for you to be considered for admission to our MFA in Studio Art program. We welcome applicants from a variety of educational backgrounds, as long as they have a strong investment in a visual arts studio practice and are able to demonstrate their artistic abilities and ambitions through a portfolio of work.

While a bachelor's degree from an accredited university is a requirement for admission, we understand that many applicants may have pursued different academic paths prior to discovering their passion for visual art. We encourage applicants from diverse backgrounds to apply, and we believe that a range of experiences and perspectives can greatly enrich our program and contribute to the overall success and growth of our students.

Do I need to submit official transcripts as part of my application?

No, for the purpose of the application, unofficial copies of your transcript(s) are acceptable. It's important to note that if you have attended multiple undergraduate institutions, you

must submit a transcript copy from each institution, regardless of completion of a degree program. If you are admitted to the program, the university will request official transcripts be sent to the Graduate School for final review and approval.

My undergraduate institution does not employ a 4.0 scale or letter grading system, will this affect my eligibility for admission consideration?

Our MFA in Studio Art program recognizes that various colleges have transitioned away from traditional letter grading systems, including A-F scales. As such, the absence of a cumulative GPA on your academic transcript will not impede your admission consideration. In the event of acceptance into the program, the department will collaborate with campus admissions to facilitate your admittance, taking into account the unique grading system of your degree-granting institution.

What should I include in my statement of intent?

This statement should include relevant information related to your studio practice and how attending the university will benefit your research over the course of the three-year program. This is your opportunity to share with the admissions committee specific aspects of your practice that relate to what the university can offer. It's appropriate to mention departments, areas of research outside the Art Department, collections, museums, libraries, researchers, faculty, and other university resources that will support your studio research during your time in the program. This statement should be concise and within 500 words.

What should I include in my artist statement?

Unlike the statement of intent, your artist statement should focus solely on your current art practice and research. It should provide accurate descriptions of your present work and intellectual interests. Additionally, it should be forward-looking, addressing how attending the UW-Madison MFA program will propel your practice over the next three years, and what specifically the Department of Art can provide to help you achieve your goals. This statement should be concise and within 500 words.

Should I submit a CV or Resume?

You may submit either a CV or a resume as part of your application to the MFA program in Studio Art at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Both formats are acceptable, and the choice ultimately depends on your preference and the way you wish to present your qualifications and experience.

In addition to your CV or resume, you will also have the opportunity to provide links to any web spaces where you showcase your art practice and research. This can include social media accounts, a professional website, or any other online platforms where you share your work with the public. These links can provide valuable context and insight into your

artistic practice, and can help the admissions committee better understand your work and your potential as an MFA student.

Do I have to wait for my recommenders to submit their letters of recommendation before I can submit my application?

No, you do not have to wait for your recommenders to submit their letters of recommendation before submitting your application. Your recommenders can still upload their letters after you have submitted the application. The university will contact your recommenders directly with instructions on how to submit their letters.

Please ensure that you inform your recommenders that their letters are due on or before January 6 to avoid any delays in the application review process. It is your responsibility to communicate the deadline and ensure that all required materials are submitted in a timely manner.

Is it okay to reach out to UW faculty during the application process?

Yes, you may reach out to faculty during the application process. Our faculty members are very gracious and appreciate hearing from prospective graduate students. You can find a directory of Department of Art faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison here [FACULTY DIRECTORY](#).

Feel free to contact faculty members who share your research interests or whose work you find particularly inspiring. They can provide valuable insights into the program, and research on campus.

Do you offer department tours?

While the Art Department does not offer department-specific tours, the University of Wisconsin-Madison does offer campus tours for prospective students and visitors. Campus tours are available for anyone visiting campus, and can provide a great opportunity to explore the UW-Madison campus and learn about its history, traditions, academic excellence, and campus landmarks.

You can schedule a campus tour through the university's Campus and Visitor Relations office, or by visiting the university's [VISIT](#) page online.

If you are interested in visiting the Art Department specifically, our buildings are open to the public Monday through Friday 8am-4pm, and you are welcome to explore our facilities and galleries and learn more about our programs and resources. Our buildings are located at the following addresses:

[George L. Mosse Humanities Building](#)
[Art Lofts Building](#)

How does the MFA program promote diversity, equity, and inclusion?

The MFA program in Studio Art at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is proud to have a diverse community of students and faculty, with individuals from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. Our program includes people from all over the world, representing different cultures, nationalities, and identities. We also welcome students at various stages of their professional lives, from recent graduates to established artists seeking to further their practice.

Is the application process competitive?

Yes, the application process for the MFA in Studio Art program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is competitive due to the program's strong reputation and the comprehensive financial support offered to admitted students. Our program provides full tuition remission, annual graduate appointments, stipends, and access to health insurance, which makes it an attractive choice for prospective students.

What should I include in my portfolio?

This decision is entirely up to you; however, we encourage you to include work completed within the past three years. Recent work offers the admissions committee a better understanding of the nature of your work and what they could expect to see from you as a first year graduate student. You will have the opportunity to identify the discipline(s) that your portfolio represents within your application. It's important to note that you should include examples of discipline-specific artworks that are relevant to the discipline(s) you identify in your application.

Does the MFA program offer portfolio reviews prior to applying to the program?

No, due to the high number of applicants and interested parties annually, the Department of Art at the University of Wisconsin-Madison does not offer portfolio reviews prior to the application process.

When can I begin my application and when is it due?

The applications for the Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will be available starting October 1 and must be completed by the deadline on January 6. Please ensure that you submit both applications before the deadline, as late submissions will not be considered.

To access the applications, please use the following links:

- UW-Madison Graduate School Application: [APPLICATION PORTAL](#)
- Art Department MFA SlideRoom Application (listed as Program 1): [APPLICATION PORTAL](#)

We encourage you to start your application as early as possible to ensure that all required materials are submitted on time.

When will I receive a decision regarding my admittance to the program?

Admittance decisions for the MFA program in Studio Art at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are typically communicated to applicants in February. If you are admitted to the program, the admissions committee will contact you to schedule an interview.

This interview serves as an opportunity for the admissions committee to get to know you better, discuss your artistic practice in more detail, and answer any questions you may have about the program.

Is there campus housing available for graduate students?

While many of our graduate students choose to live off-campus, there are several housing options available for master's and doctoral students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The university offers on-campus housing specifically designed for graduate students, including the Eagle Heights and University Houses communities, as well as the Harvey Street Apartments. These apartments are conveniently located near campus and offer a range of amenities and services tailored to the unique needs of graduate students.

If you are interested in learning more about on-campus housing options for graduate students, please visit [UNIVERSITY APARTMENTS](#) for additional information.

Do graduate students receive a campus studio?

Yes, all graduate students admitted to the MFA in Studio Art program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are provided with a dedicated studio space located within one of our department buildings. We carefully assign studios to ensure that students are situated near the resources most relevant to their artistic practice and research.

These studios are accessible to students from the time they begin the program until they graduate, and are available for use 24 hours a day, seven days a week, throughout the entire year. This allows students the flexibility to work on their projects and engage in their artistic pursuits at any time that best suits their individual needs and schedules.

Are there additional financial resources or opportunities available to support graduate students in their academic pursuits?

Yes, graduate students do have a variety of funding options available to them. In addition to grant writing, there are also opportunities for travel and presentation funding through the Graduate School. The Art Department also has an annual budget for supporting student

initiatives. Additionally, students may be eligible for Federal Work Study aid, which allows them to work in the department's industrial studio shops for an hourly wage. It's important for graduate students to explore all available options and take advantage of the resources provided by the university.

As a current graduate student, I am interested in transferring to the UW-Madison MFA in Studio Art program. Is there a process for direct admission without submitting a formal application?

Admission to the UW-Madison MFA in Studio Art program is contingent upon the formal application process and approval by the admissions committee. No automatic admission is granted to transfer students.

As a student in the MFA in Studio Art program, is it permissible to establish and maintain an off-campus studio while completing coursework remotely from home?

The UW-Madison, MFA in Studio Art program emphasizes the significance of on-campus presence and active participation in the campus community. Students are expected to maintain an on-campus studio and engage in face-to-face instruction, adhering to a weekly schedule that requires full participation. This fosters a collaborative and immersive learning experience, essential to the program's core values.

I have children. Is there campus support for parents who are pursuing their degree?

The University of Wisconsin-Madison offers comprehensive support to students with children through the [Office of Child Care and Family Resources \(OCCFR\)](#). This office provides a range of services to assist student-parents in balancing their academic pursuits with their family responsibilities. Resources include information on campus and network child care centers, financial assistance, a resource library, a parents' listserv, and various events tailored to families' needs.