Master of Fine Arts

Take your talent to the next level with a Master of Arts in Fine Arts.

The Master of Fine Arts degree is a terminal degree designed to develop the technical, aesthetic, and conceptual competencies at the highest level. Students must fulfill a residency requirement in this intensive three-year program. Graduates become studio artists, university professors, or some work in industry. Graduates are prepared for life-long research and routinely exhibit and publish their work in their specific field of study.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS and PROCEDURES

- Visit the Graduate School webpage and click the “Applying to Graduate School” link on the left side of the screen.
- Begin by creating an account on CollegeNET by clicking the “account” link on the Apply page.

CollegeNET is a self-managed application system. It will allow you to submit admission materials, check the status of your application, and view your decision letter using this account. If you have issues with your CollegeNET account, consult the CollegeNET help desk by submitting a Help Request Form or email help@collegenet.com.

Individuals seeking admission as degree students in this program must comply with the general admission requirements for graduate students at Edinboro University and with the following specific admission requirements for this program:

1. Complete the online application.
2. Pay an application fee of $30.
3. Provide an official transcript verifying an earned baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education. A grade point average of 3.0 or better for the junior and senior years is required.
4. Submit a letter of intent (Please indicate the main medium of interest: Ceramics, Metals/Jewelry, Painting, Printmaking or Sculpture).
5. Three letters of reference. At least two of these should be faculty members the applicant had as instructors for undergraduate or graduate art courses.
6. Submit the required portfolio of 20 images of recent studio work using the Edinboro SlideRoom account found at: https://edinboroart.slideroom.com/. Include title, media, size, and date of each image. These must be submitted on or before the application deadline - February 1.
7. A personal interview if notified by the department.

All necessary steps of the admission process, except the personal interview, must be completed by February 1st.

Must be able to enroll in this program as a full-time student for at least two consecutive semesters excluding summer. If applicable, submit request for the acceptance of transfer credit.

Note: This program has a limited enrollment; therefore there is no guarantee that individuals who meet the admissions requirements will be accepted into this program or that accepted students will be allowed to enter at a later date.

An advance tuition deposit of $150 shall be paid by all new students in the MFA program. This deposit is required within two weeks of acceptance of an offer of admission to the Graduate School. This student deposit is a guarantee of the intention of the applicant to register at the University for the term indicated on the admissions letter. Upon receipt, the University will credit the $150 deposit to the student’s account. Applicants who subsequently cancel their application or fail to register shall forfeit their advance deposit; there will be no full or partial refunds.
CURRICULUM

A minimum of 60 semester hours of graduate credit must be earned as a partial requirement for this degree. At least 30 semester hours must be in graduate student-only courses. While the following is a general description of the curriculum, students must meet with an advisor to develop their Plan of Study.

I. Courses in the major studio area* 30 cr. hrs.
(A minimum of fifteen credits of level I studio courses, and fifteen credits of level II studio work in the major must be completed – see Candidacy.)

II. Courses in a complementary studio area* 6 cr. hrs.

III. Courses in Art History, Aesthetics, or Criticism** 9 cr. hrs.

IV. ART 700 / 701 / 702 Seminar in Fine Arts 3 cr. hrs.

V. Courses in related electives** 9 cr. hrs.

VI. ART 799 Studio Exhibit 3 cr. hrs.

* The major studio area courses, complementary studio area courses and electives may be taken only in the following studio areas: ceramics, painting, printmaking, sculpture and jewelry/metals. ** May include credits in ART 700/701/702

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Individuals must comply with the degree requirements of master’s degrees listed under Academic Standards and Policies in this catalogue. In addition to these requirements the individual must meet the following requirements:

1. Secure pre-approval from the student's graduate committee for the site and duration of the Studio Exhibit;
2. Must satisfactorily complete a thesis exhibition, earning a grade of “B” or better for the course ART 799 Studio Exhibit; and
3. Must satisfactorily complete a comprehensive verbal defense of the work in the thesis exhibition as reviewed by the student’s graduate committee;
4. Submit a CD of images documenting each piece in the final exhibition and a written artist’s statement, to the student’s advisor prior to the awarding of the degree; and
5. Refer to Academic Information section of the Graduate catalogue for general degree requirements.

Candidacy. During his or her fifteenth semester hour of level I course work in the major studio area, the student must submit to the School of Graduate Studies and Research an Application for Admission to Candidacy for the MFA Degree. This application may be obtained from the School of Graduate Studies and Research.

Prior to the student’s enrollment in level II courses, the student’s MFA Committee will review and evaluate the applicant’s progress in the MFA program. This committee will make one of the following recommendations:

1. Admission of the student to candidacy for the MFA degree with authorization given to the student to enroll in the level II course work in the major studio area.
2. Deny the student’s request for admission to candidacy with authorization for the student to enroll in up to nine additional semester hours in I level course work in the major studio area. The student would be required to submit a new application for admission to candidacy prior to completion of the ninth additional semester hour of I level course work in the major studio area.
3. Deny the student’s request for admission to candidacy and deny the student permission to continue as a student in the MFA degree program.

Note: To be admitted to candidacy the student must have earned a cumulative quality point average of 3.00 (four point scale) for the course work completed as part of the MFA degree program.

Studio Exhibit. It is the student’s responsibility to prepare a minimum of one quality digital image of each piece included in the Studio Exhibit. These images on CD must be presented to the student’s Advisor and are expected to be at a professional quality prior to receiving a grade for ART 799 and subsequently the awarding of the degree. A written artist’s statement concerning the work in the Studio Exhibit must be displayed in the exhibition, and included with the images mentioned above. The department chairperson will maintain a file of the images and statement from each Studio Exhibit.
For More Information: If you have questions about the application process, please contact Edinboro University’s School of Graduate Studies at gradstudies@edinboro.edu or at (814)732-2856 or toll-free (888) 845-2890.

For questions specific to the Master of Fine Arts program, please contact Terrence McKelvey at (814) 732-1155 or tmckelvey@edinboro.edu.

Office of Accessibility for Students: For information or assistance regarding services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by persons with a disability, contact the Office of Accessibility for Students, at (814) 732-2462. For additional information, visit the OAS web page.

Graduate Assistantships: Graduate Assistantships are available for campus based students only. They are awarded on a competitive basis. Admission applications must be completed by February 15th to be considered for an assistantship. Assistantships provide a partial waiver of tuition and a stipend, as well as an opportunity to gain experience in research and professional activities. Additional information about assistantships is available through the School of Graduate Studies and Research, (814) 732-2856 or toll-free (888) 845-2890.

Financial Aid Considerations: An academic year consists of fall, spring, and summer. Graduate students taking graduate level courses may receive up to $20,500 in the Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Program. Most students will use their Stafford loans during the 9 month period (fall and spring). Students will want to be mindful of their financial aid to allow for funding for 12 months if planning on enrolling during the summer term. Students will have an option to apply for Graduate Plus loan or private loans if other funding has been exhausted. For more specific information, please contact the Financial Aid Office at (888) 611-2680 or finaid@edinboro.edu.

Employer Reimbursement: Non-traditional students who are working and taking classes on a part-time basis may have employer-paid education benefits. The purpose of the employer tuition reimbursement agreement is to allow employees who receive reimbursement to defer payment of their tuition and fees until after grades are available at the end of the semester. Edinboro University accepts employer benefit plans through arrangements with the Bursar’s Office by completing the enclosed employer tuition reimbursement agreement.

Veterans’ Education Benefits: Information and printable forms regarding Veterans’ Education Benefits and the Montgomery GI Bill are available at the Department of Veterans Affairs website, http://www.gibill.va.gov/. After the Department of Veterans Affairs approves a student’s eligibility, and after the school certifies the student’s enrollment, benefits are paid directly to the student after the end of each month.