

Associate in Arts in Visual Arts

Program Overview

Upon completion of this degree, students will have experienced a comprehensive introduction to contemporary studio art practices, providing learners scaffolding for actively contributing to/within all arts-related fields. The open sequence of coursework allows for personal exploration and individualized depth of inquiry. The program will foster habits of mind conducive to building a creative and active learning community. Additionally, it will promote curiosity, flexibility, and openness to new information systems and approaches to learning in the service of creating expansive and enhanced spaces for persistence, engagement, and shared responsibility for the success of the curriculum.

To Learn More About This Program

Contact the Office of First Year Experience at 269-782-1499 or fye@swmich.edu.

Degree Requirements

To earn this degree, students must have an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher, complete a minimum of 60 credit hours, and fulfill the course requirements of the program listed below. Students, working closely with their advisor, are permitted to substitute the courses in the General Education and MTA Courses section below according to the guidelines on page 34 of this catalog. Each general education course, prerequisite course, internship/practicum, and capstone course must be completed with a final grade of C or better.

Course Offerings

Students pursuing an Associate in Arts in Visual Arts may complete select courses for this program online. Courses within this program may also be offered on-site at our Dowagiac or Niles campus.

General Education and MTA Courses

COMMUNICATIONS

Course ID	Course	Credits
ENGL 103 or ENGL 103W	Freshman English 2 (or with workshop)	3 to 4 credits
SPEE 104	Intro to Human Communication	3 credits

MATHEMATICS

Course ID	Course	Credits
MATH 128	Contemporary Mathematics	4 credits

NATURAL SCIENCE

Course ID	Course	Credits
ENST 112	Environmental Science	4 credits
GEOG 110	Physical Geography	4 credits

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Course ID	Course	Credits
PSYC 101	General Psychology	3 credits
SOCI 201	Principles of Sociology	3 credits

HUMANITIES

Course ID	Course	Credits
ART 203	Art History 1	3 credits
HUMA 204	Introduction to Film	3 credits

Major-Specific Required Courses

Course ID	Course	Credits
EDUC 120	Educational Exploration and Planning	1 credit
ART 100	Introduction to Digital Art and Design	3 credits
ART 101	Two-Dimensional Design	3 credits
ART 102	Drawing 1	4 credits
ART 120	Three-Dimensional Design	3 credits
ART 204	Art History 2	3 credits

Complete at least 9 credits from the list below

Course ID	Course	Credits
ART 103	Ceramics 1	3 credits
ART 104	Ceramics 2	3 credits
ART 105	Photographic Design	3 credits
ART 106	Art Photography	3 credits
ART 200	Creative Process through Art	3 credits
ART 210	Drawing 2	4 credits
ART 211	Painting 1	4 credits
ART 212	Painting 2	4 credits
ART 213	Typography in Design	3 credits
ART 215	Watercolor	3 credits
ART 225	Digital Photography	3 credits
ART 299	Independent Study	1 to 4 credits

Total Program Credits: 56
(Need 60 credits to graduate)

Additional Notes About the A.A. in Visual Arts Program

- A prerequisite course may be needed prior to enrollment in some courses within this program. Specific prerequisite requirements are listed in the Course Description section in the Course Catalog. A summary of the prerequisites is listed below in the Example Course Sequence.
- This program as outlined meets MTA requirements.
- This program may not provide a student with all 60 credits needed to earn a degree. Students may need to take additional courses to reach 60 total credits.
- Courses taken out of sequence may delay a student's ability to complete the program in a timely manner. Please consult your advisor regularly.
- Each student should submit a graduation application at least one full semester before they plan to graduate.
- This program is subject to change. Students should consult with their advisor for program updates.

Example Course Sequence

The following is a sample of a semester-by-semester approach to completing this program.

FIRST SEMESTER

Courses	Credits	Prerequisites (Minimum Grade of C Required)
EDUC 120 Educational Exploration and Planning	1 credit	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or test score (concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed)
ENGL 103 or ENGL 103W Freshman English 2 (or with workshop)	3 to 4 credits	ENGL 103W: Test score ENGL 103: ENGL 115 or test score (concurrent enrollment allowed)
MATH 128 Contemporary Mathematics	4 credits	MATH 101, MATH 102, AUTO 113, CONS 113, WELD 113, or test score
ART 101 Two-Dimensional Design	3 credits	None
ART 102 Drawing 1	4 credits	None

SECOND SEMESTER

Courses	Credits	Prerequisites (Minimum Grade of C Required)
ENST 112 Environmental Science	4 credits	None
PSYC 101 General Psychology	3 credits	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or test score (concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed)
SPEE 104 Intro to Human Communication	3 credits	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or test score (concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed)
ART 100 Introduction to Digital Art and Design	3 credits	Basic computer literacy
ART 120 Three-Dimensional Design	3 credits	None

THIRD SEMESTER

Courses	Credits	Prerequisites (Minimum Grade of C Required)
GEOG 110 Physical Geography	4 credits	None
HUMA 204 Introduction to Film	3 credits	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, or ENGL 104, or test score (concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed)
ART 203 Art History 1	3 credits	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or test score (concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed)
Studio Elective	3 credits	See Course Description for details
Studio Elective	3 to 4 credits	See Course Description for details

FOURTH SEMESTER

Courses	Credits	Prerequisites (Minimum Grade of C Required)
SOCI 201 Principles of Sociology	3 credits	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or test score (concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed)
ART 204 Art History 2	3 credits	ENGL 115, ENGL 103W, ENGL 103, ENGL 104, or test score (concurrent enrollment in ENGL 115 allowed)
Studio Elective	3 credits	See Course Description for details
Studio Elective	3 credits	See Course Description for details
Studio Elective	3 to 4 credits	See Course Description for details