

Photography Program Guidelines

The BFA degree in the Department of Art and Design (A&D) at UVU is for students who would like to receive a degree with a specified emphasis in one of the five following areas: photography, drawing/painting, graphic design, illustration, or sculpture/ceramics.

Students can also graduate with a Bachelor of Science (BS) or a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree from the A&D department. These are degrees that can be customized based on individual interests and do not have a specialized emphasis attached to them.

Degree requirements and other forms are available in the Academic Advisors office, GT 630.

Requirements for Photography Emphasis

You are required to participate in three annual reviews. These reviews will be for the end of your sophomore and junior years and then another one right before graduation. You will be considered a candidate for the BFA degree and will only earn that degree after completing all of your requirements.

The status you receive will be based off of a combination of grades, portfolio, CV, branding, marketing materials, and the ability to talk about your work. You may schedule each of these reviews as you satisfy the base requirements listed for each review.

Sophomore Review Eligibility: (Allows you to register for upper division classes)

- Students must have and maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 within the A&D department.
- Students must have and maintain a minimum overall GPA of 2.0.
- The following A&D Core classes must be completed or in process with a B- grade or higher (Depending on when you started the program these required courses will change to only requiring ART 1750, 1120, 1130, and two elective courses from a list of eligible classes)
 - ART 1750 - Photo I
 - ART 1110 - Drawing I
 - ART 1120 - 2D Design
 - ART 1130 - 3D Design
 - ART 1400 - Graphic Computer Applications
- The following Photography Core classes must be completed or in process with a C grade or higher
 - ART 1790 - Darkroom Techniques
 - ART 2700 - Photo II
 - ART 2710 - Documentary Photography
 - ART 2720 - Color Photography
 - ART 2730 - Photo Lighting I

Junior Review Eligibility: (Allows you to register for BFA project class, ART 499R)

- Students must have and maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 within the A&D department.
- Students must have and maintain a minimum overall GPA of 2.0.
- Students must have completed requirements for and received their Associates of Applied Science (AAS) degree.
- Students must have completed or be in process of completing an additional 12 credits from the photography emphasis:

- ART 371R – Historic Photo Processes
- ART 3730 – Photo Lighting II
- ART 3740 – Fine Art Photography
- ART 3750 – Advanced Digital Imaging
- ARTH 3200 – History of Photography
- ART 471R – Photographic Illustration
- ART 474R – Advanced Photo Studies
- ART 4750 – Exploratory Photo Processes

Senior/Graduation Review Eligibility: (Counts as Graduating Student Portfolio)

- Currently registered for and/or have completed all required classes for the BFA degree with an emphasis in photography.
- Satisfy all required minimum grade and overall GPA requirements listed for the degree.
- This review will be heavily weighted around your BFA project and artist statement but we will also consider your transcript and CV.
- The deadline for spring graduation is the first week in February. It is early but it would be ideal to have your review before this date.

If you are not on track and do not successfully defend your candidacy for the BFA degree you are situated to automatically switch to a BS degree and still graduate on time. We want the BFA degree to be representative of the very best of what photography students at UVU are capable. In those instances where the quality of the student work wanes, if grades are below the level required of the BFA, if external efforts in preparing for your post graduation career are insufficient, or any number of factors that have prevented students from finishing we want to ensure that you still have the opportunity to graduate. Students still have the option to improve and then revisit the review process to graduate with a BFA but we also want to provide the BS as an alternative to ensure that students receive a timely degree for work accomplished.

This new structure should help from two different directions. It will allow students who don't finish their BFA project but are otherwise done with the other requirements to get a degree. Students who catch fire later in their college career and want to receive the photography emphasis in their degree would already be in position to switch. This structure will also allow us to provide regular assistance and feedback to students to ensure that everything is being taken care of for timely graduation. Secondly we have felt that on average there is more critical effort given in the BFA application than at the end of the program. We have had a problem with students getting right to the end of the program and not graduating. Typically, all that is lacking is completion of the BFA project. We want to keep the effort and creative output continuously increasing rather than peaking in the middle.

The Review Process:

To apply for any of the reviews you need to be currently enrolled in the semester where all requirements for that review will be completed. On the application form, check off all completed classes. For classes that you are currently enrolled have your instructor sign by their class to verify that you are currently passing.

For each review the student needs to meet the appropriate eligibility requirements listed above and will need to provide the following: application form, cv, unofficial transcript, and a printed portfolio.

It is the student's responsibility, if accepted, to meet with the academic counselor over photography to verify their catalog year and have the BFA attribute placed. This will enable the student to register for most upper division photography courses without any prerequisite issues.

Frequently Asked Questions

What images should be put into the portfolio and on the website?

There is not a checklist of desired or expected photographs. What the faculty looks for is technical proficiency, creativity, and a recognizable personal vision / style. The faculty views this as an opportunity for the student to demonstrate to others what their strengths are. This is why faculty will not give suggestions on what to include or exclude. We want to see who and what the student thinks they are as a photographer.

What if I don't think I'm ready to apply yet?

Apply as early as you are eligible. Potential for rejection is part of the photographic world and the education process. Fear holding you back is more of a problem than not getting accepted. We review applications on an individual basis and have no preset criteria for who advances. We review based on the classes the student has taken and not compared to other applicants or students further along in the program.

What is a CV and what should it include?

A CV is basically your resume. It will include your contact information and website, your education, awards, exhibits, publications, and clients. Design is important because the CV is a reflection of you. In many situations this is often the first thing that an employer will look at. Do not include this in your CV but you can also add an addendum listing shows that you submitted to but that you were not accepted into which helps demonstrate your efforts in promoting yourself.

Portfolio and website are important, what else is considered for acceptance?

The faculty also looks at the student's grades, work ethic in and out of class, attitude and potential for success. The review process is not just a chance for the faculty to evaluate the student but also a chance for the student to self evaluate and decide if they have the commitment to succeed in the very competitive field of photography.

Can I use a blog or a Facebook page instead of a website?

No. Students must start to establish their identity through branding and these pages can be a part of your online presence and identity but shouldn't be the primary identity.

What are you looking for in the printed portfolio?

We don't have a set number but we around ten prints could be sufficient. The selected prints should be representative of the best you are capable of at this point and time in content, expression, craft, presentation and style. We want you to focus more of your efforts on the imagery and less time and money on the package itself.