



College of Arts and Sciences
Division of Communications, Visual, and Performing Arts
Art Program

The Art Program offers a Bachelor in Fine Arts (BFA) with a multi-discipline approach that includes Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Printmaking, Photography, Digital Imaging, Sculpture, Graphic Design, Art History and Film.

Passing the Bachelor of Fine Arts Portfolio Reviews are a necessary requirement for full admission and graduation of the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program at Governors State University. The Art Minor does not require a portfolio review.

Two Portfolio Reviews are required to maintain status as a Bachelor of Fine Arts student, one at the entrance of the program and one just prior to graduation. All students are admitted into the BFA program conditionally. Students must submit a portfolio and successfully pass the review to maintain admittance into the BFA program. Entrance into the BFA degree is competitive, and passing the BFA Portfolio Review is not based on how well a student performs in the Foundations courses, but rather on their performance in the BFA Portfolio Review.

Eligibility: Admitting undergraduate students are strongly encouraged to complete at least two studio art Foundations or Core courses (or their equivalents) before taking their initial BFA Portfolio Review. Upon acceptance to GSU and declaration of Art as the major the student must pass the Portfolio Review within one year of declaration.

Upon approach of the BFA student's last semester leading to graduation, the student must pass a second portfolio review before enrollment in Senior Project is granted.

Students have two chances to pass the BFA Portfolio Reviews. If they do not pass at their first attempt, they may re-take the review the following term.

Portfolio Content and Format

All BFA portfolios will consist of:

- 10 images of artworks, submitted digitally via email to Artportfolio@govst.edu
- 1 application, filled out and submitted digitally via email to Artportfolio@govst.edu

The portfolio can include any medium:

- Two-dimensional work (drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, collage, mixed media)
- Three-dimensional work (ceramics, sculpture, jewelry & metals, glass, etc.)
- Digital art (animations, web design, digital imaging, video, etc.)
- Graphic design
- Installation art

Students applying for entrance of the program:

Students are encouraged to base their portfolio on artwork created in Art Foundations courses. They may also include pieces from other GSU art courses, from other college art courses, and from high school art classes. They can also include pieces created on their own.

Students applying for their senior project:

Students are encouraged to show a body of work that shows a development of individual voice and aesthetic. The portfolio can include any medium that shows the most fully realized combination of skill and concept. Artworks should be completed, gallery quality artworks that show the students level of professionalism in the field.

Format:

Students must submit their portfolio digitally through email. It is up to the student to make sure that they format their digital files appropriately, according to the specifications indicated in this document.

Digitally submitting your work means that you will need to correctly document work that is not already in digital format. For example, if you would like to include a drawing as one of your pieces, you will need to take a high quality digital photo of the drawing.

You may seek documentation help from your professor. You may also check out a digital camera from the photo lab or a faculty member.

DIGITAL PORTFOLIO IMAGES MUST CONFORM TO THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATIONS:

File Format: Baseline Standard JPEG file format only (Do NOT use PowerPoint or other presentation formats!)

File Size: a good quality image around 1800X1800 pixels at 72dpi or 6”X6” at 300 dpi.

File Name: Identify each image with name & number, for example: LastName-01.jpg. LastName-02.jpg. LastName-03.jpg

Tips for shooting digital images: Use a digital camera of no less than 4 mega-pixels; 6.0 to 10.0 MP cameras are even better. Make sure that the artwork is squared in the viewfinder, well lit, and in focus. It is important to record color and exposure accurately, so be sure to set the proper camera exposure and “White Balance” for the lighting conditions (consult your camera manual). It is also important to eliminate distracting backgrounds by filling the viewfinder as much as possible with the artwork (but not cropping the artwork) and by using a background of neutral color; if these cannot be controlled, then you are encouraged to carefully crop out the distracting backgrounds in a photo-editing program.

Please consult with either the Program Coordinator or a mentoring faculty member if you have remaining questions or concerns about the Portfolio Review Process.

Upon completion of review you will be contacted via email as to the status of your application. Please allow up to 4 weeks for review process.

When your portfolio is reviewed by faculty, it will be graded based on the following equally weighted criteria:

Creativity: Student's work displays evidence of creativity, innovation, creative problem solving, and/or originality.

Conceptual Focus: Student's work exhibits a conceptual focus and/or visual logic. Work shows evidence of preliminary research. Process and design strategies are consistent with the concept.

Knowledge of Visual Elements: Student's work demonstrates knowledge of visual elements (line, shape, value, texture, and color).

Knowledge of Design Principles: Student's work demonstrates knowledge of design principles (repetition, contrast, balance, movement, emphasis, economy, unity/variety).

Craftsmanship: Student's work exhibits appropriate craftsmanship and presentation.

Variety: Student's work evidences various design approaches and creative strategies. There is a healthy variety in the work.

Make sure that you take these criteria into consideration when deciding what pieces to include in your portfolio.

Should I Include This Piece or That Piece?

The most important aspect of the selection process is that the student include work in their portfolio that they consider to be their strongest, and that the work be representative of what the student is artistically capable of at that point in time.

To select the right pieces, think about the cohesiveness of all of the works: you are trying to show how well you would perform as a student in the BFA degree program.

Here are a few questions you can ask yourself:

- What do I want to say with my art?
- Are these my best works?
- Would I like my art to be seen together as a body of work?
- Would these pieces make a good exhibition together?
- Does my portfolio reflect my skill level (concept and creativity, design, craftsmanship, etc.)? Putting a portfolio together isn't just about having each piece look good on its own, it is also about creating a cohesive picture of your artistic talent.

What Not to Include. Do not include works copied from someone else's artwork, or pieces that were drawn exclusively from a photograph either taken by someone else or a photograph that is not in the public domain. Do not include reproductions of famous pieces, of cartoon characters, or of celebrity photos.

Additionally, you must abide by the University's Academic Honesty Policy. Failure to do so could result in failing the BFA Portfolio Review. To review GSU's Academic Honesty Policy, see Policy 24 at <http://www.govst.edu/policies/>

BFA Portfolio Review Application

Please submit with images to Artportfolio@govst.edu

Student Name _____

Email _____

Applying for Admittance _____ or Senior Project _____

Year of Study: Freshman ___ Sophomore ___ Junior ___ Senior _____

Transfer student: yes ___ no ___

Expected Graduation Date ___/___/___

Image List:

Title	Medium	Size HxWxD	Year
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
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