INTRODUCTION

Stockton offers two different degree choices in the area of visual arts (ARTV):

BFA = 80 ARTV credits of 128 total credit hours
BA = 64 ARTV credits of 128 total credit hours

Both degrees provide preparation for careers in the arts, graduate school, K-12 teaching (with additional studies in the Education program), and other careers. The BFA is a Fine Arts degree and is considered a professional degree in art and design. Its primary emphasis is on the development of skills, concepts, and sensitivities essential to the professional artist or designer. The BA is a Liberal Arts degree that allows a more even balance between the study of art and other academic disciplines. Visual arts preceptors (advisers) can allocate transfer credits, help students decide on a concentration, and help choose courses. Students may change preceptors to one specializing in their chosen discipline at any time. All visual art students must complete a Core Curriculum (prerequisite classes that cover the fundamentals of art history and studio art) before proceeding to a BFA or BA concentration. Art education students must complete their BFA or BA Senior Projects before proceeding to student teaching.
Program Organization

The Bachelor of Fine Art Degree (BFA) is offered through the Visual Arts Program. While completing the Core Curriculum, students select a BFA concentration in Illustration, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture, or Visual Communications (graphic design). The BFA offers depth in a discipline, more intense studio experience, the knowledge and technical skill set fundamental to chosen disciplines, and preparation for a career in the visual arts. In the two-semester capstone (Senior Project) courses, faculty work closely with individual students toward the acquisition of advanced problem-solving skills and a personal execution of theory and techniques. The BFA culminates in a Senior Project Thesis Exhibition in the art gallery.

The Bachelor of Arts Degree (BA) is offered through the Studies in the Arts Program. While completing the Core Curriculum, students select a BA concentration in either Art History or Interdisciplinary Visual Arts (VIBA). The Senior Project in Art History includes a series of short projects in the first semester (press release, wall text, exhibition review, theoretical approaches, etc.), followed by a thesis or extended research project in the second semester. The VIBA track offers breadth across disciplines, and the one-semester capstone (Senior Project) emphasizes a synthesis of two or more media. The VIBA track culminates in a portfolio of interdisciplinary artwork.

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What can I do with a degree in the visual arts?

The study of Visual Art begins with an exploration of the elements of visual language and their organization into meaningful relationships. The Visual Arts program’s Core Curriculum serves as a foundation for both traditional and contemporary approaches to particular disciplines. Through practice and study of the history of art, an understanding of the myriad expressions of art develops; through creative studio experience, a knowledge of the rich visual culture of art and design that shapes our world. The practice of art activates intuition, evaluation, synthesis, and finally, self-direction in the creation of an individual aesthetic approach to art-making within a particular discipline, range of media, or visual design that communicates ideas.

BFA Concentrations

The development of specific skill sets within the BFA concentrations is vital to the creation of a body of work for presentation—in exhibitions and/or portfolios. Portfolios of student achievement are the principal basis of evaluation for employment or graduate school in the visual arts.

**Illustration** is the creation of images in order to tell a story. Illustration incorporates both representation and design.
- Bridges the disciplines of graphic design, painting, photography, and computer graphics.
- Draw attention, tell a story, and convey information with traditional and digital media.
- Illustrators often work as freelance entrepreneurs or utilize illustration approaches to imagery in combination with design and typography in advertising, publishing, and digital media.

**Painting** has been around since Paleolithic times and continues to reinvent itself. Technical skill is developed through realism, the representation of convincing forms in light and space, via proficient color-mixing and atmospheric perspective. Abstraction investigates the expressive potential of formal means, and the personal process of composing an image. Invention is developed in imaginative, conceptual and self-directed projects.
- Developing a personal, life-enriching vocation, though a career exhibiting and selling paintings (landscapes, abstractions, portraits, murals, etc.) is always possible.
- Problem-solving aspects involving imagination and experimentation, and project development and analysis are creative and critical thinking skills applicable to many occupations.
- Continue on to graduate school, pursue careers in teaching, illustration, graphic design, galleries and museums, arts management, and a variety of other fields.

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Photography involves a wide range of issues and technologies related to photographic practice. The photography concentration emphasizes skill, problem solving, and the use of photographic images for the expression of ideas or concepts. Students work with both analog and digital image-making processes as a means of understanding both the history and the future of the medium. The darkroom and the computer labs provide complementary tools for practical and creative problem solving.

- Leads knowledgeable and skilled artists into nearly every aspect of the creative industries, from for- and not-for-profit organizations, news media, and advertising, to museums, galleries, and the “small business world” of the independent artist.
- Career choices include graduate study throughout the US, arts teaching in K-12 as well as college level; working with individual photographers; periodicals; large media producing companies; and as independent professional photographers.

Printmaking is the creation of works of art using various multiple-image processes that usually involve ink on paper. Printmaking techniques include intaglio, lithography, linocut, monotype, relief printing, and woodcut. Building on knowledge learned in drawing and two-dimensional design, printmaking students learn how to mix inks, work on a press, and about different types of paper, etc.

- Emphasizes the formulation of an individual artistic voice and involves students in a variety of techniques.
- Sets a solid foundation for nearly any arts area. Printmaking majors have gone on in a variety of careers, including teaching, graphic design, and arts management.

Sculpture is the creation of art in three-dimensional space. While sculpture includes traditional techniques like modeling and carving, and traditional materials like clay and stone, it can also involve almost any process, and be almost anything.

- Sculpture is an excellent starting point for careers in special effects, animation, the toy design, industrial design, furniture design, interior design, architecture, landscape architecture, and commercial fabrication.

Visual Communications (Graphic Design) is the presentation of information through visual means. The graphic design profession plans and creates the visual means to communicate a particular message to a particular audience and context. Graphic Designers design things people read, whether including words, signs, symbols, and imagery, or any combination of those which interprets, informs or persuades. Graphic Design utilizes typography, illustration, photography, and computer graphics.

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• Acquire the technical, conceptual, and theoretical skills needed for entry-level positions in the field, for continued professional advancement, and for more specialized studies in graduate school.
• Stockton VCOM majors have gone on to careers in advertising and marketing agencies, design studios, in-house design departments in corporations and other institutions, publishing, and packaging.

**Art History** is the academic discipline that studies the history and development of the visual arts, including architecture, painting, photography, prints, sculpture, and other media.
• A useful supporting field for students of the visual arts, history, literature, languages, psychology, philosophy, religion, and other disciplines.
• The careers most directly related to Art History are in the curatorial, education, and administrative departments of art museums and galleries.
• Art history majors have found employment in fields as varied as teaching, interior design, antiques, architecture, fashion, writing, editing, and publishing.

**Interdisciplinary BA (VIBA)** is a general degree in the Visual Arts for studio art majors that allows flexible course selection. The one-semester capstone (Senior Project), offered each spring, culminates in a project portfolio.
• Designed to provide structured opportunities for liberal arts students to develop individual artistic potential and knowledge.
• This track may be suitable for students pursuing additional K-12 education qualifications, and for transfer students.

**Why should I study the visual arts?**
The study of art enhances visual perception and develops critical thinking and an understanding of complex processes. Yet art degrees aren’t just for art careers. Visual art studies complement liberal arts studies; any student may minor in Visual Arts. Visual arts majors may double major or minor in other subjects. The study of visual art contributes to a well-rounded, humanist education, defining a lifelong appreciation of beauty and the arts. It is of great relevance and enrichment to a variety of disciplines, including but not limited to communications, history, literature, education, theatrical studies, business studies, and the sciences. Our visual arts alumni work in a variety of fields outside the arts including business, human resources, and teaching non-art subjects.

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The value of studying visual art was aptly described by chess master Murray Turnbull: “Art enriches and enlightens experience, giving to it a high degree of organization that makes it meaningful. It provides insights into the character of human adventure, and illuminates the nature, course and consequence of human values. It clarifies both structure and substance in life, making it lucid and vivid by the intensification of experience through participation and contemplation... [Art] does not substitute for knowledge, information, or observation, but presents these in new relationships and indicates where the concepts and directions of a vital life are to be found.”

Visual Arts Minors
Studio Art and Art History Minors are designed to provide a coherent, formal, and officially recognized course of study in the visual arts for the non-art major, the student whose primary field lies elsewhere but who desires, out of personal interest or for career reasons, to pursue a cohesive program in art. Studio art majors working toward either the BFA or BA degree may also elect to minor in Art History.

Special Facilities
Students have access to studios for printmaking, painting, sculpture, graphic design and computer graphics, and a photographic darkroom. A new Art Gallery hosts a variety of exhibitions throughout the year. The Art Club is an extracurricular organization, open to any Stockton student, that engages in art-related creative and social activities. Activities have included field trips, figure drawing sessions, silk screening, button making, and the production of a colorful calendar featuring student artwork.

Information regarding Scholarship opportunities and participation in Student Clubs and Honor Societies is available at [www.stockton.edu/arhu](http://www.stockton.edu/arhu)

STOCKTON’S LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES
Living Learning Communities (LLCs) at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey give students a unique, inclusive residential learning experience that connects classroom learning with residential life. First-year students enjoy all of the advantages of living on campus in a residence community, with the added benefit of living among a group that shares academic goals and interests. Stockton’s Living Learning Communities include: Honors, Nursing, Political Engagement, Sustainability, and Writing.
THE FACULTY

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Visual Arts

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