Visual Arts

Department Website: http://dova.uchicago.edu

Program of Study

The Department of Visual Arts (DOVA) is concerned with art making as a vehicle for exploring creativity, expression, perception, and the constructed world. Whether students take courses listed under ARTV to meet a general education requirement or as part of a major in visual arts, the goal is that they will develop communicative, analytical, and expressive skills through the process of artistic production. The following three courses meet the general education requirement in the dramatic, musical, and visual arts: ARTV 10100 Visual Language: On Images, ARTV 10200 Visual Language: On Objects, and ARTV 10300 Visual Language: On Time and Space. Most advanced courses require one of these as a prerequisite. (See individual course listings for specific prerequisites.)

Range of Course Offerings

The following courses introduce visual communication through the manipulation of various traditional and nonart materials, engaging principles of visual language while stressing the relationship between form and meaning. Readings and visits to local museums and galleries are required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTV 10100</td>
<td>Visual Language: On Images</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTV 10200</td>
<td>Visual Language: On Objects</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTV 10300</td>
<td>Visual Language: On Time and Space</td>
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ARTV 15000 Art Practice and Theory is limited to students majoring or minoring in visual arts; it examines the place of artistic practice in contemporary culture.

ARTV courses numbered 21000 to 29700 include media specific courses that teach technical skills and provide a conceptual framework for working in these media (e.g., painting, photography, sculpture, video). Also included are more advanced studio courses designed to investigate the vast array of objects, spaces, and ideas embedded in the contemporary artistic landscape.

Students in other fields of study may also complete a minor in visual arts. Information follows the description of the major.

Program Requirements

The BA program in the Department of Visual Arts is intended for students interested in the practice and study of art. DOVA’s faculty consists of a core of artists and other humanists interested in making and thinking about art. Students who major in visual arts take an individually arranged program of studio, lecture, and seminar courses that may include some courses outside the Humanities Collegiate Division. The program seeks to foster understanding of art from several perspectives: the practice and intention of the creator, the visual conventions employed, and the perception and critical reception of the audience. In addition to work in the studio, these aims may require study of many other
subjects, including but not limited to art history, intellectual history, criticism, and aesthetics. Acknowledging the diversity of student interests and the department’s interdisciplinary orientation, requirements for the major are flexible.

All students take ARTV 10100 Visual Language: On Images, ARTV 10200 Visual Language: On Objects, or ARTV 10300 Visual Language: On Time and Space, and ARTV 15000 Art Practice and Theory in the first two years of their studies. (NOTE: Students majoring in visual arts cannot use an ARTV course to meet the general education requirement in the dramatic, musical, and visual arts.) After completing these core courses but no later than Winter Quarter of their third year, students meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies to plan the rest of their program. At least five of the courses beyond the core must be drawn from the second level of predominantly studio-oriented offerings (studio art courses numbered 21000 and above). Please note that only courses that are primarily focused on art making can be applied toward this requirement. The remaining three electives may include any intellectually consistent combination of visual arts studio courses, visual arts critical and theory courses, and any other relevant offerings in the College. Up to two independent study courses that are relevant to the major may be counted toward these three courses.

Students take ARTV 29600 Junior Seminar, which focuses on independent studio projects, in their third year. At the end of the Junior Seminar, students may choose to apply for the visual arts studio track. Places in the studio track are limited. Applicants will be reviewed by a faculty committee at the end of their third year, and studio track decisions will be announced before the start of the Autumn Quarter of fourth year. Students in the studio track present their work in a thesis exhibition and may be eligible to receive shared studio space in their senior year. (See “Studio Track” section below for more details.)

Students who wish to study abroad in their third year should contact the department as soon as possible to discuss options for taking the Junior Seminar, which is generally only offered one quarter per year. Junior Seminar can sometimes be taken in the second year with permission from the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

All visual arts majors must take ARTV 29850 Senior Seminar in the Autumn Quarter of their fourth year. Students in the studio track are required to take an additional course, ARTV 29900 Senior Project, which serves as a critical forum to prepare for the thesis exhibition in the spring. (See “Studio Track” section below for more details.)

**SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJORS**

**GENERAL EDUCATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductory art history, drama, or music course *</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Units</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**MAJOR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One of the following:</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTV 10100 Visual Language: On Images</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ARTV 10200  Visual Language: On Objects
ARTV 10300  Visual Language: On Time and Space
ARTV 15000  Art Practice and Theory  100
ARTV 29600  Junior Seminar  100
ARTV 29850  Senior Seminar  100
Five studio art courses numbered 21000 and above  500
Three electives relevant to the major  300
Total Units  1200

*  Students majoring in visual arts cannot use an ARTV course to meet the general
education requirement in the dramatic, musical, and visual arts.

GRADING

Students majoring in visual arts must receive quality grades for the thirteen
courses that constitute the major. With consent of their College adviser and the
instructor, nonmajors may take visual arts courses for P/F grades if the courses are
not used to meet a general education requirement.

STUDIO TRACK

Visual arts majors may apply for the studio track at the end of their third year.
Places in the studio track are limited. Applicants will be reviewed by a faculty
committee at the end of the third year, and studio track decisions will be announced
before the start of the Autumn Quarter of fourth year. Studio track students work in
consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the visual arts faculty
to mount a thesis exhibition at the end of their senior year. Studio track students
may also be awarded shared studio space during the senior year, based on merit and
need, and contingent upon space being available.

Additionally, studio track students must take ARTV 29900 Senior Project in the
Winter Quarter of their final year, in preparation for their thesis exhibition. The
grade for ARTV 29900 Senior Project is recorded at the end of the Spring Quarter of
the fourth year, after completion of the exhibition.

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDIO TRACK MAJORS

GENERAL EDUCATION

Introductory art history, drama, or music course  100
Total Units  100

MAJOR

One of the following:  100
  ARTV 10100  Visual Language: On Images
  ARTV 10200  Visual Language: On Objects
  ARTV 10300  Visual Language: On Time and Space
  ARTV 15000  Art Practice and Theory  100
  ARTV 29600  Junior Seminar  100
  ARTV 29850  Senior Seminar  100
ARTV 29900  Senior Project  100
Five studio art courses numbered 21000 and above  500
Three electives relevant to the major  300

Total Units  1300

* Students majoring in visual arts cannot use an ARTV course to meet the general education requirement in the dramatic, musical, and visual arts.

HONORS

Students must have a portfolio of exceptional quality to be recommended to graduate with honors in Visual Arts. Visual Arts faculty make final honors decisions at the end of the student’s fourth year, based on performance in Visual Arts courses, the quality of participation in critiques, and the thesis exhibition.

MINOR PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS

The minor in visual arts requires six courses: two are the 10000-level sequence (ARTV 10100 Visual Language: On Images, ARTV 10200 Visual Language: On Objects, or ARTV 10300 Visual Language: On Time and Space; and ARTV 15000 Art Practice and Theory) and four are drawn from visual arts studio courses chosen in consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies. (NOTE: Students minoring in visual arts cannot use an ARTV course to meet the general education requirement in the dramatic, musical, and visual arts.)

Students who elect the minor program in visual arts must meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies before the end of Spring Quarter of their third year to declare their intention to complete the minor. Students choose courses in consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies. The Director’s approval for the minor program should be submitted to a student’s College adviser by the deadline above on a form obtained from the adviser.

Courses in the minor (1) may not be double counted with the student’s major(s) or with other minors; and (2) may not be counted toward general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades, and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers.

Summary of Requirements for the Minor in Visual Arts

GENERAL EDUCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introductory art history, drama, or music course *</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Units</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MINOR</td>
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<tr>
<td>One of the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTV 10100  Visual Language: On Images</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTV 15000  Art Practice and Theory</td>
<td>100</td>
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</table>
Four studio art courses numbered 21000 and above 400

Total Units 600

* Students minoring in visual arts cannot use an ARTV course to meet the general education requirement in the dramatic, musical, and visual arts.

Course Attendance

Students must attend the first and second classes to confirm enrollment. No exceptions will be made unless the student notifies the instructor before the first class.