

MFA in Illustration & Visual Culture

Website: <https://samfoxschool.wustl.edu/academics/college-of-art/mfa-in-illustration-and-visual-culture>

Degree Requirements

MFA in Illustration & Visual Culture

The Graduate School of Art subscribes to the standards for the MFA degree as set forth by the College Art Association of America (CAA (<https://www.collegeart.org/>)) and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD (<https://nasad.arts-accredit.org/>)).

The residence requirement for the MFA degree is at least two academic years of full-time study (minimum of 15 units each semester).

The MFA in Illustration & Visual Culture program combines studio work in illustration and cartooning with the academic study of visual and material culture, and it places an emphasis on popular print and hands-on curatorial training in partnership with the Olin Library Special Collections staff. Individual programs of study are arranged with faculty advisors according to the student's area of interest.

Students are expected to proceed at a pace that enables them to finish their degree within the appropriate time limit; this is usually four semesters. Students have a maximum of three calendar years from the date of their first registration to complete the degree. Delays in a two-year completion must be approved by the program chair.

Students will complete a major creative project and a significant writing exercise to position and defend their work.

Required	Units
Illustration Studio	30
Visual Culture History & Theory	12
Hands-On Archival Work	9-12
Electives	6-9
Total	60

The two-year program can be organized as follows:

Course	Fall Units	Spring Units
First Year		
Illustration Studio 1: Drawing and Voice (ART 561)	6	—
The Illustrated Periodical (ART 571)	3	—
Special Collections: Practice & Purpose (ART 573)	3	—
Academic or Studio Elective	3	—
Illustration Studio II: Artist, Author, Audience (ART 562)	—	6

Literatures of Drawing (ART 572)	—	3
Comics and Cartooning: A Critical Survey (ART 576)	—	3
Modern Graphic History Practicum or Academic or Studio Elective	—	3
	15	15
Second Year		
Illustration & Visual Culture Thesis Studio I (ART 661)	9	—
Readings in Visual and Material Culture (ART 675)	3	—
Curatorial Practice or Academic or Studio Elective	3	—
Illustration & Visual Culture Thesis Studio 2	—	9
Curatorial Internship	—	3
Academic or Studio Elective	—	3
	15	15

- Art and design electives introduce students to the intellectual and conceptual issues and production methods of a broad array of practices that complement and expand the student's studio practice. First-year MFA students must take College of Art electives at the 500 level; second-year students must take all electives at the 600 level.
- Courses taken outside the College of Art by MFA students must be at the 300 level or above to count as graduate-level credit and require prior approval by the student's academic advisor (program chair) in advance of registration.
- Students may not register for courses in the School of Continuing & Professional Studies.