

Visual Studies BA

Overview

The **Bachelor of Arts in Visual Studies**, offered by the Department of Art History, is ideal for socially-conscious artists who want to utilize the resources of a larger research university while accessing the historic studio traditions of Tyler School of Art and Architecture. The BA in Visual Studies is complemented by its situation in the Art History department, where art historians and contemporary artists work together to foster historical and contemporary understandings about global art and visual culture, and the power of image-making.

Visual Studies students develop skills as makers and thinkers in an equal ratio of studio and academic classes, and the curriculum allows for a higher-than-average number of electives that can be chosen according to the student's particular needs and interests. Our curriculum is consciously interdisciplinary, and not oriented towards specialization, so that students can explore the theoretical and technical aspects of art making outside the traditional restrictions of a single studio area. The skills needed to succeed today in the arts are not the same as previous generations. Today young artists need to be able to write about their own work in relation to contemporary visual culture, be able to find and work with collaborators in many different related occupations, know how to find and take advantage of opportunities, know how to access financial and social resources from many different places, and use and adapt to rapidly evolving tools, technology and data effectively.

Campus Location: Main

Program Code: TA-VISS-BA

Admissions

For more information on how to apply, please visit Tyler's Visual Studies admissions page.

Study Abroad

Students who plan to study abroad should arrange to meet with their academic advisor and the Education Abroad and Overseas Campuses office as early as possible, preferably during the freshman year, in order to explore options and plan the sequence of courses that would be most appropriate.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of Visual Studies are well prepared for a wide-range of careers in the cultural sphere as exhibiting artists and published writers, museum and gallery work, as curators, positions in design and media industries, as small business owners and entrepreneurs, and in the non-profit sectors of education, political advocacy, and community leadership.

Continuing Studies

Graduates are well prepared for advanced academic training, and recent students have gone on to complete graduate degrees in fine arts, art therapy, textile design, book restoration, art history, curatorial studies and art education.

Accreditation

Temple University is a non-profit accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). NASAD establishes national standards for undergraduate and graduate degrees and other credentials for art and design and art/design-related disciplines, and provides assistance to institutions and individuals engaged in artistic, scholarly, educational and other art/design-related endeavors.

Contact Information

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Learn more about the Bachelor of Art in Visual Studies.

These requirements are for students who matriculated in academic year 2023-2024. Students who matriculated prior to fall 2023 should refer to the Archives to view the requirements for their Bulletin year.

Summary of Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts degree may be conferred upon a student by recommendation of the faculty and upon the satisfactory completion of a minimum of 122 semester hours of credit with a minimum cumulative 2.00 GPA.

University Requirements

Students must complete the university's General Education curriculum.

- Successful completion (minimum grade of C-) in both FDPR 1511 and ARTH 1156 will waive the GenEd Arts (GA) requirement.
- Summer or semester study abroad will satisfy the GenEd Global/World Society requirement.

Major Requirements

- Required courses in the Visual Studies program must be completed with a minimum grade of C- to apply towards degree requirements.
- All Temple students must take a minimum of two writing-intensive courses at Temple University as part of the major. The specific writing-intensive courses required for this major are ART 3796 and VS 4096.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Foundation Requirements		
FDPR 1511	Foundation Drawing	3
FDPR 1521	2D Foundation Principles	3
FDPR 1531 or FDPR 1532	3D Foundation Principles/W 3D Foundation Principles/C	3
VS 1651	Visual Studies 1 Foundation: Digital Imaging	3
TYLE 1071	Visual Studies 1 Introduction to Visual Studies: History, Theory, Practice	3
FDPR 1503	Woodshop Fundamentals	1
Studio Requirements		
VS 2001	VS Seminar: Identities	3
VS 2002	VS Seminar: Narratives	3
VS 2003	VS Seminar: Sites	3
VS 2004	VS Seminar: Global Citizens	3
ART 3796	Art Career Workshop	3
ART 2011	Socially Engaged Arts Practices in Communities	3
VS 4096	Visual Studies Thesis Seminar	3
Select 6 studio electives from ART, ARCH, ARTE, CART, GAD, LARC ¹		18
Art History Requirement		
ARTH 1155 or ARTH 1955	Arts of the World I: Prehistoric to 1300 Honors Arts of the World I: Prehistoric to 1300	3
ARTH 1156 or ARTH 1956	Arts of the World II: 1300 to the 21st Century Honors Arts of the World II: 1300 to the 21st Century	3
Academic Requirements		
Select 4 Non-Studio Elective courses at any level ^{2, 3}		13
Select 4 Upper Level Non-Studio electives (2000-level or above) ²		12
Language Requirement (select one from the following) ⁴		4
ARBC 1002	Arabic Elements II	
CHI 1002	Chinese Elements II	
FREN 1002	Introduction to French II	
GER 1002	Introduction to German II	
GRKA 1002	Ancient Greek 2	
GRKM 1002	Modern Greek Elements II	
HEBR 1002	Elements II	
HIN 1002	Hindi Elements II	
ITAL 1002 or ITAL 1902	Italian Language II Honors Italian Language II	
JPNS 1002	Japanese Elements II	
KRN 1002	Korean Elements II	
LAT 1002	Latin 2	
PORT 1002	Basic II	

RUS 1002	First-Year Russian II
SPAN 1002 or SPAN 1902	Basic II Honors Basic II

Total Credit Hours **90**

1

These studio electives must be taken in two or more areas within the subject codes ART, ARCH, ARTE, CART, GAD, or LARC but may not include ART 2011, CART 3011, or CART 3911.

2

Academic Electives may not be fulfilled with studio classes or courses with the subject code of ART or GAD.

3

If Language 1001 level is required per placement test results, this will apply towards one of the required academic elective courses.

4

If Language 1002 is not required as determined by placement testing, these credits must be taken as academic elective.

Suggested Academic Plan

Please note that this is a **suggested** academic plan. Depending on your situation, your academic plan may look different.

Bachelor of Arts in Visual Studies

Suggested Plan for New Students Starting in the 2023-2024 Academic Year

Year 1		Credit Hours
Fall		
FDPR 1503	Woodshop Fundamentals	1
FDPR 1511	Foundation Drawing ¹	3
Select one of the following:		3
FDPR 1531	3D Foundation Principles/W	
FDPR 1532	3D Foundation Principles/C	
TYLE 1071	Visual Studies 1 Introduction to Visual Studies: History, Theory, Practice	3
ARTH 1155 or ARTH 1955	Arts of the World I: Prehistoric to 1300 or Honors Arts of the World I: Prehistoric to 1300	3
ENG 0802 or ENG 0812 or ENG 0902	Analytical Reading and Writing or Analytical Reading and Writing: ESL or Honors Writing About Literature	4
Credit Hours		17
Spring		
FDPR 1521	2D Foundation Principles	3
VS 1651	Visual Studies 1 Foundation: Digital Imaging	3
VS 2001	VS Seminar: Identities	3
ARTH 1156 or ARTH 1956	Arts of the World II: 1300 to the 21st Century ¹ or Honors Arts of the World II: 1300 to the 21st Century	3
GenEd Quantitative Literacy Course ^{GQ}		4
Credit Hours		16
Year 2		
Fall		
VS 2002	VS Seminar: Narratives	3
IH 0851 or IH 0951	Intellectual Heritage I: The Good Life or Honors Intellectual Heritage I: The Good Life	3
Studio Elective ²		3
Language 1001 (or Academic Elective) ³		4
Academic Elective (any level)		3
Credit Hours		16
Spring		
ART 2011	Socially Engaged Arts Practices in Communities	3

IH 0852 or IH 0952	Intellectual Heritage II: The Common Good or Honors Intellectual Heritage II: The Common Good	3
Studio Elective ²		3
Language 1002 (or Academic Elective) ⁴		4
Academic Elective (any level)		3
Credit Hours		16
Year 3		
Fall		
VS 2003	VS Seminar: Sites	3
Studio Elective ²		3
Academic Elective (any level)		3
Academic Elective (2000+) ³		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Credit Hours		15
Spring		
ART 3796	Art Career Workshop	3
Studio Elective ²		3
Academic Elective (2000+)		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Credit Hours		15
Year 4		
Fall		
VS 2004	VS Seminar: Global Citizens	3
Studio Elective ²		3
Academic Elective (2000+)		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Credit Hours		15
Spring		
VS 4096	Visual Studies Thesis Seminar	3
Studio Elective ²		3
Academic Elective (2000+)		3
GenEd Breadth Course		3
Credit Hours		12
Total Credit Hours		122

1

These 2 courses constitute the waiver for the GenEd Arts category if the courses are completed with a C- or better.

2

Select 2000+ level studio electives ART, ARCH, ARTE, CART, GAD, LARC, but not ART 2011. These studio electives must be from two or more areas.

3

If first level language (1001) is not required as determined by placement testing, these credits must be taken as academic elective.

4

If second level language (1002) is not required as determined by placement testing, these credits must be taken as academic elective.

Please Note: An approved study abroad program will waive the GenEd Global/World Society (GG) requirement. Visual Studies majors interested in studying abroad should consult with an academic advisor to discuss how a semester or a summer program fits in the program to remain on track for graduation.