

# WCU/MFA

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Applying to the Program:

#### When is the Deadline for applying to the MFA Program?

February 1 is the deadline for applying to the program. Application is through **Slideroom**. Fall admittance only ([sideroom.wcu.edu](http://sideroom.wcu.edu)).

#### Who is eligible to apply to the MFA program?

MFA applicants must have an undergraduate baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution (BA, BFA or BS). Students are expected to have; minimum of 3.00 GPA in their undergraduate major, minimum of 9 credit hours of undergraduate art history/philosophy of art and to have completed minimum of 30 credit hours of undergraduate studio course work. Candidates must commit to fulltime study. Minimum 12 semester hours of credit may be granted for work previously completed at the master's level (transfer credit.)

Applicants who already hold an MFA in studio art are not eligible to apply.

#### What kind of work would you like to see in my portfolio?

The content of the portfolio is entirely the decision of the applicant. The application committee looks for a strong body of completed work demonstrating a thriving, developed studio practice as well as potential in innovative areas of inquiry. As a general policy, due to the number of applications we receive, we do not provide individual online feedback or critiques of application portfolios.

#### How many images may I submit?

15 - 20 are required and no more than 20 are permitted.

#### What are the requirements for the digital image submissions?

Digital images of your portfolio are uploaded and formatted in the **Slideroom** application. You will be required to provide title, size, date, and medium of each work. Each slide on Slideroom should be used for one image or one time-based work; do not upload files (jpgs or pdfs) with multiple pages or images.

#### Can I submit video?

Yes. You may upload up to 3 minutes of video work on SlideRoom, You and can also mail in DVDs of the full-length version videos by February 1st deadline. DVDs can be mailed to: School of Art and Design Attn: MFA Program, Bardo Arts Center  
Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 28723

#### Is a resume/CV required? How can I submit it?

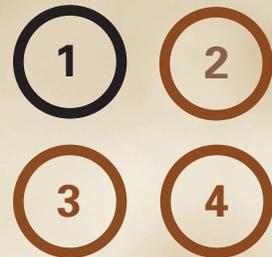
A resume or CV is optional, and can be uploaded in the Slideroom application process

#### How long should the statement of intent be and what should I include?

Approximately 500 - 750 word artist's statement of intent, addressing each of the following: What best describes the development of your current artistic practice? Why have you decided to apply to the MFA program in the School of Art and Design at WCU? What are your professional goals as an artist?

#### Who do I contact for technical support with SlideRoom?

Email: [support@slideroom.com](mailto:support@slideroom.com)



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### **Is it possible to have my portfolio reviewed before I apply?**

We cannot review any portfolios before the application deadline.

### **Regarding the admission requirements, what is considered a studio art class and an art history class?**

Only classes labeled as studio art or art history on your transcript will count towards the admission requirements.

### **Can you accept classes taken at non-accredited institutions?**

Only classes taken at regionally accredited institutions for credit can be used to fulfill the admission requirements.

### **Are there any exceptions made to the admission requirements?**

#### **Can I be given credit for life experience?**

We cannot make any exceptions to the admission requirements, and we cannot count life experience in place of college credit.

### **Do you accept applicants who do not have undergraduate degrees in art?**

Yes, occasionally. However, applicants must present a portfolio that demonstrates the ability to carry out independent creative work and research, have a strong educational background along with an interest in interdisciplinary inquiry, and substantive life experience to draw on in charting new directions for creative practice. They must also meet requirements of the Graduate Program.

### **Can I have an extension to the application deadline?**

No. We cannot offer any extensions to the application deadline.

### **How many students are accepted?**

Space is limited, so we are able to accept approximately 4 - 6 students each year.

### **Are transcripts required? How can I submit them?**

Yes. At the time of application, all degree-seeking applicants must submit transcripts from all colleges/universities attended. This is done through the Slideroom application process. More information on submitting transcripts can be found at the Graduate School Admissions requirements site, <http://www.wcu.edu/apply/graduate-school/>

### **Do you accept International Students and Is an English proficiency test required of non-native English speakers?**

Yes. The University accepts scores from the following organizations: TOEFL, IELTS and ECPE. If you are an international student who has completed an accredited undergraduate degree in the United States, you are not required to take the TOEFL. For more information about International student Graduate applications can be found at, <http://www.wcu.edu/apply/graduate-school/>

### **Do international students receive financial support?**

International students are eligible for the same financial support as domestic students.

### **Is the GRE required?**

No.

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### **How much does the application cost?**

General application through the Western Carolina University Graduate Admissions is \$65.00 the required SlideRoom submission is \$10.00.

### **How much will tuition cost?**

You can calculate the cost of tuition via the following link:

<https://www.wcu.edu/apply/tuition-and-fees/fall-spring-graduate-tuition-and-fees.aspx>.

Normally students will take 9-12 credits per semester in the Fall and Spring semesters. Summer, Winter, and experiential travel courses are offered for MFA Graduate studies.

### **Decisions? When will I hear if I have been accepted?**

After admissions materials are reviewed, top applications will be interviewed via phone, video conference (Skype, Google Hangout, etc.) in late February. Final candidates will be determined after the interview process, and admission decisions will be announced early April.

### **Can you tell me why I was not accepted?**

It is impossible to offer critiques of work or give more specific feedback, as many different faculty members are involved in the admissions process.

## **About the Program:**

### **Do students focus in a specific medium?**

The MFA at WCU is interdisciplinary. In other words, MFA students do not “major” in a specific discipline, such as “MFA in Sculpture”. Students are free to work or focus in the medium of their choice and encouraged to work across disciplines – within and outside the field of art. We have also developed partnerships with faculty and scholars across the campus at Western Carolina University, associations with regional and national cultural institutions, and a robust visiting artist program that plays a critical role in the MFA educational experience.

### **Do you have teaching opportunities for graduate students?**

Yes. The School of Art and Design has a variety of opportunities open to graduate students. Graduate Teaching Assistantship (TA) positions are teaching positions. Graduate Assistant (GA) positions are administrative in nature and may include working with our faculty and staff in the studios, museum, galleries, or School of Art and Design administrative office.

### **Can the programs be completed while working full-time?**

No. The MFA program is designed to be completed through full-time three year study.

### **How many Faculty and Graduate students are in the program?**

The School of Art and Design has a small and active faculty: 14 full-time tenured or tenure-track art and design professional, 3 -5 lecturers, and affiliated faculty. There are approximately 16 MFA and graduate students.

### **Where can I find the schedule of courses?**

The WCU online course catalogue and searchable schedule of classes, tips on how to register, and official academic calendar can be found at,

<http://www.wcu.edu/learn/academic-services/registrars-office/>

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### What kinds of hands-on experiences do students gain?

In our MFA program there are multiple ways students gain hands-on experience. MFA students intern as studio assistants, learn specific studio skill sets, prepare exhibitions and develop writing skills for professional practice. Often MFA students will work with our visiting artists on an installation or new project. Some MFA students also teach and experience working with undergraduate students. The School of Art and Design has strong connections with regional community engagement projects. MFA students also interact with departments across campus.

### How do graduates use their MFA degree?

The MFA degree is a terminal degree. The MFA is often a required qualification for certain teaching positions at universities in the United States. It is also recognized at higher education institutions in most countries. The MFA degree makes you eligible for certain residencies, post graduate programs and employment opportunities.

### What role do faculty members play in my studies?

Faculty are your advisors and mentors. You will have consistent core of faculty advisors throughout the program. You'll meet with these advisors at least six times each semester to review your creative work and practice. In addition, students often seek out other faculty to review their work.

### Do MFA students take graduate and undergraduate courses?

MFA students can take upper level undergraduate courses or graduate level courses. Your advisors and the MFA Program Director work closely with you in

### Where can I find information about the MFA faculty?

Information about our MFA faculty can be found at, [arts.wcu.edu/](https://arts.wcu.edu/)

### Where can I see MFA student work?

Images and activities of MFA program can found at <https://www.instagram.com/wcumfa/>

### Can I visit the program?

Yes, you are welcome anytime during the school year, (September – May)

Please contact:

Tom Ashcraft

Graduate Director

[tdashcraft@wcu.edu](mailto:tdashcraft@wcu.edu)

