MFA in Art Program Handbook

Welcome
Welcome from the Chair of Art and the Graduate Coordinator:

The UNLV/MFA in Art is a 3-year research-based studio art program that uses a tutorial and seminar system as the primary basis for teaching. This means graduate students come in direct contact with a diverse art and art history faculty whose personal work represents a variety of media and intellectual directions. The possibilities for stimulating, creative, and collaborative interaction are enhanced each year by the Fall Visiting Artists Lecture Series and the Spring Artist in Residence program.

Mission Statement(s)

The UNLV/MFA in Art program provides the graduate student a rare opportunity to attend a unique studio art program, located within the stunning city lights of Las Vegas and the surrounding desert, in a permissive environment where risk, experiment and transformation are encouraged.

Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to provide program specific information that is not found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Students are responsible for understanding and following the policies and procedures delineated in this document and the UNLV Graduate Catalog, as well as the NSHE Code, UNLV Bylaws, and the UNLV Student Conduct Code. Questions about policies should be directed to the Graduate College: valarie.burke@unlv.edu or kendall.hartley@unlv.edu.

Department Graduate Faculty

A current listing of the graduate faculty can be found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Faculty must hold either associate or full graduate faculty status to be involved in graduate education at UNLV. For up to date information regarding graduate faculty status in your department, visit the Graduate Faculty status web page.

Program Information

MFA in Art

Contact Information
http://finearts.unlv.edu/MFA/program.html

Department Chair
Aya Louisa McDonald, louisa.mcdonald@unlv.edu  Ham Fine Arts 153

Graduate Coordinator
Pasha Rafat, Grant Hall 240, pasha.rafat@unlv.edu

Department Main Office
Ham Fine Arts 153, bonee.churchville@unlv.edu x3237, x4346

Program Requirements

Program requirements regarding admission, coursework and culminating experience are found in the graduate catalog.
Advisory Committee Guidelines
Graduate students will select a three Art faculty as committee members by the end of first year of their program, with an additional graduate faculty committee member from outside the department. The committee with its chair, in collaboration with the graduate coordinator, oversee the progress of the graduate student toward a successful Mid-way and graduation Thesis exhibition.

Degree Program Benchmarks
60 credit hours are required to complete the Degree in Masters of Fine Arts in Art. MFA candidates must be full-time students and are required to enroll in a minimum of 9 credits per semester. After completing 3 semesters or thirty credit hours in the program, the candidates submit their work in the form of a midway exhibition to the Graduate Committee for evaluation. A successful Midway exhibition is a prerequisite for continuing in the program. The capstone of the UNLV MFA in Art is a solo graduation Thesis exhibition accompanied by a written thesis, and an oral thesis examination.

The Thesis exhibition is scheduled at the Donna Beam Fine Arts Gallery by the end of 3-year research study and must have the final approval of the student’s committee. Graduate students must complete a comprehensive project consisting of an exhibition of a representative body of creative work and a written thesis (2,000-word minimum) regarding the work’s intent and underlying conceptualization.

The final oral examination covers the intent and underlying conception of the student’s comprehensive project. This examination is prepared and conducted by the student’s graduate committee and the outside committee member. A CD of work in the exhibition, installation photos, resume, an artist statement along with two copies of the written thesis must be presented to the department during the exhibition for permanent record.

Program Timeline
MFA in studio art is a 3-year program.

Professional Code of Ethics/Discipline Guidelines
UNLV Graduate College policy regarding academic integrity can be found in the graduate catalog.

Annual Review Procedures
Students are required to make adequate yearly progress towards degree completion.

Graduate coordinator oversees the student’s progress in collaboration with graduate faculty in the first year and selected graduate committee oversees the progress of the individual student in the second and third year of the program.

University Resources

Academic Success Center
The goal of the Academic Success Center is to help students do well academically and complete they studies on time. They offer or will refer you to such programs and resources as tutoring, advising, skills testing, career exploration and more. They guide students every step of the way to the many established resources created to ensure they complete their educational goals. Learn more about the programs and services the center currently offers.

Alumni Association
With an alumni base 90,000 strong, the UNLV Alumni Association offers a variety of services and opportunities in support of alumni and their families. UNLV alumni are encouraged to support the values of higher learning through advocacy, involvement, and giving.

Commencement Office
Located in the UNLV Registrar’s Office, the commencement office is the last step in the graduation process. Please check with the commencement office for information on the commencement ceremony and your diploma; for all other information about graduate student degree completion and graduation, including thesis/dissertation requirements and doctoral hooding, please contact the Graduate College.

Office of Diversity Initiatives
The vision of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to advocate, promote, and support the advancement of equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment of a continuously changing collegiate and global community. The mission of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to provide leadership and support for UNLV’s diversity mission: to nurture equity, diversity, and inclusiveness that promotes respect, support, and empowerment. This Office also handles UNLV Title IX questions, inquiries, and reporting.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)
The DRC is committed to supporting students with disabilities at UNLV through the appropriate use of advocacy, accommodations, and supportive services to ensure access to campus courses, services, and activities. The DRC is the university-designated office that determines and facilitates reasonable accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Graduate students with disabilities must disclose to the DRC in order to receive appropriate accommodations.

Office of International Student and Scholars
International Students and Scholars (ISS) ensures compliance with both SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) and federal law, so that the university can continue to be authorized by the U.S. federal government to enroll international students; host and hire international scholars; assist and advise employment eligibility and authorization relating to international students and scholars, and visa, travel, and immigration issues; provide critical and specialized services to the international students and scholars of the UNLV community; and facilitate their transition to the campus and the U.S.

Jean Nidetch Women’s Center
The Jean Nidetch Women’s Center is committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all genders through programming, services, and advocacy for the UNLV community. The Women’s Center has informational resources, brochures, and flyers for a variety of on and off campus organizations to help empower and protect yourself, and learn about your options. They also provide free tampons, pads, and condoms.

UNLV Libraries
UNLV Libraries has always been more than books; they are about encouraging students and creating quality programs that elevate growth and learning. Please visit their website for important information about the services they offer to graduate students.

Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)
The Graduate & Professional Student Association serves all currently enrolled University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduate and professional students. The GPSA maintains the Graduate Student Commons located in the Lied Library room 2141. The facility a working office equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer, office supplies, and computers with printers and a small kitchen area. The GPSA is the graduate student governance body at UNLV; the GPSA Council consists of one graduate student representative from each graduate department, and they meet monthly. The GPSA also provides volunteer opportunities, sponsors social events, and supports graduate student research through the graduate research and travel grants program.

Office of Student Conduct
The Office of Student Conduct is a student-centered, service-oriented office located within the Division of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Conduct collaborates with the UNLV community to provide an inclusive system through enforcement of the UNLV Student Code of Conduct by:

- Promoting awareness of student rights and responsibilities;
Establishing accountability for student choices;
Creating opportunities for involvement in the process; and
Striving to uphold the values and ethics that advance the common good.

Office of Veteran Services
The UNLV Office of Veteran Services is staffed with veterans and GI Bill-experienced staff to assist more than 1,000 veterans, dependents, active duty service members, National Guard members, and reservists. Their mission is to develop a welcoming, veteran-friendly campus environment that fosters academic and personal success.

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office
The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office supports higher-education access and persistence by providing financial aid to eligible students. The office partners with student organizations, the UNLV Foundation, the Graduate College, and other external constituents to provide financial aid learning opportunities and scholarship support for graduate students.

Writing Center
This is a free service to UNLV students to help you with any writing project, from papers to creative writing, to resumes, and we can work with you at any stage of the writing process. The center can help you brainstorm, make an outline, work on your drafts, or just be a soundboard for your ideas. The center staff can assist you in person, or via the Online Writing Lab (OWL) page.

University Policies and Procedures
Graduate students are responsible for knowing and acting in accordance with UNLV Policies and Procedures. To view the most commonly referenced campus policies and procedures, you can refer to the following websites:

- Academic Integrity
- Activation for Military Service
- Change of Address
- FERPA/Privacy Rights
- Health Insurance - Mandatory
- Jeanne Clery Campus Safety and Security Report
- Proof of Immunization
- Policies and Procedures on the Protection of Research Subjects
- Rebelmail Policy
- Student Conduct Code
- Student Computer Use Policy
- Title IX

To ensure compliance with Graduate College policies and procedures, please review the relevant sections of the Graduate Catalog:

- Academic Calendar
- Academic Policies
- Admission and Registration Information
- Degree Progression Policies & Procedures

In addition, the Graduate College website contains additional information regarding policies and procedures.

*Nothing in this handbook supersedes any NSHE, UNLV, or Graduate College policy.*

Handbook Information
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