Art and Design

Would you consider yourself a creatively-oriented person? Do you create works of art as a means of emotional expression? Would you like to earn a living with your artwork? If so, a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree can provide you the educational background requisite for a career as a professional artist.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (or BFA) is the "de-facto" professional undergraduate degree in the visual arts. NMU's BFA program combines the advantages of a professional art school experience with the university's concern for intellectual support and professional education. It prepares students to participate more broadly in the arts and engages them beyond the limits of studio skills.

NMU's School of Art and Design prepares students for many occupations: artists, designers, educators, etc. Graduates of the program are employed throughout the country in careers ranging from art directors and teachers to entrepreneurs of varied enterprises. In recent years, the school has expanded its offerings to provide additional career opportunities in areas such as blacksmithing, computer art, video production and commercial photography. NMU's Art and Design curriculum prepares students for careers requiring both a formal background in art history and hands-on studio introduction.

Skills and Competencies

As in most other fields, strong interpersonal communication and organizational skills are a must for a professional. Some other valuable skills and competencies specific to a professional involving Art and Design include being a self starter, entrepreneurial-minded, highly motivated, possessing superior problem solving aptitude and being amenable to an irregular work schedule.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education courses and graduation requirements.

Art and Design Core

AD101   Process & Design (4 cr.)
AD110   Ideas in Art and Design History (4 cr.)

2D Studio (4 cr.) selected from:
        AD117, AD 119, or AD 120

3D Studio (4 cr.) selected from:
        AD 111, AD 116, AD 122, AD 123, or AD 124

Digital Studio (4 cr.) selected from:
        AD112, AD118, or AD134

AD270   Social Structures and Concepts (4 cr.)
AD303   Individual Art Review (2 cr.)
AD485   Theories and Practices (4 cr.)
AD499   Senior Capstone Project (4 cr.)

Art History (8 cr.)

Art and Design Concentration (24 cr.)

Ceramics
Computer Art
Digital Cinema
Drawing and Painting
Graphic Design
Human Centered Design
Illustration
Jewelry, Metalsmithing, and Sculpture
Photography
Furniture Design/ Woodworking

Art and Design Electives (20 cr.)

Detailed course descriptions can be found at www.nmu.edu/ bulletin.

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

Occupations listed within this brochure are only a sample of some of the careers available to those holding Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees. Some career options (especially those in education) will require education beyond the baccalaureate level. Internships and organizational affiliations may prove beneficial. The job market for artists is extremely competitive. The majority of professional artists are self-employed. Most others find work in large industries employing artists, motion pictures, software development, photography, printing and/or publishing.

Job Outlook

Despite heavy competition, the Art field is expected to expand 13% in the coming years, making it a faster than average career growth. Salary potential for artists is varied among location and type of profession. Generally speaking, an introductory job will net about $35,000, while the highest paid managers or top artists will make six-digit figures.

Potential Careers

NMU's Art and Design Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Animator

Architect

Art Historian

Artist's Agent

Blacksmith

Ceramic Artist

College Professor

Elementary or Secondary Teacher

Graphic Designer

Illustrator

Interior Designer

Jewelry Designer

Marketing Consultant

Museum Curator

Photographer

Product Designer

Set Designer

Video Maker

Web Administrator

Web Designer

Woodworker

Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

School of Art and Design
159 Art and Design
906-227-2852
www.nmu.edu/art

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1205 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

American Institute of Graphic Arts
www.nmuaiga.org
Art Students League
Industrial Designers Society of America
Student Illustrator Syndicate

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.bls.gov

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.collegeart.org -The College Art Association
www.naea-reston.org National Art Education Association

NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
2021

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