

# School of Arts and Humanities

## Master of Arts in Visual and Performing Arts



### Program Description

The Master of Arts in Visual and Performing Arts degree program fosters integrated study and practice in the arts and is designed to allow graduates to pursue a career in the arts or arts-related fields or to continue on to doctoral study. Taught by internationally recognized faculty at the University of Texas at Dallas, the master's program equips students with advanced knowledge of the theories and methodologies that are key to artistic production and analysis, providing students with an interdisciplinary context in which to pursue research and practice across a wide range of creative and academic traditions and critical and theoretical approaches related to such fields as film, visual art, performing arts, and art history.



Visual and Performing Arts is an interdisciplinary master's program, so students take the majority of their coursework in such courses but must also take two seminars each in both Literature and the History of Ideas concentrations. Students in the master's program elect either a professional option (coursework only) or research option (coursework plus a foreign language proficiency and research portfolio). The latter is especially relevant for those who plan to pursue doctoral study, and students who choose the research options may submit a creative project as part of their portfolio.

### Benefits

The Visual and Performing Arts master's program ensures that students gain a broad understanding of their chosen field or discipline, apply their knowledge in new, creative ways and communicate and work effectively in collaborative environments.

Other benefits include:

- *World-Class Faculty*: The program is led by the history and philosophy faculty of the School of Arts and Humanities who are widely cited experts in their respective fields.
- *Comprehensive Curriculum*: Courses in the program will introduce students to new ideas, methodologies and competencies while preparing them to succeed in both public and private sectors.
- *Location*: Situated in the greater Dallas region—recently rated by Forbes magazine as the #1 “Best City for Jobs”—UT Dallas provides students with easy access to employers and internship opportunities, not to mention a large and supportive alumni population.

### Career Opportunities

In addition to PhD programs, graduates of the Visual and Performing Arts master's program are well-prepared for positions in both public and private sectors, such as:

- Artists and performers
- Educators and researchers
- Arts administrators
- Arts entrepreneurs
- Arts writers/critics and editors
- Museum staff
- Consultants
- Archivists

Career settings may include higher education, non-profits, cultural and historical organizations, publishing houses, government agencies, international development organizations, museums and archives, business/corporate entities and independent consulting.

### Contact Information

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## Marketable Skills

UT Dallas MA in Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) graduates will be able to engage in enhanced understanding, application, practice, and study of the techniques, methods, theories, and forms of the visual and performing arts.

- Use knowledge, facts, and evidence to express independent analytical thinking about complex concepts in the arts, culture, and society through written, creative, and performative means
- Apply advanced performance, analytical, creative, and critical thinking skills in the workplace
- Plan, prepare, and present creative works in appropriate venues
- Adapt effectively to new and emerging technologies

## Application Deadlines and Requirements

Please take note of all application deadlines and visit the Apply Now webpage to begin the application process. See the Visual and Performing Arts program website for additional information.

Applicants to the Visual and Performing Arts master's degree program should have:

- A baccalaureate degree (BA or MA) or its equivalent from an accredited institution of higher education in an arts and humanities field.
- A grade point average (GPA) of 3.3 out of a 4.0 scale, especially in upper-division undergraduate or graduate coursework.
- Letters of Recommendation: Applicants must submit 3 letters of recommendation from individual able to judge the candidate's potential for success in the master's degree program.
- Admissions Essay: Applicants must submit a 650-word narrative essay, which should be reflective rather than factual. The essay should address the applicant's academic interests and goals and indicate how the master's program would enable such pursuits.
- International applicants must submit a TOEFL score of at least 80 on the internet-based test. Scores must be less than two years old. See the Graduate Catalog for additional information regarding English proficiency requirements for international applicants.

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The University of Texas at Dallas  
800 W. Campbell Rd., JO 31  
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About the School



The School of Arts and Humanities emphasizes education that seeks and creates connections, combining critical with creative thought, theory with practice and arts and humanities with other fields of knowledge. Our goal is to foster in students intense curiosity informed by rigorous attention and the ability not only to solve challenging problems but also to communicate the process and importance of the solution.

Our graduate programs provide students with a flexible, interdisciplinary context in which to pursue a personalized course of study. Rather than identifying fixed disciplinary areas, we have designed our graduate degrees around broadly defined areas of interest. The interrelationship and mutual influence of these broad areas is emphasized as the essential aspect of our approach to graduate education.

The School of Arts and Humanities offers the advantages of a research university and the nurturing atmosphere of a liberal arts college. Students in the School of Arts and Humanities are encouraged to explore the boundaries and the interrelationships of the major fields of study within the school. Consistent with this focus on the integration of the arts and humanities and a commitment to interdisciplinary education, the school has no conventional departments. Rather, its curriculum is designed to allow study that crosses and transcends traditional disciplinary lines. This flexible design allows faculty members to create learning communities based on mutual interests and in response to the educational needs of students.

## Additional Facts

Several faculty members have been awarded prestigious fellowships, including those from the Guggenheim, Fulbright, Alexander S. Onassis and Woodrow Wilson foundations. Others are recipients of the Füst Literary Award, as well as awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The school's centers further enhance students' educational experience by bringing the concept of globalism to campus, by bringing world events into focus through research and by encouraging innovation and creativity.

The National Science Foundation recently awarded a major grant to the school's Center for Values in Medicine, Science and Technology to study the mentoring and education that occurs in science laboratories.

A&H Graduate Programs		
Art History	MA	
History	MA	
History of Ideas	MA	PHD
Humanities	MA	PHD
Latin American Studies	MA	
Literature	MA	PHD
Visual and Performing Arts	MA	PHD

## Contact Information

### Office of Admission and Enrollment

800 West Campbell Road  
Richardson, TX 75080-3021  
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1-800-889-2443  
Email: [interest@utdallas.edu](mailto:interest@utdallas.edu)  
Website: [utdallas.edu/enroll](http://utdallas.edu/enroll)

### AH Advising

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The School of Arts and Humanities has several centers that provide a foundation for growth both internally and throughout the community:

### **The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies**

further contemporary attempts at understanding, speaking about, interpreting and representing this difficult period in history.

### **The Center for Asian Studies**

is a hub for Asian scholarly study and cultural fluency. The center is devoted to Asian and Asian-American culture and the interaction of Asia with America..

### **The Center for Translation Studies**

has a broad mission: enhancing the visibility and establishing the importance of the translator as the most important mediator between cultures; supporting the scholarly analysis and creation of literary translations; establishing partnerships with writers, scholars and publishers around the world.

**The Center for U.S.-Latin America Initiatives (CUSLAI)**, reflects the importance of Latin America to the United States and, specifically, to the northern portion of Texas, in the context of historical mutual understanding and co-existence. CUSLAI offers exchange opportunities for U.S. and Latin American scholars, researchers and students in science, technology, management, social sciences, arts and humanities.

**The Center for Values in Medicine, Science and Technology** supports programs and projects that address the human implications of scientific investigation and technological innovation.

**The Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History** is a center for innovative research and graduate education in the history of art. Research and teaching at the O'Donnell Institute focus on artworks held in Dallas-Fort Worth collections, which together open onto a history of art that ranges across geography, chronology and medium. The O'Donnell Institute is dedicated to intellectual creativity, exchange and collaboration in the form of lectures and symposia, exhibitions, publications and collaborations with area institutions.

[utdallas.edu/ah/centers](http://utdallas.edu/ah/centers)



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