The Department of Painting and Printmaking offers an undergraduate program that earns a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting and Printmaking, as well as a graduate program of study that leads to the Master of Fine Arts in Fine Arts. Students admitted to the programs are expected to have a high level of competence in either painting or printmaking. The graduate program is designed to encourage the development of professional attitudes and skills, with an emphasis on individual investigation.

The department is housed in the Fine Arts Building with 15 individual graduate studios plus a large graduate printmaking area in addition four state-of-the-art undergraduate printmaking studios: etching, lithography, screenprinting and digital. These facilities provide an excellent physical environment for the programs with easy access to the other fine art areas of sculpture and crafts. Established in 1928, the Department of Painting and Printmaking was the first department in what has become the School of the Arts. For nearly 70 years, the department has made significant contributions to the development of the School of the Arts’ reputation as one of the premier art schools in the country.

The department supports an active and ambitious program of visiting artists and lecturers. Leading figures in the world of contemporary art visit to discuss their work, critique, visit studios, conduct workshops and meet with students throughout the year.

The Master of Fine Arts degree is the terminal degree in the studio areas of fine arts and is a requirement for most college and university teaching positions. Many graduate students have gained teaching experience in the department as part of their assistantship responsibilities, teaching classes in painting, drawing and printmaking. The department assists graduate students financially through a variety of teaching assistantships, graduate assistantships and scholarships.

- Painting and Printmaking, Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/arts/painting-printmaking/painting-printmaking-bfa/)
- Painting and printmaking, minor in (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/arts/painting-printmaking/painting-printmaking-minor/)

PAPR 201. Drawing From Observation. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 6 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: ARTF 131, ARTF 132, ARTF 133 and ARTF 134. An introduction to the tools and methods of drawing. Emphasis will be placed on drawing from observation with a focus on compositional organization and the use of traditional drawing materials.

PAPR 206. Drawing for Nonmajors. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 3 credits. Enrollment is restricted to non-art majors; students may not be enrolled in the School of the Arts. An introduction to the tools and methods of drawing. Emphasis will be placed on drawing from observation with a focus on compositional organization and the use of traditional drawing materials.

PAPR 210. Painting for Non-majors. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 6 studio hours. 3 credits. Open to non-art majors only. The course will offer an opportunity for students to work with some of the ideas and materials of painting through lecture and studio involvement.

PAPR 211. Print Media I. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 6 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: ARTF 131, ARTF 132, ARTF 133 and ARTF 134. Designed for students beginning to explore the development of their visual vocabulary utilizing the multiple. This course is meant to be taken as part of a year-long module including etching, lithography, screen printing and digital imaging.

PAPR 212. Print Techniques: Etching. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: ARTF 131, ARTF 132, ARTF 133 and ARTF 134. Enrollment is restricted to students in School of the Arts. A seven-week course that engages students with one of the earliest means for creating a multiple – the incised plate. A variety of procedures for crafting the copper plate such as etching, drypoint and aquatint will be introduced. The ability to print and discern a quality impression will be developed. What connects printmaking’s various techniques is the initial production of a matrix from which the image is transferred to another surface and potentially reproduced multiple times. This course is one of a four-part series of printmaking studio courses designed for students beginning to explore the development of their visual vocabulary utilizing the multiple.

PAPR 213. Print Techniques: Screenprint. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: ARTF 131, ARTF 132, ARTF 133 and ARTF 134. Enrollment is restricted to students in School of the Arts. A seven-week course that is structured to provide an understanding of the history, techniques, materials and contemporary practice of screenprinting in a fine arts context. Both analog and digital techniques for creating stencils on screens will be introduced. The ability to recognize technical quality and analyze content in a printed image will be fostered through group discussions and individual tutorials. Safe studio practices will be emphasized. This course is one of a four-part series of printmaking studio courses designed for students beginning to explore the development of their visual vocabulary by utilizing the multiple.

PAPR 215. Printmaking for Nonmajors. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 3 credits. Enrollment is restricted to non-art majors; students may not be enrolled in the School of the Arts. The course will offer an opportunity for students to work with some of the ideas and materials of printmaking through lecture, studio practice, technical demonstrations and individual and group critiques.

PAPR 231. Drawing from Observation. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 6 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: ARTF 131, ARTF 132, ARTF 133 and ARTF 134. This course continues the development of students’ proficiencies in drawing through an emphasis on representation, illusion and mimesis. Students will gain an understanding of fundamental concepts in drawing, including figure/ground relationships, planes and volumes, and formal and expressive approaches to mark-making.
PAPR 290. Concepts and Issues. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. A lecture course that familiarizes students with contemporary artworks, as well as modern and postmodern concepts. Students will be introduced to contemporary issues in art through the presentation of slides, films and visiting speakers. Visits to outside events and lectures will be required.

PAPR 292. Concepts and Issues II. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: PAPR 290 or SCPT 290. A lecture course that builds on the prerequisite and covers contemporary art from recent decades. Students will be introduced to issues in contemporary art, including recent debates in the field. Crosslisted as: SCPT 292.

PAPR 301. Painting Strategies. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: PAPR 201. Enrollment is restricted to students in the School of the Arts. This course will explore contemporary ideas in painting through studio practice, critique, lecture, reading and discussion. Students will be exposed to relevant contemporary theory and will pursue issues such as abstraction, installation, site specificity and process, as well as systemic and conceptual approaches to painting.

PAPR 304. Paint Practice and Theory. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 6 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: PAPR 301. This course utilizes the group critique as its principle teaching methodology and explores critical issues in the field of painting. Each student will pursue a studio practice, complete assigned reading and participate in discussion.

PAPR 306. Print Techniques: Lithography. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: ARTF 131, ARTF 132, ARTF 133 and ARTF 134. Enrollment is restricted to students in the School of the Arts. A seven-week course that is structured to provide an understanding of basic techniques for printing from polyester and aluminum plates. Instruction will be provided on plate preparation, drawing materials, chemical stabilization of the drawn plate, press set-up, proofing, paper selection, and printing and signing an edition. The ability to recognize technical quality and analyze content in a printed image will be fostered through group discussions. Safe studio practices will be emphasized. This course is one of a four-part series of printmaking studio courses designed for students beginning to explore the development of their visual vocabulary utilizing the multiple.

PAPR 307. Print Techniques: Digital. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: ARTF 131, ARTF 132, ARTF 133 and ARTF 134. Enrollment is restricted to students in the School of the Arts. A seven-week course that investigates the history of digital printing and imparts an understanding of what it means to have a digital studio practice. While expanding the notion of print’s history of dissemination to the virtual, students will develop a working knowledge of image-editing software, image acquisition methods, digital file maintenance and color management. This course is one of a four-part series of printmaking studio courses designed for students beginning to explore the development of their visual vocabulary utilizing the multiple.

PAPR 308. Programming for Artists. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: ARTF 131, ARTF 132, ARTF 133 and ARTF 134. Enrollment is restricted to students in the School of the Arts. Explores computer programming and computational thinking using processing language, enabling artists to create their own software rather than being the user of someone else’s tool/idea. Students will learn the basic foundations of the computer programming environment through lectures, projects, critiques and quizzes.

PAPR 309. Electronic Strategies. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 6 studio hours. 4 credits. A digital media course designed to acclimatize students with the use of computers in the context of fine art. As opposed to common perceptions of “computer art,” students will learn to use the computer as they would any other tool — to articulate their ideas and add to their artistic practice. Through in-class exercises and homework assignments emphasizing problem-solving, students will learn to express their ideas through this emerging medium.

PAPR 310. Print Media II. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 6 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: ARFT 131, ARFT 132, ARFT 133 and ARFT 134. Further studies for students exploring the development of their visual vocabulary utilizing the multiple. This course is meant to be taken as part of a year-long module including etching, lithography, screen printing and digital imaging.

PAPR 314. Print Practice and Theory. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 6 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: PAPR 212 or PAPR 213; and PAPR 306 or PAPR 307. This course utilizes the group critique as its principle teaching methodology. It builds advanced printmaking skill and is a seminar on critical issues in the field. Each student will pursue a studio practice, complete assigned reading and participate in discussion.

PAPR 315. Printmaking, Intermediate (Etching). 4 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 4 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of eight credits. Prerequisite: PAPR 212 or permission of instructor. Investigation of etching printmaking, drypoint, engraving, aquatint, soft grounds and related techniques.

Semester course; 6 studio hours. 4 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of eight credits. Prerequisite: PAPR 306 or permission of instructor. Investigation of techniques and technical printing problems in lithographic printing process from stones and plates.

PAPR 319. Printmaking, Intermediate (Screenprinting). 4 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 4 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of eight credits. Prerequisite: PAPR 213 or permission of instructor. An investigation of cut, hand-drawn and photographic stencil techniques and printing on a variety of surfaces.

PAPR 326. Color. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: PAPR 201. Enrollment is restricted to students in the School of the Arts. A course examining the concepts governing the use of color. Historical and contemporary concepts and methods of application will be explored.

PAPR 330. Figure Painting. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: PAPR 201. Enrollment is restricted to students in the School of the Arts. Designed to allow advanced painting students to focus on figurative work in painting. Historical and contemporary figurative painters will be examined in the context of developing each student’s individual approach to form and content.

PAPR 331. Experiments in Drawing. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 6 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: PAPR 231. Lecture, studio practice and historical context. Students will practice exploratory notions of drawing and be provided with relevant examples of contemporary approaches to drawing.
PAPR 390. Junior Seminar. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: PAPR 290.
Enrollment is restricted to painting and printmaking majors or requires
permission of the instructor. This course introduces students to the basic
concepts and skills necessary to participate as a professional in the field
of contemporary art.

PAPR 392. Independent Study in Painting and Printmaking. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a
maximum total of six credits. Prerequisites: junior standing as a major
in painting or printmaking and approval of department chair and
instructor. Individual instruction and supervision of a special project.
Learning experiences should be designed with the supervising faculty
member in the form of a contract between student and instructor.
This course is limited to those students who have demonstrated an
exceptional level of ability and intense commitment to their discipline.

PAPR 401. Painting Investigations. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: PAPR 304. May
be repeated for a maximum of eight credits. Enrollment is restricted to
students in the School of the Arts. With the emphasis on the exploration
of an individual direction, this course continues the development of
a student's technical and conceptual proficiencies in the context of
contemporary painting practices.

PAPR 402. Senior Degree Project. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 6 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite:
PAPR 304 or PAPR 314. In this course the student will pursue an
independent studio practice toward the development of a personal and
informed body of advanced work.

PAPR 408. Senior Degree Project II. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: PAPR 402.
Enrollment is restricted to painting and printmaking majors. This course
builds on the prerequisite course to allow students to continue their
independent studio practice toward the development of a personal and
informed body of advanced work.

PAPR 409. Large Format Digital Printing. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: PAPR 309.
Enrollment is restricted to students in the School of the Arts. Engages
students in the use of digital tools in printmaking. Students will
investigate developments in digital culture in relation to print's history
and future. Creative applications of digital tools, with an emphasis on the
digital print, form the heart of this course.

PAPR 415. Printmaking, Advanced (Etching). 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 6 studio hours. 4 credits. May be repeated
for a maximum of 20 credits. Prerequisites: 4 credits of intermediate
printmaking or permission of instructor. Specialization in one medium
with emphasis upon technical research and aesthetic suitability of the
design to the particular medium used.

PAPR 417. Printmaking, Advanced (Lithography). 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 6 studio hours. 4 credits. May be repeated
for a maximum of 20 credits. Prerequisites: 4 credits of intermediate
printmaking or permission of instructor. Further investigation of
techniques and technical printing problems in the lithographic printing
process from stones and plates.

PAPR 419. Printmaking, Advanced (Screenprinting). 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 6 studio hours. 4 credits. May be repeated
for a maximum of 20 credits. Prerequisites: 4 credits of intermediate
printmaking or permission of instructor. Further exploration of cut, hand-
drawn and photographic stencil techniques and printing on a variety of
surfaces.

PAPR 421. Drawing, Advanced. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: PAPR 331.
Enrollment is restricted to students in the School of the Arts. A studio
for drawing with individual criticism. Special attention is given to
contemporary concepts.

PAPR 423. Experimental Printmaking. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 6 studio hours. 4 credits. May be repeated
for a maximum of 8 credits. Prerequisites: 3 credits of intermediate
printmaking or permission of instructor. Relief printing, collographs,
monoprints, photoengraving and mixed media will be investigated.

PAPR 431. Drawing and the Model. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: PAPR 231.
Historical and contemporary figure drawing will be explored with an
emphasis on developing the student’s individual approach to the figure.

PAPR 480. Critical Issues. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 2 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites:
ARTF 131, 132, 133 and 134. Enrollment is restricted to students with
junior or senior standing in the School of the Arts. This advanced
course comprises two parts. The first examines diverse critical and
aesthetic issues through the study of a select group of highly innovative
international artists. In the second part, students will participate in studio
visits. Crosslisted as: SCPT 480.

PAPR 490. Senior Seminar. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 2 credits. Information to help
graduating seniors in the department of painting and printmaking meet
the professional requirements involved in exhibiting and promoting their
creative work and in functioning as an artist. Writing intensive.

PAPR 491. Topics in Painting and Printmaking. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 credits. May be repeated with different topics for a
maximum of 12 credits. Topical course focusing on creative expression
and research in the areas of painting and printmaking. See the Schedule
of Classes for specific topics to be offered.

PAPR 492. Independent Study in Painting and Printmaking. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a
maximum total of six credits. Prerequisites: senior status as a major
in painting and printmaking and approval of department chair and
instructor. Individual instruction and supervision of a special project.
Learning experiences should be designed with the supervising faculty
member in the form of a contract between student and instructor.
This course is limited to those students who have demonstrated an
exceptional level of ability and intense commitment to their discipline.

PAPR 493. Internship for Painting and Printmaking. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 practicum hours. 1-6 credits (40 work hours per
credit). May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Enrollment is
restricted to juniors and seniors in School of the Arts with permission of
the department chair. A practicum that provides students with valuable
real-world experience to work in the field of contemporary art.