

CRAFT AND MATERIAL STUDIES, BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS (B.F.A.)

The Department of Craft and Material Studies offers a professionally oriented program that leads to a Bachelor of Fine Arts with focus areas in ceramics, fiberwork/fabric design, glassworking, metalsmithing/jewelry or woodworking/furniture design. Within these areas of specialization, courses are designed to assist students in developing concepts, personal direction, and the necessary skills and technical competencies to enable them to pursue a professional career or graduate study. In addition to the areas of study, students have the opportunity for a diverse education in the liberal arts and humanities. Students are encouraged to select courses in other schools in the university that will add to their general knowledge. A student may elect a minor area of study in any department or program offering a minor. The minor can be used to fulfill career objectives or to investigate a discipline of secondary interest.

Career opportunities for craft majors include setting up an independent studio or gallery, restoration or repair work, teaching or participating in the Artist-in-Residence programs in the public schools, and consulting and designing for industry.

Learning outcomes

Upon completing this program, students will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of craft and its potential impact on art and culture
2. Translate their creative ideas and develop a personal voice through their studio practice
3. Demonstrate competency in the use of new and traditional craft techniques and media
4. Utilize professional practices in the field of craft and art

Special requirements

Successful completion of ARTF 131, ARTF 132, ARTF 133, ARTF 134 is required for current art foundation students to major in craft/material studies. To enroll in an advanced-level craft and material studies course, students must have earned a minimum grade of C in all course prerequisites.

Degree requirements for Craft and Material Studies, Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.)

Course	Title	Hours
General education (https://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/)		
Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.		30
Major requirements		
• Major core requirements		
CRAF 282	Sophomore Seminar	3
CRAF 382	Junior Seminar	3
CRAF 480	Senior Studio/Critique Course	4
CRAF 482	Senior Seminar	3
• Major electives		

Basic craft (select from the list below)		12
Advanced craft (select from the list below)		24
Ancillary requirements		
Art Foundation Program		
ARTF 131	Drawing Studio	3
ARTF 132	Surface Research	3
ARTF 133	Space Research	3
ARTF 134	Time Studio	3
ARTF 139	Project Studio	2
or ARTF 138	Project Seminar	
ARTH 103 & ARTH 104	Survey of Art I and Survey of Art II	6
Additional requirements		
ARTH electives (select from ARTH 145-ARTH 599)		6
ARTH non-Western elective (select from list below)		3
Studio electives (must be taken outside of the Department of Craft and Material Studies) ¹		4
Open electives		
Select any course.		8
Total Hours		120

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Studio courses outside of the Department of Craft and Material Studies include CINE, COAR, GDES, IDES, KINE, PAPR, PHTO and SCPT.

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

Electives

Course	Title	Hours
Art history non-Western		
ARTH 207	Global Art History	3
ARTH 245	Survey of Asian Art	3
ARTH 304	Art of Ancient African Cultures and Kingdoms	3
ARTH 335	Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture	3
ARTH 347	Studies in Asian Art	3
ARTH 348	Art of the African Diaspora	3
ARTH 349	Body Adornment, Masks and Masking in Africa	3
ARTH 351	Oceanic Art and Architecture	3
ARTH 358	African Art and Architecture	3
ARTH 440	Modern and Contemporary Art and Architecture of Africa	3
ARTH 449	Studies in Asian Art	3
ARTH 452	Studies in Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture	3
ARTH 454	Studies in African Art	3
Basic craft		
CRAF 211	Jewelry	4
CRAF 221	Woodworking Techniques	4
CRAF 240	Introduction to Ceramics	4
CRAF 250	Introduction to Glass Fabrication	4
CRAF 260	Introduction to Textiles	4

CRAF 291	Introductory Topics in Craft/Material Studies	1-3
Advanced craft		
CRAF 301	Advanced Metal Fabrication: Forming	4
CRAF 302	Advanced Metal Fabrication: Mechanisms	4
CRAF 303	Advanced Metal Fabrication: Surface Techniques	4
CRAF 304	Advanced Metal Fabrication: Casting and Stone Setting	4
CRAF 320	Furniture Design	4
CRAF 321	Advanced Woodworking and Furniture Design	4
CRAF 322	Advanced Woodworking and Furniture Design	4
CRAF 341	Advanced Ceramics	4,6
CRAF 342	Advanced Ceramics	4,6
CRAF 344	Ceramics: Mold-Making	4
CRAF 346	Tableware	4
CRAF 351	Intermediate Glass Fabrication/Hot	4
CRAF 352	Intermediate Glass Fabrication/Kiln Forming	4
CRAF 353	Glassworking: Lampworking	4
CRAF 354	Intermediate Glass Fabrication	4
CRAF 361	Intermediate Textiles: Tapestry/Weaving	4
CRAF 362	Intermediate Textiles: Pattern Weaving	4
CRAF 363	Fabric Design I	4
CRAF 364	Fabric Design II	4
CRAF 391	Topics in Craft/Material Studies	1-3
CRAF 447	Ceramic Technology: Claybodies and Glaze Formulation	4
CRAF 481	Senior Studio/Critique Course	4
CRAF 491	Topics in Craft/Material Studies	1-3
CRAF 492	Independent Study	1-3
CRAF 493	Fieldwork	3
CRAF 494	Fieldwork	6

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

Recommended course sequence/plan of study

Freshman year

Fall semester		Hours
ARTF 131	Drawing Studio	3
ARTF 132	Surface Research	3
ARTF 139	Project Studio	1
or	or Project Seminar	
ARTF 138		
ARTH 103	Survey of Art I	3

UNIV 111	Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Play course video for Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communication	3
General education course		3

Term Hours: 16

Spring semester		
ARTF 133	Space Research	3
ARTF 134	Time Studio	3
ARTF 139	Project Studio	1
or	or Project Seminar	
ARTF 138		
ARTH 104	Survey of Art II	3
UNIV 112	Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Play course video for Focused Inquiry II		
General education course		3

Term Hours: 16

Sophomore year		
Fall semester		
CRAF 282	Sophomore Seminar	3
UNIV 200	Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Basic craft		4
General education course		3
General education course		3

Term Hours: 16

Spring semester		
ARTH non-Western topic		3
Basic craft		8
Studio elective		4

Term Hours: 15

Junior year		
Fall semester		
CRAF 382	Junior Seminar	3
Advanced craft		8
General education course		3

Term Hours: 14

Spring semester		
ARTH elective (ARTH 145-ARTH 599)		3
Advanced craft		8
General education course		3

Term Hours: 14

Senior year		
Fall semester		
CRAF 482	Senior Seminar (capstone)	3

ARTH elective (ARTH 145-ARTH 599)	3
Advanced craft	4
General education course	3
Open electives	2
Term Hours:	15
Spring semester	
CRAF 480 Senior Studio/Critique Course	4
Advanced craft	4
Open electives	6
Term Hours:	14
Total Hours:	120

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.