

**Delta State University Department of Art
Graduate Student Handbook**

Adopted Fall 2022

Table of Contents

This handbook is intended to supplement the Delta State University Academic Guidelines and Catalog. It contains information that is specific to graduate students enrolled in the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Studio Art (low residency) and is not meant to be comprehensive. Students should consult the general catalog for information on policies, procedures, and resources not outlined in this book.

Program Overview.....	1-7
• Description of the Program.....	1-2
• Degree Admissions, Requirements, and Curriculum.....	2-3
• Program Format.....	4
• Course Content and Purpose.....	5-7
Facility Access and General Safety Regulations.....	7-10
Student Services.....	11-12
Resources and Opportunities.....	12-13
Department Expectations.....	13-14

Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Studio Art (Low Residency)

The MFA in Studio Art (Low Residency) is a two-year 60-credit-hour degree with a summer intensive program that serves students who are motivated and want an innovative approach to graduate study through independent studio practice with a flexible structure.

Students take courses as a cohort for summer, as well as online, during spring and fall semesters. During spring and fall semesters students will be working with an artist mentor located close to their home studios.

Summer intensives will be four week-long on campus with a cohort of students taking three courses. During summer intensives, in addition to class instructors, students will interact and receive feedback from visiting artists and participate in fellowship activities that stimulate their creative process.

The program will offer four new technology courses relevant to artists working across all disciplines providing and expanding knowledge in filming, marketing, advertising, 3D modeling & printing, and operating CNC Laser Engraver. The program will encourage students to explore new ways and to incorporate digital media as a meaningful tool for their creative pursuits.

Upon the completion of this program students in the Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art (Low Residency) will have acquired:

- (Art Research and Concept) Graduates will develop a coherent body of work that demonstrates their ability to investigate, analyze and evaluate information and show competency in expressing their ideas visually, orally, and in writing.
- (Art Skills and Technology) Graduates will develop the ability to integrate digital technology in the pursuit of traditional artistic practices.

- (Critical Thinking and Communication) Graduates will possess extensive knowledge of contemporary art practice and discourse to define the place of their work within the broader context of art history.
- (Professionalism) Graduates will demonstrate professional standards and practices for advancing in their chosen fields necessary for entering a career in the Arts.

Degree Requirements

A candidate for the Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art (Low Residency) is required to:

1. Fulfill the general requirements for a graduate degree at Delta State University.
2. Complete graduate work consisting of studio and related areas, art history and theory, and elective hours as specified. Provide written consent by the assigned artist mentor and academic advisor that each student has access to an appropriate facility where they can create and obtain suitable studio space in which to create thesis work.
3. Have Internet access and a computer or phone on which to video chat with the academic advisor.
4. Transport artwork to Delta State University during the summer and winter sessions.
5. Travel during the weeks specified for both semesters.
6. Be available per the faculty advisor's schedule.
7. Earn a grade point average of at least 3.0 overall.
8. Earn a grade of B or higher in all new technology courses.
9. Pass an oral examination during the mid-program review at the start of the second year.
10. With the consent of the academic advisor, conceive, plan, and execute a coherent body of work for exhibition that reflects your aesthetic vision, technical facility, and understanding of your art-historical, theoretical, and personal sources and precedents.
11. Explain and defend the conceptual framework and process of your graduate thesis project in a series of meetings with your thesis committee, a thesis paper, and a final critique.
12. Earn at least one-half of all hours toward the MFA degree at the 600 levels.

Special Requirements for Admission to the Program

The program requires a portfolio review upon application.

MFA students are expected to develop a personal vision, a high level of technical competence, and the ability to articulate their ideas in visual form.

To be considered for admission, applicants must:

1. Have earned a Bachelor of Arts (with a major in Fine Arts) or a Bachelor of Fine Arts from an accredited institution.
2. Have earned a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on all undergraduate coursework
OR
Three years of successful relevant professional experience
3. Candidates for admission must submit a letter of intent describing why they wish to enter the program and how the program can lead to career success.
4. Candidates must submit an artist statement.
5. Candidates must list three references with contacts from professors and/or employers. At least one reference must be from a professor who is familiar with the applicant's work.
6. A portfolio of 15-20 images that shows proficiency of media in which the candidate wishes to dedicate further study. If the candidate is focusing on video or animation, we require portfolio equivalents of five pieces that are three to five minutes in length.

Applications will be considered by the MFA coordinating committee, which consists of the MFA program coordinator, the chair of the Art Department, and faculty in the department from various areas of study.

Applicants may be granted provisional admission status for the first six (6) hours of graduate course work. All admission requirements must be met within these six hours. Applicants must have an undergraduate GPA of 2.5 or above to be admitted provisionally.

Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Studio Art (Low Residency) Curriculum

1.	Required Studio Courses	18
	Art 526 Graduate Off-site Studio I.....	3
	Art 527 Graduate Off-site Studio II.....	3
	Art 626 Graduate On-Site Studio III	6
	Art 627 Graduate Off-site Studio IV.....	6
2.	Required New Technology Courses	12
	Art 500 New Technology I: Computer Graphics	3
	Art 505 New Technology II: Motion Graphics.....	3
	Art 600 New Technology III: Time-Based Media.....	3
	Art 605 New Technology IV: Integrated Design.....	3
3.	Required Art Theory and Seminar Courses	18
	Art 615 Contemporary Art and Theory	3
	Art 616 Writing in Art.....	3
	Art 617 Research in Art.....	3
	Art 670 Professional Studio Practices	3
	Art 514 First-Year Seminar *.....	3
	Art 614 Graduate Seminar *	3
4.	Graduate Electives	6
	Graduate electives must come from outside the art department, and are meant to encourage cross-disciplinary study, and should be chosen in consultation with the advisor.	
	Graduate Electives.....	3
	Graduate Electives.....	3
5.	Thesis	6
	Art 680 Graduate Thesis	6
Total		60

Program Format

During the 1st Summer Residency on campus, students will meet with their advisors to map out the studio work they are to complete independently during the fall and spring semesters. This includes developing a timeline for the quantity of work required with dates to check in with advisors and mentors.

Please note that:

- All students will be required to take four new technology courses to help them integrate technology in the pursuit of traditional artistic practices and to fulfill the interdisciplinary portion of the degree.
- In-person workshops and classes will take place during the summer sessions to focus on technique and on the new technology courses to find strategies to integrate this component into their work. Faculty will consult regularly with students on the progress of their independent work during the semester.
- Students near Cleveland, Mississippi may have the option to use the school facilities if there is availability in the Fall and Spring semesters. All students during summer residency will have full access to the school facilities.
- Students near Cleveland, Mississippi can also apply for graduate assistantships to gain experience in teaching at the college level after completing a minimum of 18 graduate-level credits.
- In addition to the tuition of Delta State University, a \$100 per credit hour course fee will be charged to all graduate-level courses offered by the Art department. The course fees will be used to sustain the program and for all occurring costs including equipment, artist mentors, and visiting artists.

Faculty Advisors and Artist Mentors

After the 1st Summer Residency, students will work with their assigned faculty advisor as well as an artist mentor. Faculty advisors are assigned within the Art department, while the artist mentors are selected from qualified art professionals and teachers and assigned to each student according to the home studio of the students.

Graduate Off-Site Studio

The graduate off-site studio courses will be offered under the guidance of an artist mentor. The artist mentors must meet with students a minimum of 6 times in person within a 15-week semester and give feedback in the creation of artwork during Graduate Studio courses. Artist mentors are responsible for giving updates to faculty advisors after each meeting.

Faculty mentors and faculty advisors will exchange information preferably via virtual meetings, and with electronic reports about the plan of action for studio courses communicating the progress and growth of each student. Faculty advisors oversee the academic progression and records of students and conduct virtual meetings a minimum of 6 times within a 15-week semester.

The program adheres to the published DSU policy for the time and credit required to complete the program. Credit is awarded according to published time and credit policies.

- All courses created for this program are solely designated for the MFA in Studio Arts (Low Residency) degree.
- All courses must be taken sequentially in each academic semester. Students must maintain a B grade average in all courses.

University Teaching and Learning Platform: All courses taught in the MFA Low Residency Program will be using the adopted university teaching and learning platform. Currently, DSU uses CANVAS for all courses at graduate and undergraduate levels. This platform is used by all faculty at all levels, graduate, and undergraduate, in uploading assignments, course content, conducting class discussions, grading, and feedback.

Course Content and Purpose

New Technology Courses are required for all graduate students and are designed to help students utilize digital media in the pursuit of traditional artistic practices in order to acquire the skills necessary for working in an ever-changing digital environment. These courses will be relevant to artists working across all disciplines to help with marketing, advertisement, and to increase knowledge about and comfort with working with technology, increasing opportunities for employment. Courses include computer graphics, motion graphics, 3D modeling and printing, and integrating the use of a CNC or laser cutter into one's work.

Graduate Studio Courses offer students an opportunity to explore a variety of different media and pursue in-depth research in areas of interest stemming from undergraduate coursework. Students are encouraged to seek interdisciplinary or multi-media approaches that are relevant to the content and objectives based on students' personal research and proposals, and the evaluation of a mentor artist. The academic progression of students will be monitored by an assigned DSU faculty advisor in collaboration with the mentor artist.

Art History and Theory offers an opportunity to further explore the artists, traditions, and theory of art and design to help uncover possibilities for developing the students' work. Students must take a minimum of 12 graduate credit hours in art history. Art History options include: Contemporary Art and Theory, Writing in Art, Research in Art, and Professional Studio Practices. Survey of Art History I and II, Modern Art. Women in the Arts, Public Art, and Art and Sustainability and African American Art History are other courses can be available for graduate students.

Graduate Student Seminars are designed as reading and discussion courses and are required for a total of 3 credit hours. Each cohort is enrolled together in these classes and will provide essential skills every artist needs, i.e., how to be successful in graduate school, critical thinking skills, how to document your work with photographs or video, how to edit digital images, how to design promotional material, how to build frames or crates for your artwork, where to find exhibitions, residencies, and funding opportunities for artists and how to apply for these. Readings on contemporary art will be explored as well as developing conceptual frameworks around a variety of

themes to encourage deeper meaning and develop hidden connections will also be a focus of these courses. We also plan to take advantage of the Center for Teaching and Learning at DSU to offer online courses related to curriculum development, classroom management, and strategies for effective teaching on the collegiate level.

Graduate Electives must come from outside the required course listings, are meant to encourage cross-disciplinary study, and should be chosen in consultation with the advisor. Examples of elective courses MFA candidates will be encouraged to take are graduate level Art courses, Entrepreneurship, Business Communication, Principles of Management, Marketing Principles, Creative Writing, Technical Writing, Creative Nonfiction, Sound for Film and Visual Media, Fundamentals of Sound Cognition, Educational Psychology, Classroom Management, Microcomputer Applications, or Computer Programming Fundamentals.

The thesis course is taken in the final semester of the graduate program and acts as the capstone experience of the MFA program and is worth 6 credits. The MFA thesis permits conceiving, planning, and executing a coherent body of work for an exhibition that reflects the aesthetic vision, technical facility, and understanding of the student's art-historical, theoretical, and personal sources and precedents. Students will have to explain and defend the conceptual framework and process of their graduate thesis projects in a series of meetings with their thesis committee including a thesis paper, and final critique.

Special Requirements Include:

Mid-Program Review

The MFA is a proficiency-based program and students seeking the degree must complete and pass a mid-program review, which consists of an oral presentation of the student's work and research followed by an interview with the faculty advisor, graduate coordinator, and chair of the Art Department and is open to family and friends as well as the public. Mid-program reviews will be held in the summer intensive at the start of the second year of the program.

Only students who are working independently and have a strong presentation of work and clear objectives for the remainder of the MFA program will be allowed to continue in the program. If you do not pass the mid-program review, you may be asked to exit the program and re-apply to the program the following year, joining a new cohort upon approval of the department chair and graduate coordinator.

The review committee will assess the quality of your portfolio based on technical development, conceptual strength, and ability to generate new work. The committee will discuss the results of the review with you and provide the results in writing.

Thesis Exhibition

Graduate students are required to develop a cohesive body of work for an exhibition in the Fielding Wright Art Gallery during their last semester of the program. The thesis exhibition will be created in coordination with the faculty advisor, gallery director, and graduate coordinator and is meant to demonstrate technical and conceptual mastery of candidates' chosen art media(s).

Thesis Paper

The thesis paper defines the intensive research leading up to the thesis exhibition. It cites the student's artwork within a larger art context. Students will begin working on their thesis paper concurrently with their thesis project in the fall semester of their third year and be continued into the spring semester. The final copy will be due by the end of the spring semester, BEFORE the

installation of the thesis exhibition of the final year. The suggested length should be between 10-15 pages with at least 10-15 keywords for an electronic search and digital images of the MFA candidate's artwork to illustrate the written documentation.

Course syllabi for degree coursework are appended. The university's Academic Council has recently approved new courses created for the MFA program.

Technology and Synthesis

Program and curricular outcomes and assessments will be evaluated yearly and reported in the Annual Report submitted by the chair of the department of art. Institutional Research will provide annual data for tracking admission and retention rates, as well as providing data related to ex-student and graduate surveys. Feedback and data will be analyzed for purposes of evaluating program efficacy, student satisfaction, placement of graduates in the workforce, and reported annually via the Annual Report.

Graduation

Students will comply with all published institutional regulations regarding graduation.

Facility Access and General Safety Regulations

- A) All facilities of the Art Department have door codes and are accessible for 24-hours to all enrolled students within the Art program.
- B) Students are trained by faculty members to gain access to power tools, pottery kilns, and all technological equipment. A faculty member is always available to provide assistance as needed during working hours and by appointment after hours.
- C) Every art student has access to computer labs and equipment to aid in the development of their work.
- D) Please refer to Graduate Student Handbook for detailed safety rules and policy.

Guidelines for Use of Department's Facilities & Resources

Use of Studio Spaces and Equipment

Graduate students will be provided a space to work while on campus and have 24-hour access to all studio spaces and equipment when no classes are in session. Being able to use studio spaces and equipment is a privilege and you are expected to treat facilities and equipment with care and respect. Violations may lead to the loss of your studio privileges and withholding of grades.

Studio spaces are equipped with number locks for the safety of students working after hours. When enrolled in a class, students will receive a code to gain access to the studio space.

- Make sure to abide by studio rules (rules for individual studio spaces are listed below)
- Clean the area you have been using before you leave for the day,
- Only use equipment you have been trained to use and you have permission to use, if you need to use equipment you have not been trained on, make an appointment with the faculty in charge to get training,
- Clean and return equipment to their proper place after use.
- Never remove equipment from the studio to which it belongs.
- Be respectful of other students' work in the studios.
- Share space with other students.

- Report any accidents, broken or malfunctioning equipment to the faculty in charge of the area immediately, and label broken or malfunctioning equipment to avoid accidents.
- Never give your access code to other students and never prop open outside doors to prevent unauthorized persons from entering, report unauthorized persons in studio areas to the faculty in charge.

Lockers

While on campus, there are lockers available to store projects, materials, and tools. Some studio spaces have lockers in the studio itself, which are usually assigned to students for the duration of a class and have to be cleaned out on the last day of class. The department also has a number of lockers in the hallways that you may use. See the department secretary to reserve one of these lockers. These lockers too are usually assigned for the duration of a semester.

Studio Usage and Studio Safety Rules for Specific Areas

Ceramic Studio

- **Safety Guidelines**

- Clay dust and various glaze materials contain free silica, which is hazardous with repeated inhalation, therefore dust masks are required for mixing clay and glazes as well as other processes that create dust. Training in class will additionally cover which colorants should be handled with gloves.
- You are not to use materials or operate equipment on which you have not been trained at DSU or been assigned by the instructor.

Digital Media Arts Lab

- **Studio Rules**

- Digital Lab is for students currently enrolled in a Digital Media Arts course.
- Please no eating or drinking at the computers.
- DO NOT save your personal projects on the desktop. The computers are wiped by OIT each semester.

- **Equipment Check-out Policy**

- Only students currently enrolled in a DMA course may check out the equipment.
- You are responsible for the equipment once it has been checked out in your name. You will be accountable for any lost or broken equipment. This can negatively affect your grade, ability to register for classes, and graduation.

Fibers Studio

- **Studio Rules**

- Students must use cutting mats when using X-Acto knives.
- Dyeing additives to be made only by the instructor.
- Chemicals are only to be refilled by instructor.

- **Safety Guidelines**

- All accidents must be reported to instructor immediately. Safety hazards will be introduced at the beginning of each project.
- While running, the beater must not be left unattended.
- While cooking fibers, stove must not be left unattended.
- Gloves, aprons and respirators must be worn when handling additives and colorants.

Graphic Design Labs

- **Studio Rules**

- Be respectful to others
- Be professional
- Clean up after yourself
- Do not use spray cans (paints, adhesives, crystal clear, etc.) in the building

- Keep personal work saved on the school computer hard drives to a minimum
- All of your work should be saved to **no less** than two different locations (Hard drive, One drive, Google drive, Thumb drive, external hard drive, etc.)

- **Safety Guidelines**

- Wear protective eyewear when using x-acto knives

Painting Studio

- **Studio Rules**

- Never spray anything in the painting studios.
- Always clean up after yourself.
- Never leave your materials unattended.
- Don't pour any paint down the sink.
- Turn the lights off if you are last leaving the studios.
- Take initiative to clean up.
- Put up the drawing benches at their designated area.
- Put up the easels at their designated area.
- Never share the building codes with non-art majors.

Photography Studio

- **Studio Rules**

- Students should always clean up after themselves.
- Clean up spills
- Return equipment to its proper place
- Make sure that the lab is secure and locked when unattended

- **Equipment checkout;**

- Film and digital cameras and tripods are available for loan to any student enrolled in the photography class in which the equipment is required. Students must provide all of the information requested on the *Equipment Loan Agreement* form in order to borrow equipment, available from the faculty member teaching their class.
- Equipment should be returned in a timely manner or upon request,
- Equipment should be returned in the same condition in which it was loaned.

Printmaking Studio

- **Studio Rules**

- Students must use cutting mats when using X-Acto knives.
- Chemical rags must be disposed of in Chemical Waste Bin.
- Chemicals are only to be refilled by instructor.

- **Safety Guidelines**

- All accidents must be reported to instructor immediately. Safety hazards will be introduced at the beginning of each project.
- Must be two students in room while operating electric press.
- Gloves, aprons and respirators must be worn when handling chemicals.
- Chemicals are color-coded. Refer to posted sign for appropriate use.

Sculpture Studio

- **Studio Rules**

- The sculpture studio is to be used only by current students. Studio equipment cannot be used by anyone not enrolled in an art course.
- Safety training on all equipment is mandatory.
- The sculpture studio is a cell phone free zone. If you must make a call, please do it outside.
- Food and drinks are only allowed in the front classroom, but is not recommended due to the amount of chemicals and dust in the room. No food or drink allowed in the machine room.

- Students are responsible for participating in a general shop clean up before they leave the room. The studio is a shared facility and any mess created while using the space must be cleaned before leaving. Failure to do so will result in the loss of access to the studio.
- **Safety Guidelines**
 - Students must be trained on all equipment before use.
 - Protective eyewear must be worn at all times.
 - Closed toed shoes must be worn in the studio at all times.
 - Hearing protection is recommended when tools are in use.
 - Tools should not be used if under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
 - No yelling or running in the machine room.
 - Students must be considerate, thoughtful, and careful when using tools in the shop.
 - Common sense and good judgment are critical to keep students safe in this studio
- **Rules for Using the Studio After-hours**
 - Students have 24-hour access to the studio space and all rules and safety guidelines must be followed at all times. Failure to do so will result in the loss of access to the studio.

Safety on Campus

Using the Building After-Hours

- Do not leave outside doors open
- Do not share building door code with others

What to Do in an Emergency When No Faculty Are Present

In an emergency: CALL CAMPUS POLICE – 662-846-4155

Steps to Emergency Calls:

1. When calling for emergency services, try to remain calm. Never leave a seriously injured person alone. You should shout for assistance. Only when it is obvious there is nobody around to help should you leave the victim long enough to get assistance.
2. Identify yourself and the place or hall where help is needed.
3. DO NOT HANG UP—The operator/dispatcher will want to get further information from you and relay this data to the emergency vehicles in route to your location.

Emergency Phones are located on the first floor of both Art Department buildings by the elevators with the campus police number visible.

Other phone numbers:

DSU Health Center662-846-4630

DSU Counseling Center.....662-846-4690

Mississippi Poison Control.....1-800-222-1222

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.....1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Bolivar Medical Center662-846-0061

North Sunflower Medical Center.....662-756-4000

OKRA Alert

DSU's emergency text messaging system. All cell phone numbers in the student information system have been automatically enrolled. An emergency text will be sent in cases of extreme weather, life-threatening incidents on campus, or important immediate changes that affect the entire University. To verify that you are receiving the alert service log onto DSU Online Services.

Student Services

Graduate Program Coordinator

The graduate program coordinator advises applicants and students about application and admission, graduation requirements, funding, petitions, and other administrative matters. Both the graduate coordinator and the faculty advisor advise students about course selection, research projects, and other academic matters, but students have to see the graduate program coordinator to register for courses.

The graduate program coordinator also will assist students in finding an appropriate artist mentor.

Faculty Advisor

The faculty in charge of a student's chosen concentration will serve as the student's faculty advisor. The faculty advisor is the student's first point of contact within the department and guides the student through the program. The faculty advisor advises students about course selection, research projects, and other academic matters.

The faculty advisor will meet with students at a specified time during the summer and winter intensives to devise their studio and academic plans for the coming semester, which include readings, papers to be completed, and studio goals to be achieved prior to the next residency period. During the semester, the faculty advisor will communicate regularly with the advisee and the advisee's artist mentor and discuss the artist mentor's assessment with the student.

The faculty advisor will also serve as the chair of the advisee's thesis committee.

Artist Mentor

The artist mentor is a practicing artist or teacher who will meet with the students at least six times within a to discuss the student's work and progress. All low-residency students will be assigned an artist mentor who works in the same or a related medium and lives in the same area as the student. Students may elect to travel to work with an artist who does not reside in the student's local area. This mentor must be approved by the DSU Art Department.

During the summer and winter intensives, the student, in conjunction with their MFA faculty advisor will devise a scope of work to be accomplished over the course of the semester. The artist mentor then meets with the student at least once a month, for a minimum of four times over the semester. Over the course of the semester, the artist mentor sends the Art Department a mid-term evaluation, which is shared with the student and faculty advisor. At the close of the semester, the artist mentor submits a final evaluation to the Art Department, which is also shared with the student and faculty advisor. These evaluations are used to help the student understand the strengths and weaknesses of their studio projects for the semester. Students will bring the work that was produced over the course of the previous semester to the summer and winter intensives for a final critique, discussion, and grading.

Visiting Artists

Our visiting artist program brings in a variety of regional, national, and international artists with diverse backgrounds and experiences. The University also brings prominent artists, critics, and historians to the campus. These

programs yield lectures, exhibitions, workshops, and individual critiques in student studio spaces while graduate students are on campus. These events are an important part of the graduate experience, and all students are expected to attend.

Resources & Opportunities

- **Graduate Assistantships**

Assistantships are competitive and only awarded to students enrolled full-time in graduate degree programs. The Office of Graduate Studies and Research designate allocation for assistantships for each college/school/unit. Each college/school/unit recommends to the Dean of Graduate Studies full-time graduate students for Graduate Assistantships. In exchange for compensation, graduate assistants are expected to work part-time in their area of concentration.

- **Departmental Awards**

The department offers modest departmental awards, which are media specific. Application procedures and specific award details are announced in the early-to-mid spring semester.

- **Student Chapters of Professional Organizations**

Delta State University's art department is host to a chapter of Kappa Pi International Art Honor Society, as well as a student chapter of the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA).

- **Museum Trips and Study Abroad Programs**

The department regularly organizes trips to museums, studio visits or visits to graphic design companies to afford students an opportunity to experience historical and contemporary works of art first hand and allow students a behind-the-scenes look at the professional art world.

Annual Museum Trip: The department organizes an annual day-long field trip to area museums such as the Brooks Museum and the Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis, TN or the Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MS. This trip is funded by the department and free to all art majors.

Multi-day Museum Trips: The department regularly offers multi-day field trips to major art centers in the United States such as Chicago, Houston, New York, St. Louis, or Washington, DC.

International Travel: The department also offers opportunities for international travel to experience or create art. We have organized trips to Florence, Italy; Turkey; Vienna, Austria; Brazil; and Jamaica in the past. Students may earn up to 3 hours of course credit for participating in any of these trips.

- **Exhibition Opportunities**

DSU Annual Juried Student Exhibition: The department organizes an annual juried student exhibition which provides students with an opportunity to gain professional experience and receive feedback on their work from an art professional outside the department. In addition, up to \$4000 in prize money is awarded to the best entries in a variety of categories. Submissions are due mid-February; the exhibition opens in early March.

The DSU Kappa Pi Chapter organizes a juried exhibition, the *Salon des Refusés*, drawing from the work that was not selected for the Annual Juried Student Exhibition in the Holcomb Norwood Annex.

- **Academic Services**

Delta State University offers a variety of resources to help you succeed academically.

- **The Student Success Center**, located in Union 309, offers a variety of services to support DSU students such as classes on learning strategies, time management, stress management, and general study skills. The Student Success Center also offers programs designed specifically for international students. The Student Success Center's lab provides access to computers and a quiet study space.
- **The Writing Center**, located in Kethley Hall 201, is a great resource for students wanting to improve their writing skills. The Writing Center offers individual assistance at all stages of the writing process, including: brainstorming, discovering a thesis, organizing and developing an argument, sentence structure, documentation style, and resumes and letters of application.

Department's Expectations of Students

- **Time Commitment**

Successfully progressing through your program requires serious time commitment outside of the classroom. You should expect to spend at least 20 hours on class projects outside of class each week for each upper-level course.

- **Work Ethic**

Graduate students are expected to come into the program with developed professional habits before they advance to the MFA Thesis, which includes working not just on class projects, but practicing their skills and pursuing independent projects outside of class and over the winter and summer breaks.

- **Attendance at Art Department Events**

The department organizes 6 exhibitions annually at the Fielding Wright Art Center as well as guest lectures and workshops by artists and art professionals to expose students to different perspectives. High-residency students are expected to attend all openings and guest lectures and all low-residency students are invited to attend as many as possible, especially if located near the university.

Department Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory for all classes in a **course that meets twice a week**, you are allowed up to three absences for any reason – oversleeping, sickness, doctor's appointments. For any absence beyond three, one letter grade will be deducted from your overall grade. If you have more than 5 absences, you will receive a failing grade for the course.

In a **course that meets only once a week** you are allowed up to one absence for any reason – oversleeping, sickness, doctor's appointments. For any absence beyond one, one letter grade will be deducted from your overall grade. If you have more than 3 absences, you will receive a failing grade for the course.

Students who miss class are responsible to inform themselves of any assignments or announcements made in class. Inform the instructor beforehand if you have to miss any of tests or assignments due dates for reasons of illness or emergency and see them as soon as possible to make arrangements to make-up tests or assignments.

Make-ups will be given only if you bring a written medical excuse or an official excuse from the dean.

Communication

All students at Delta State University are provided with a university email account. This email is the primary way by which the university and the art department communicate with students. MFA students are responsible for information regarding program changes, health and safety, and other important and timely notifications communicated to them through their DSU email accounts. As such, it is important that you check your DSU email at least daily.