

## B.F.A. Reviews: Process + Requirements

### Pursuing a B.F.A. Degree

The Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) is a well renowned inter/national degree with high standards for excellence. It is for those students who wish to enroll in the most immersive art and design experience at the undergraduate level, preparing them for graduate studies.

At UW-Eau Claire, the B.F.A. in Art is a 75-credit comprehensive degree. The following emphases are available for specific areas of study: ceramics, digital media, drawing + painting, graphic design, illustration, photography, printmaking, and sculpture.

Students pursuing the B.F.A. degree are required to take part in a B.F.A. Review. This departmental process is designed to evaluate and advise based on artistic quality, interest, and career direction. The student's performance will provide the basis for faculty to observe dedication to the field of art, assessing whether the adequate skills and understanding are present in the review to successfully continue in the B.F.A. program. This includes the following considerations: commitment to craft, work ethic, participation and communication skills, creative problem-solving skills, competence with the materials and tools, and receptivity to fundamental art concepts.

Reviews are held every semester. It is recommended that students in the B.F.A. program participate in a review as soon as they have been advised to do so.

### Guidelines and Requirements for the B.F.A. Review

Most traditional students will participate in their review during their sophomore year, while transfers and change-of-majors will need to speak with their faculty advisor to determine the best time for their review. Transfer students should complete at least one semester at UWEC before taking the review. Petitions for exceptions to the review requirements outlined below are made to the B.F.A. Procedures Committee after meeting with your advisor.

- Apply for your review the semester you hope to participate in it. Review must be completed before you have earned 30 credits of ART courses. Must also take place at least two semesters before your B.F.A. senior exhibition.
- All Foundations courses (ART 107, 108, 110, and ARTH 109) and two courses toward the area of emphasis must be completed before the review.
- Complete at least two semesters in your area of emphasis after completing the B.F.A. Review (i.e. minimum two more ART courses from emphasis and not in the same semester).

Specific room assignments with times and team information will be sent out in advance of the review. On the day of reviews, all studio spaces will be made available. Students are expected to arrive at least five minutes prior to their scheduled session and be prepared to present at any time.

The B.F.A. Procedures Committee will assign faculty review teams after the application deadline. Every effort will be made to have the team consist of at least three faculty members from diverse discipline areas to represent the whole department. They will have a consistent, objective process in reviewing work utilizing evaluation rubrics with written summaries. Teams will meet to discuss the work and then interview the student about it. Each team member will complete a rubric to be compiled with one review sheet by the student's area mentor and then forwarded to the student.

B.F.A. Reviews follow a pass/fail system. If a review is not satisfactorily completed, a student is allowed one resubmit to be completed within two semesters of the original review. The original review team must communicate with the faculty advisor why the work was unsatisfactory and provide any recommendations for improvement before resubmission. The faculty advisor will be included in the second review team to provide continuity and context from the first review.

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Finally, also note the following requirements for all B.F.A. candidates before **or** after their review:

- Must complete at least one of the following travel experiences:
  - One national Department-led trip (e.g. New York)
  - Two regional Department-led trips (e.g. Chicago **and** Minneapolis)
  - A UWEC-approved International Study Program
- Must exhibit a senior project in the Foster Gallery at the end of your graduation semester. Select work beforehand in consultation with and approval from your faculty advisor and/or mentor(s). It is implicit that you are responsible for these consultations.

Both "B.F.A. Completion" and "Intent to Graduate" forms must be turned in to verify you have completed all non-credit bearing and other academic requirements to graduate.

### Presentation Requirements

Select work in consultation with your faculty advisor. Unless otherwise indicated by an advisor or review team, current requirements include:

1. Select examples of your best work from studio Foundation courses (ART 107, ART 108, and ART 110). Include the following:
  - a. At least 4 descriptive drawings demonstrating line, form, proportion, composition, and tone (e.g. human figures, non-life environments/objects).
  - b. At least 4 works that demonstrate effective use of color.
  - c. At least 2 works in 3-D. Photographs that document details of works too large for display in the review setting is permissible.
2. An appropriate number of works from your chosen emphasis.
3. Total number of works should not exceed 17 unless approved by your faculty advisor.
4. All artworks must be professionally organized, identified, and appropriately displayed; framing is not necessary. Labels must include artist name, title of work/assignment title, medium, course, and term (semester + year).
5. A concise, written statement (approx. 1-2 pages): analyze one or more of your B.F.A. Review artworks by indicating relationships between its purpose, visual strategies (composition), technique (process and materials), and art historical and cultural contexts. **E-mail a copy** to your faculty review team at least 48 hours prior to the review.
6. A short verbal presentation (approx. 5-10 minutes) that thoughtfully introduces the work on display while demonstrating knowledge and professional use of art and design vocabulary.

Work should be installed the night before Review Day and is to be promptly removed after the completion of the review. Students late or unprepared will not receive extra time.