

Major Planning Guide:

Art

What can I do with a degree in art?

Students who major in art go on to follow many paths after graduation with a bachelor's degree. Some will find work using their art training, either through teaching, art therapy, or non-profit work, or through commercial applications in advertising or design. Some will be self-employed. Others will work in other fields while still pursuing art. Some students may return to school to continue studying art and possibly teach at the university level.

Related Majors/Programs

Visual Media
Graphic Design
Apparel & Design
Industrial Design
Art History
Music
Education

Where can I earn a bachelor's degree in art in Washington?

Many universities offer art as an undergraduate major. You can use the College Navigator search engine found at <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator> to find art programs in Washington state or around the country.

How do I prepare to major in art?

Here are a few steps that we recommend you take to make sure that art is the right choice for you. There are many different types of careers in art, and it is important to do some research ahead of time to find the one that best fits your goals. An advisor can help you choose the transfer degree, and what courses you should take while you are here at Seattle Central.

Step One: Research

- Those who are undecided about a major/career can make an appointment with our Career Exploration Center in BE 1102E to take a career assessment test. This assessment can reveal your interests, values, and skills which then match you up with potential careers and programs that prepare you for specific career paths.
- Many university art programs will require a portfolio of previous work as part of the admissions process. Check university requirements and take classes at Seattle Central that can help to develop your portfolio.
- Most universities offer an art major, but the concentrations they offer vary. If you want to study graphic design, for instance, make sure your intended transfer university offers that focus.
- Our Transfer Center in BE 1102F can help find universities you are interested in attending and guide you through the application process.

Step Two: Pick a Degree

Students planning to major in art often earn the Associates of Art (AA-DTA) degree. Advisors can help students understand what art requirements are necessary for transfer. You may pick up a degree planning worksheet for the AA-DTA ([purple sheet](#)) in BE 1102 lobby.

Step Three: Make a Long Range Academic Plan

Students planning to major in art at a university usually take general education requirements to prepare to transfer. Check prerequisites, admission requirements, and GPA requirements at your intended transfer university early so you can be well-prepared to transfer.

What do I need to consider when I look for art programs?

Art school vs. university: Students at an art school will usually spend more of their time in art classes and less time in general education classes. They will be surrounded by other students studying art, and their programs may be more focused on professional training and job placement. Students looking for a more traditional college experience, exposure to a wider variety of students and academic areas, or the opportunity to double-major or minor in a field other than art, may be better served by a traditional university or a liberal arts college.

Degree - BA vs. BFA: Another thing aspiring art students should consider is whether they would prefer to earn a Bachelor of Arts (BA) or a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in their chosen specialty. The BFA is more commonly offered at art schools, but can be earned at universities as well. It usually requires that a larger percentage of the total credits a student earns be in studio art. A BA requires fewer credits of studio art which may allow a student to double-major or earn a minor in another field.

What are my next steps?

- Once you have had the chance to explore the career opportunities in art you might want to schedule an appointment to meet with an advisor to plan out your course of study. You can make an appointment by stopping by the Advising office in BE 1102D or calling us at 206-934-4068. *(If you are an international student, please stop by International Education Programs in BE 1113).*
- Contact the universities you are interested in attending early in your time at Seattle Central to find out what their admission requirements are, what studio art classes offered at Seattle Central they will accept, and when they recommend that you apply to transfer.
- Attend Transfer Fairs and Career & Networking Fairs hosted by our office throughout the year.
- Explore the professional organizations in your area of interest for more information about education and career options.

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