Personal Attention Sets Us Apart

Humboldt State’s art department is nationally recognized and accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. What truly sets us apart, however, is our dedication to undergraduate students.

Many universities reserve individualized art instruction for Masters and Ph.D. students. At Humboldt State, we mentor all of our students. Our classes are small, with a high degree of one-on-one instruction—an approach that enables you to attain your greatest potential as an artist.

At Humboldt State, you’ll gain a firm grasp on the fundamentals, as well as an excellent education in the history, practice and teaching of the visual arts.

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Practice What We Preach

Each of our 15 full-time faculty members is an active artist, art historian, or art educator. Our passion for staying on the edge of art and technology truly benefits our students. We also bring a range of outstanding visiting artists on campus for workshops and lectures.

Exhibit Your Own Work

As a student, you’ll have plenty of opportunities to showcase your own talents. Each spring we hold the popular juried Student Exhibition and our students regularly exhibit in four on-campus gallery spaces, as well as the First Street Gallery in downtown Eureka.

Thriving Arts Scene

Humboldt County is home to an amazing art scene. There are 25 galleries and museums within miles of campus. The U.S. Census Bureau also cites Humboldt County as being home to more working artists per capita than almost any other county in California.

Real Access to Outstanding Facilities

We have large, well-equipped studio facilities, including a graphic design lab, photo studio, foundry, metal fabrication facilities, and extensive printmaking, ceramics, sculpture and painting studios. Small class sizes ensure that you’ll have access to all these resources, in most cases seven days a week.

Your Degree, Your Interests

We offer three undergraduate emphases: studio art, art history and art education. Humboldt State’s Art Studio program is geared towards students who desire a career as practicing artists. The curriculum includes innovative courses in Ceramics, Drawing, Graphic Design, jewelry & Small Metals, Museum and Gallery Methods, Painting, Photography, Printmaking and Sculpture. The Art Studio major also prepares students for advanced study in the most challenging M.F.A. programs.

Our Art History program can teach you about art works in the past and present, and the histories and cultures that shaped them. Art History majors also take classes in studio art and exhibition design, and study at least one foreign language to learn how language and culture influence art. The Art History major prepares students for advanced study at the Ph.D. and Ph.D. programs in Art History and Museum Studies.

The art education program at Humboldt gives you the tools you need to help others create and appreciate art. Our art education curriculum provides you the foundation to successfully teach art in K through 12 grades and prepares students to enter California’s teaching credential program. Students have the opportunity to develop curriculum and teach art in HSU’s Studio School for children and teens, as well as in local area schools.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A) in Studio Art is a professional degree that offers courses in painting, drawing, jewelry and small metals, photography, ceramics, printmaking, sculpture and graphic design. The degree is a 120 unit program requiring 70 units of courses in studio and art history, giving students the opportunity to develop a high level of expertise within their chosen concentration. The B.F.A is the degree of choice for students interested in pursuing graduate studies or other professional opportunities.

We also offer a Certificate in Art Museum and Gallery Practices program, to help you begin a career in art museums and commercial galleries. Curatorship, registration, exhibition design, and art preparation are all components of this option.

Your Choice of Rewarding Careers

What can you do for a living with a degree in Art? Almost anything, really. Our program provides you with a comprehensive foundation in the liberal arts. You’ll graduate with strong critical thinking, analysis and presentation skills—necessary tools for success in a wide range of fields. In fact, graduate programs in fields such as law and medicine are increasingly interested in students with backgrounds in the arts because of the diverse and balanced perspective they bring to these disciplines. Of course, our graduates are also very successful in traditional art-related careers. Our alumni include:

- Museum Curators
- Graphic Artists
- Website Designers
- Photographers
- Painters
- Commercial Jewelers
- Sculptors
- Illustrators
- Art Historians
- Art Teachers
- Gallery Managers
- Estate Appraisers
- Art Restorers
- Auction House Expert