

**STATE UNIVERSITIES OF FLORIDA  
Limited Access Program Request  
Reference: 6C-6.001 Admissions, FAC**

**University:** Florida International University  
**Degree(s) offered:** Bachelor of Fine Arts in ART  
**Program:** Bachelor of Fine Arts in ART (all tracks)  
**Six digit CIP code:** 50.0702

**1. Will the entire program be limited access or only a specific track?**

The entire BFA program will be limited access.

**2. If only a track is limited access, please specify the name of the track**

All Tracks including: Art Studio (ART/PGY), Graphic Design (GRA), Video/Animation/Digital Arts (ART/PGY)

**3. How many students will the program plan to accommodate?**

The program currently accommodates 227 BFA students. In 2015 the three distinct tracks were implemented. It is planned to limit each track to 25 students per cohort (75 per year), for a total of 300 students. Demand for the new tracks may surpass our studio space without a limited access admission process.

**4. When do you propose to initiate limited access?**

AY 2016/17

**5. What is the justification for limiting access?**

The BFA in Studio Art is a 120 credit degree that is the initial professional degree in the field of art and design. The BFA program has a concentrated focus on the conceptual and critical thinking development in conjunction with the fundamental art making skills acquisition. The degree is designed to develop the student's consciousness of aesthetic and theoretical aspects of art and its relationship to creative processes. As art making and its associated technologies continue to evolve and grow, studio practice and experiences are of prime importance in the preparation of BFA students for professional lives in the visual arts and design.

The BFA at FIU requires a commitment to the program of study and an intensity of focus on a high level of creative output. The nature of much of the studio instruction in the fields of both visual art and design is such that it requires a small class environment.

The National Association of Schools of Art and Design recommends the following"

"Classes in creative work generally should not exceed 25 students. Experience indicates that a class size of 20 or fewer is educationally more effective. In some cases, safety considerations and specialized equipment limitations will require class limits of fewer than 15."

NASAD Handbook 2014-15, page 61

The studio and design side of the program also requires special considerations. Students must have adequate space and time in which to pursue their work. The number of students in the studio classes must be limited to the number that the faculty can reasonably support. Students also require a great deal of one-on-one work for proper development. There is also the matter of safety. In certain of the technical (sculpture, digital fabrication, small metals/jewelry etc.) studio classes students are required to handle power tools and hand tools that have the potential to cause injury if their use is not adequately supervised. In these kinds of situations it is essential that class size is small enough to insure that all safety measures are being followed.

The ART/PGY studio classes are limited in size because they are based on the studio model of instruction as well as on space restrictions. Students follow a sequential course of study to successfully graduate from the program. In-class critiques are an essential part of all of the specialized courses.

Furthermore the BFA is the usual degree conduit to the terminal level Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree. MFA is considered by the College Art Association (CAA), the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD), and the vast majority of institutions in higher education in the United States to be equivalent to terminal degrees in other fields, such as the PhD or EdD.

Outside of the academic path, professional opportunities consist of a wide array of creative industries including jobs such as artists, designers, consultants, media specialists, teachers, 3D fabricators, imagists and other jobs that entail the use of imagination, critical thinking and the production of visual materials. Many of our alumni successfully contribute nationally and globally as well as to the South Florida economy driven by the arts and design.

A BFA degree program has been in existence at Florida International University since the university's founding in 1972. Over the years it has evolved from a very small program to a comprehensive multi-track BFA in studio, video/animation/digital arts and graphic design. From its inception the program has always required a student artwork review to secure his/her entry into a sequence of capstone courses leading into a BFA thesis exhibition.

After an ample data analysis, to ensure the most sustainable rates of retention and timely graduation of students entering our BFA program, we propose the conversion of the BFA into a limited access program such as we have with music and theater. Currently our BFA program is the only one in the College that is a professional level program that is not limited access.

The institution of the entry portfolio review will allow a formation of the freshmen cohorts strictly monitored by our faculty thorough the initial BFA foundation studies. This practice will ameliorate the attrition rates of the less committed students who fail to meet the rigorous expectations of the program.

**6. By what means will access be limited? Please provide a description of the program's admissions requirements and procedures, and indicate how these requirements and procedures ensure equal access for Florida College System Associate of Arts degree graduates in the competition for available space in the program.**

LIMITED ACCESS PROGRAM ADMISSION:

BFA in Art (50.0702)

An entry portfolio review will be required for consideration to be admitted to the BFA. The MFA currently utilizes a web portal (Get Accepted) which will additionally process BFA application portfolios. The portfolio will include a two-paragraph written statement and 10-15 digital images of a selection of best recent work. Work presented can be in any medium, in finished or sketch form, including journal/sketchbook entries. Students should include an inventory noting - medium, size, and date of completion. It is planned to institute a February 1<sup>st</sup> annual deadline for fall applications. A faculty committee will review and rank applicants based on formal resolution of work (technique, composition) and conceptual basis of the work. Not all candidates for the BFA will be accepted.

Transfer students' portfolios will be reviewed by a departmental committee to grant admission to the BFA program. Current enrollment patterns reflect well-qualified AA transfers, often taught by FIU art alumni working in the Florida College System. FIU currently has a healthy articulation process with the Florida College System institutions and we do not anticipate any negative impact to FCS students.

Students deemed not adequately prepared to enter the BFA program have the option of entering the BA in Art Program as specified below. Florida College System students have equal access to the limited access program as any other student applying to the program.

BA in Art (50.0701).

BA candidates will not be required to submit art portfolios. This degree program will remain open to all of the applicants meeting the appropriate university requirements.

BA students upon the completion of the foundation courses may elect to submit a portfolio in order to be considered for admission to the BFA program.

**7. Present the current race and gender profiles of the students in the program. Discuss the impact of the proposed action on the race and gender profiles. Cite sources used for discussion. What strategies, should they be necessary, will be used to promote diversity in the program.**

The Art + Art History Department embraces and welcomes a diverse pool of qualified applicants. The program has presented to local area high schools and has invited schools to visit our facilities to view our productions, meet faculty and students and tour our facilities. The majority of our applicants come from area high schools and Florida College System schools which have culturally diverse populations. Please refer to Appendix A for a breakdown of the student population.

It is not anticipated that the limited access admissions will significantly alter our current diverse enrollment. It will allow those highly qualified local students to achieve positive success and allow those less motivated to choose other degree options.

**8. Are the graduates of the program in high demand? If so, and if the program is to be limited due to lack of adequate resources, provide a justification for limiting access to the program rather than reallocating resources from programs with a low marked demand.**

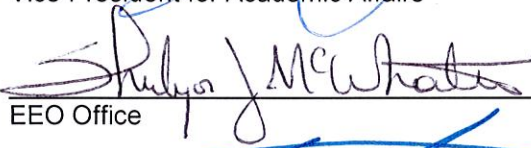
Among our BFA graduates are numerous recipients of prestigious awards including: The MacArthur Fellowship, J. S. Guggenheim Fellowship, Cintas, Pollock-Krasner, and South Florida Cultural Consortium among many. Several alumni after completion of their terminal degrees have risen into successful academic careers developing a very ambitious research and creative activities portfolios. As South Florida has become a significant global, national, and regional hub for arts and design our alumni have benefited greatly from being in the epicenter of this creative environment and its economy.

The main justification for limited access is to correctly place only "qualified applicants" into a program that requires dedication, creativity, and motivation for success. Using a portfolio application process will encourage potential students to self-select this more demanding degree or enter the BA in Art. Certainly, faculty review of portfolio applications provides for a mechanism of finalization in choosing students with the potential to benefit from the BFA degree program. The concomitant value of limited access will create more stable enrollment, retention, and graduation which benefits from the small studio class sizes.

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Request Initiated by:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

EEO Officer's Signature:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
EEO Office

Provost Signature:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Provost and Executive Vice President

Send the completed form to:  
Board of Governors  
State University System of Florida  
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1614  
Tallahassee, Florida 31399-1950

# Appendix A

**CIP 50.0702 VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS (BFA)  
 UNDERGRADUATE HEADCOUNT BY GENDER AND ETHNICITY  
 (Excluding Non-Resident Aliens)**

STUDENT LEVEL UNDERGRADUATE  
 STU\_PROGRAM\_CAT 500702  
 DISCP\_DESCR VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

TERM_DESC	ACAD_PLAN	GENDER2	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Hispanic/Latino	White	Black or African American	Not Reported	Grand Total
Fall 2012	ART:BFA	MEN	N/A	2	50	11	7	2	72
		FEMALE	N/A	1	64	17	8	1	91
	ART:BFA Total		N/A	3	114	28	15	3	163
	Fall 2012 Total		N/A	3	114	28	15	3	163
Fall 2013	ART:BFA	MEN	N/A	N/A	50	10	6	1	67
		FEMALE	1	4	75	14	10	2	106
	ART:BFA Total		1	4	125	24	16	3	173
	Fall 2013 Total		1	4	125	24	16	3	173
Fall 2014	ART:BFA	MEN	N/A	3	56	8	8	2	77
		FEMALE	N/A	7	87	14	7	1	116
	ART:BFA Total		N/A	10	143	22	15	3	193
	Fall 2014 Total		N/A	10	143	22	15	3	193
Fall 2015	ART:BFA	MEN	1	2	62	7	7	3	82
		FEMALE	N/A	4	98	22	9	1	134
	ART:BFA Total		1	6	160	29	16	4	216
	Fall 2015 Total		1	6	160	29	16	4	216