



School of Art, Craft & Design

TENNESSEE TECH

BFA Senior Thesis

Painting: ART 4411, 4412, 4413, 4414

Clay: ART 4511, 4512, 4513, 4514

Fibers: 4611, 4612, 4613, 4614

Glass: 4711, 4712, 4713, 4714

Metals: 4811, 4812, 4813, 4814

Wood: 4911, 4912, 4913, 4914

Dual-Focus: 4111, 4112, 4113, 4114

Thesis Guidelines

Course Details

Credit: 3 Credits. Two courses (6 credits) should be taken simultaneously to ensure timely completion.

Prerequisite: Approval of student's BFA advisor(s), successful progress towards completion of academic and studio requirements.

Course Objectives

To provide the student with specific working format and guidance during planning and preparation of the BFA thesis exhibition.

Purpose

The senior thesis is intended to verify the student's ability to conceive, plan and execute a body of work appropriate to a professional exhibition. Senior thesis will also assist students in time management skills, being capable of developing a schedule so work is completed in a timely fashion throughout the year. The senior thesis exhibition should represent a cohesive, aesthetically unified, technically accomplished group of works fulfilling the senior thesis project. In some cases, works completed before the thesis year may be included in the thesis exhibition, subject to approval of the committee.

Instructor

A professor in the student's primary emphasis area will be the official course instructor and chair of the senior thesis committee. In the case of Dual-Studio concentration, there will be two professors who share chair responsibilities.

BFA Committee

SAC&D faculty will choose a thesis committee consisting of two more faculty members that they believe would be beneficial for the students' progress. Students will have the opportunity to discuss these choices with their faculty lead, making recommendations for whom they would like to employ, but the final decision is made by the faculty.

Course Content

The core curriculum for Senior thesis is through ILearn including written assignments, discussion boards, readings, etc. Graded assignments will be due each week and it is the student's responsibility to complete all materials by due date.

The student will meet regularly with his/her BFA committee to discuss the following:

1. Development of a cohesive body of work
2. Aesthetic, conceptual and technical development
3. Planning and installation of the exhibit
4. Portfolio content (digital portfolio on flash-drive, resume, artist's statement, biography) NOTE: Images submitted on flash drive must include a minimum of 5 gallery shots of the exhibition along with a minimum of 5 high quality, high resolution images of the individual works that comprise the exhibition.

Evaluation

Evaluation of senior thesis credits will occur throughout the senior thesis experience. Each 3 credit hour courses will be evaluated separately.

Each semester, students are enrolled in a total of 6 credits for senior thesis. In accordance with NASAD, for a 3-credit course, students are expected to be present in the studio for 6 hours of coursework per week, plus an additional 6 hours of outside studio time. For 6 credits, students are expected to be present and working in the studio a minimum of 12 hours per week, plus additional 12 hours outside studio time. This totals 24 hours of studio time/week.

Students will be evaluated for the first 8 weeks at midterm, and a cumulative average established at finals.

Evaluation will be discussed by the committee but ultimately decided by the chair of the committee.

Evaluation criteria includes:

- Completion of 4 meetings per semester. All thesis committee meetings occur on Friday mornings. Meetings will be scheduled by administrative staff in the School of Art, Craft & Design.
- Completed requirements on ILearn for each meeting date. Students that do not complete needed materials will receive deductions in their final grade.
- Completed assignments via ILearn by required due date. Failure to do so will result in deductions in final grade.
- Consistent, weekly studio time (Minimum of 24 hours/week) resulting in progression of ideation and technical skills.
- Exhibition design and installation
- Quality and completeness of the student's portfolio and supporting materials.
- Ability to explain and defend the concept and execution of the work

Limitations

Senior thesis coursework should be completed in two semesters unless extenuating circumstances such as ill-health or other serious verifiable matters are involved. Low productivity or delayed exploration and development of technique is not cause for thesis extension. Low productivity will result in failure of one or two Senior Thesis courses, mandating a repeat of those courses. Any extension should be agreed upon by the committee and not automatically assumed possible. Senior thesis coursework is expected to be completed in the studios of the School of Art, Craft & Design unless express permission has been granted by the thesis committee.

The role of the Senior Thesis instructor is for advisement, oversight and evaluation. This is a self-directed course of study. Students should not take on projects for which they do not have sufficient technical proficiency, or which require a significant amount of demonstration from the instructor. Good time

management is essential to the successful completion of senior thesis. Students must familiarize themselves with ILearn as all submissions of required materials throughout the thesis year will be submitted there.

Additional Work Time for Thesis Students

Students continuing thesis from one semester to the next may be allowed studio access, upon determination of advising studio faculty member, for a limited time in between semesters.

-Continuing from fall to spring: studio access during winter break, excluding the time period in which the University is closed for holidays.

-Continuing from spring to fall: studio access until the end of May. Special housing arrangements must be made, if possible, for students living at the Craft Center.

Requirements/Evaluation/Checklist

Exhibition Reception

An exhibition reception is not required but it is encouraged. It is a good opportunity for family and friends to convene to celebrate the accomplishments of the senior thesis student. It is strongly preferred and encouraged for exhibiting students to coordinate their receptions to take place simultaneously, which provides opportunity to share resources and increases likelihood of greater attendance. Reception scheduling should be coordinated with the ACC gallery resident artist and the SAC&D office. Reception spaces must be reserved in advance using the appropriate space management system.

Press Release and Postcard

A press release must be submitted to the SAC&D office (jdjohnson@tntech.edu). The design should include image, text, and general layout, and is subject to approval by the committee.

The student is responsible for all expenses involved in preparing and printing a black and white or color exhibition announcement card. Normal format for the announcement is a two-sided postcard. One side includes an image of the work or some other appropriate design and often the student's name across the bottom or top. The other side of the card is text including the following:

1. Title of exhibition
2. Student's name
3. "Thesis exhibition for the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in (area of concentration). School of Art, Craft & Design, Tennessee Technological University"
4. Opening and closing dates of the exhibition—including year
5. Reception date and time (reception is optional)
6. Gallery and location (address)
7. Gallery Hours
8. Student's website address (if available)
9. Leave right half of the card blank for stamp and address

Thesis Portfolio

After the BFA thesis exhibition is mounted, and by the last day of their thesis exhibition, the student must submit to the BFA committee chair **one copy** of the thesis portfolio, **each bound in a 1"-thick hard cover three-ring binder including:**

1. Resume
2. Artist's statement
3. Short biography
4. Exhibition announcement card
5. Press release
6. A USB flash drive including comprehensive documentation of all thesis work and exhibition display. Flash-drive must be identified with the student's name, area of concentration, and year of graduation. Images must be JPEG files, with the title extension ".jpg" only. Name each JPEG image with a number. (For example: JaneDoe #1. jpg). Images must be sized at the minimum pixel dimensions of approximately 2100 wide x 1500 high (for a horizontal image 2100 Wide by 1500 high, for a vertical image 1500 Wide by 2100 High, if your image dimensions vary) saved at the highest quality. Do not submit small JPEG "thumbnail" images of lesser pixel dimensions or higher compression. Full-sized TIFF archive images are also acceptable, which may exceed 4000 wide X 3000 high pixel dimensions and exceed 30 MB per image. Do not put the images in a PowerPoint file, an iPhoto library, or any other presentation or archive format.
7. Image list. For each image give identifying number, title, size, year of completion and media.

One copy of the thesis portfolio is returned to the student and the other becomes property of the School of Art, Craft & Design.

Gallery Guidelines

In the beginning of the second semester of thesis, students will discuss with their lead faculty which gallery space they would like to display their thesis show. Lead faculty and committee members will take these requests into full consideration but will have the final decision in appointing gallery spaces for each senior thesis student. Gallery space will be assigned based on factors such as space requirements and the content of the artwork being displayed. Students will be informed of their appointed space after the first meeting of the second semester.

At the close of BFA exhibitions, students are responsible for returning the space to its original condition. Walls are to be patched with spackle and paint, pedestals patched, painted and returned to storage, and the floor vacuumed/cleaned. Ceiling tiles will be checked for any damage. The student must meet with the ACC gallery resident artist on a pre-arranged date to check the condition of the gallery at the end of the exhibition. If there is no damage, the deposit is returned.

