

Career-Related Services

Career Counseling
Graduate School Planning
Career Resource Library
Career Assessments
Internship Planning
Credentials Services

Hours

Monday - Friday
8 am - 5 pm



School of UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES
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Studio Art & Design



Center for STRATEGIC ADVISING
& CAREER COUNSELING

Career Options for Studio Art and Design Majors

This booklet contains specific information about majoring in studio art and design at The University of Texas at Austin, as well as career opportunities related to these majors. The careers listed typically require a bachelor's degree, and special certification or training requirements are noted. Please use this booklet as an idea generator, rather than as a comprehensive list of all career options for studio art and design majors. The career descriptions were obtained from the Center for Strategic Advising & Career Counseling (CSA&CC) library resources and career websites (see listing of sources on last page).

The first section, "Direct Career Opportunities," includes careers that use the creative and visual analysis skills acquired by studio art and design majors. The second section, "More Career Opportunities," lists careers that are potentially available to all fine arts majors who have related experience or coursework.

For studio art and design majors, there are many career options that require a master's or doctoral degree but do not require any particular undergraduate degree. Examples of these include law, international affairs, museum administration, library and information studies, hospital administration, and many more. For careers requiring graduate education, please visit our library or speak to a career counselor.

The CSA&CC offers many other services and resources to help you with your career planning. These include:

- Career Counseling
- Career Assessment
- Career Information Library
- Internship Information
- Graduate School Planning Assistance

Visit our website at utexas.edu/ugs/csacc or call 232-8400 for more information.

MAJORING IN STUDIO ART AND DESIGN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Departmental Website: www.finearts.utexas.edu/aah

Campus Location: ART 3.340

Phone Number: 475-7718

DESCRIPTION OF MAJORS

Studio Art

Studio Art is designed to provide both breadth and depth in your development as an artist. The program places emphasis on an understanding of general art concepts through a variety of courses including foundation studies, drawing, and two- and three-dimensional studies. In addition, students are required to take art history courses. The art department offers a BA and BFA degree in Studio Art. Majors/degrees are not offered in any specific media.

Design

The goal of the nontraditional design program is to encourage students to use the design process as a method of understanding their culture and to effectively articulate this understanding to others. Design students typically study design in the context of graphic design, product/industrial design, film/animation, and architecture.

AREAS OF STUDY

Studio Art is comprised of seven areas of study: Ceramics, Metals, Painting and Drawing, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture, Transmedia.

The curriculum emphasizes four interrelated subject areas: Visual Education, Design Methodology, Technology, and Design History, and Theory

EXAMPLES OF COURSES

ART 314K Beginning Metals and Jewelry

Introduction to the medium of metals, with emphasis on basic fabricating and forming techniques in jewelry, metalwork, and small sculpture. Eight laboratory hours a week for one semester.

ART 338C Transmedia: Digital Time - Art II

Projects in time-based art, with emphasis on the exploration of digital technologies, including motion graphics, video, animation, and sound.

DES 321 Images in Communication

Development of coherent visual statements constructed of images generated by multiple media.

DES 351 Design Perspectives

Students create advanced design projects and present them for critique by visiting critics.

Skills Gained by Studio Art and Design Majors:

Creativity

Critical Thinking

Collaborating with Others

Presenting and Displaying Art

Visual Analysis

Translating Abstract Ideas to Visual Form

DIRECT JOB OPPORTUNITIES

This sampling includes careers that use the creativity and visual analysis skills typically acquired by studio art and design majors.

Advertising Illustrator

Translate advertising ideas into quick images that can be presented as options for clients and later reworked into final art. Draw variety of subjects using a variety of techniques from pencil sketches to digital rendering.

Animator

Create animated artwork such as characters, backgrounds, and props for film, TV, video, computer software, and websites.

Architectural Illustrator

Create detailed building illustrations from construction plans or architectural sketches, adding visual reality. Consult with clients and creates production schedules.

Art Therapist

Work with people of all ages and backgrounds presenting social, psychological and physical difficulties and encourages clients to express emotion and explore their problems using a wide range of art materials, enabling positive change and personal growth. May require additional certification or graduate degree.

Book Designer

Design book interiors, including font and page layout, and book covers. This is an entry-level position in book publishing that can lead to an art director job.

Forensic Sketch Artist

Draw likenesses of people based on either descriptions or eyewitness observations to aid law enforcement agencies in identifying or pursuing suspects or for courtroom trials. Interview crime victims and witnesses and search police photographic records.

Graphic Designer

Design artwork that promotes products, events, or ideas, including publications, logos, product packaging, brochures, signage, stationery, business cards, flyers, invitations, or website art. Interact closely with clients and may also work with printers.

Industrial Designer

Create designs either by hand or using CAD software for wide range of products, such as toys, cell phones, furniture, home appliances, or sports equipment. May require coursework or graduate degree in industrial design.

Interior Decorator

Create interior spaces that are both functional and appealing and that fit clients' styles. Choose and design decorations and furnishings for offices, homes, theaters, retail stores, restaurants, and more. Present proposals to clients and oversee budget and

installation process.

Medical Illustrator

Create scientifically accurate medical illustrations for medical textbooks and journals, consumer health magazines, films and exhibits, magazines, websites, law courts, or pharmaceutical advertising. May require graduate coursework.

Package Designer

Create packaging for products ranging from CDs to food to medicines to cosmetics. Work closely with marketing, sales, and engineering staff to learn about product. May design by hand and/or with CAD software and may also create 3-D models.

Production Artist

Create print ads by collaborating with art directors and graphic designers. Use design software to assemble mockups and prepress files for client presentations by ad agency. Edit ads, organize image files, and maintain production calendar.

Production Designer

Determine overall visual look of films or TV shows including costume design, locations, and sets by collaborating with producers and directors. Supervise art staff and manage budget.

Storyboard Artist

Illustrate stories in visual sequence similar to comic strip after reading and interpreting scripts. Work for advertising agencies, film or video producers, or sales promotion companies.

MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

This section lists other opportunities that may be available to all fine arts majors. Entry into these careers usually requires internship or volunteer experience or relevant coursework in addition to a studio art or design degree. Some students in fine arts choose careers such as these that are less directly related to the arts yet allow them time to pursue their creative work on the side. This is a sampling of job opportunities; for more options and ideas, please visit the CSA&CC career information library.

ADVERTISING/MARKETING/SALES

Advertising and Promotions Manager

Plan and direct advertising policies and programs or produces collateral materials, such as posters, contests, coupons, or giveaways, to create extra interest in the purchase of a product or service for a department, an entire organization, or on an account basis.

Art Buyer

Research and solicit artwork used in advertising projects. Evaluate portfolios, negotiate fees and usage terms, and present estimates to art director. Coordinate photo shoots and retouching work.

Display Designer

Design and install displays of clothing, accessories, furniture, and other products to attract customers. Collaborate with other marketing professionals to develop product campaigns and branding concepts.

Stylist

Work with photographers to create a certain “look” or image in the print advertising industry or for film and commercial shoots. Can specialize in areas such as food, home, furnishings, or casting and research trends in these areas.

Survey Researcher

Design or conduct surveys. May supervise interviewers who conduct the survey in person or over the telephone. May present survey results to client.

BUSINESS

Artist Agent

Represent freelance artists, photographers, musicians, actors, and dancers and connects them with work opportunities. Negotiate prices, deadlines, and copyright issues and collect and distributes payment. Typically work on a freelance, commission basis.

Auction Gallery Assistant

Work for a particular department within an auction gallery, such as prints or contemporary art. Acquire works for sale, perform appraisals, write catalogues, and organize auctions. Interact with art dealers, collectors, and administrators of trusts and estates.

Corporate Recruiter

Maintain contacts in the community and travel, often to college campuses, to seek qualified job applicants. Screen and interview applicants and makes job offers. Stay up-to-date on organizational hiring policies, equal employment opportunity, and affirmative action guidelines. Work for companies, government agencies, and non-profit organizations.

Management Consultant Analyst

Analyze business problems by collecting information from both internal and external sources, developing possible solutions, and then making recommendations to management team. Usually work for consulting firms, who hire recent college graduates for 2-3 year analyst positions.

Retail Manager

Oversee profitable operation of retail stores (example music store or art supply company), including hiring and supervising employees, managing inventory, and managing the budget. May be responsible for merchandise promotions and advertising.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Meeting and Convention Planner

Coordinate all aspects of group meetings and conventions, including speakers, location, audio-visual equipment, and publicity. Work for nonprofit organizations, professional associations, hotels, corporations, and government agencies.

Public Relations Specialist

Write articles for internal publications, write press releases, assemble press kits, arrange speaking engagements, assist in fundraising activities. Work in a variety of settings: business, government, non-profit, and education.

Special Event Planner

Plan, organize, and implement special events for corporations, non-profit agencies, or individuals. Consult with client, manage budget, supervise vendors, and perform follow-up assessment. Examples of special events include corporate open houses, anniversaries or weddings, charity fundraisers, political rallies, concerts, and festivals.

Technical Writer

Write technical materials that communicate scientific and technical information to readers with little technical background, such as equipment manuals, appendices, or operating and maintenance instructions. May assist in layout work.

Web Designer

Use knowledge of computer applications to translate client needs into artistically appealing website. Select color, text, and artwork and update/maintain site as needed.

EDUCATION

College Admissions Officer

Evaluate freshman and transfer applicants; counsel and advise the general public including, but not limited to, prospective applicants, parents, faculty, and administration on admission-related issues; and participate in various recruitment and yield activities.

Corporate Trainer

Develop and conduct individual, group, and classroom training for employees on a wide variety of subjects. Develop training manuals, handouts, procedures, and supplemental training materials. Other duties involve test creation and administration for the advancement of employees.

Disability Services Coordinator

Serve as an advocate for students with disabilities. Work with faculty to understand and provide reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Promote disability awareness on campus.

Elementary School Teacher

Teach pupils in public or private schools at the elementary level basic academic, social, and other formative skills. Public schools require teacher certification, but private schools do not.

Residence Life Coordinator

Supervise undergraduate and/or graduate staff, develop residence hall community, respond to student concerns, manage administration and facilities, and participate in department initiatives and campus life.

ENVIRONMENT AND OUTDOOR

Environmental Education Specialist

Plan, develop, and conduct programs to inform public of historical, natural, and scientific features of national, state, or local parks.

Landscape Architect

Design topography, vegetation, walkways, and other decorative features for businesses, parks, and residential areas. Confer with client, analyze site data, and prepare plans, drawings, and cost estimates. May require coursework in landscape architecture.

Recreation Program Manager

Plan, organize, and evaluate citywide recreation programs, including sports, games, hobbies, arts & crafts, and special events.

Recycling Coordinator

Design and implement curbside and drop-off recycling and hazardous waste programs through city governments or private firms. Conduct public outreach campaigns to educate people about the advantages of recycling. May ensure compliance with ordinances or apply for grants.

GOVERNMENT

Grants Specialist

Plan, manage, and represent government agencies that fund research or cultural programs. Oversee budget and organize panelists who review grant applications. Supervise disbursement

of funds and monitor usage of grant monies.

Legal Assistant

Assist lawyers by researching legal precedent, investigating facts, or preparing legal documents. Conduct research to support a legal proceeding, to formulate a defense, or to initiate legal action.

Legislative Analyst

Perform quantitative and qualitative analysis of information needed by legislators and other government officials. Evaluate policy issues and options, write reports, conduct briefing meetings, and respond to inquiries.

Legislative Assistant

Meet with lobbyists, arrange committee and subcommittee hearings, assist in developing legislation and amendments. Respond to requests for information, prepare memos and reports based on completed research for legislators.

Lobbying Organizer

Distribute information about a particular issue or organization (such as funding for the arts), recruit volunteers, solicit funds, and organize such efforts as rallies, letter-writing campaigns, and voter registrations drives. Work for special and public interest groups as well as professional lobbyists.

HUMAN SERVICES

AmeriCorps Volunteer

Serve full-time for a year in organizations and agencies throughout the country, work to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, increase housing opportunities, or bridge the digital divide. Benefits include an Education Award or an end-of-service stipend.

Community Organizer

Establish and organize community groups to solve social problems in the community. Assess strengths and weaknesses of existing resources and propose changes. Promote cooperation and coordination among government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other community groups. Conduct research,

prepare budgets, and assist in fundraising.

Social Service Caseworker

Help families and individuals secure assistance from social service agencies. Interview clients to understand degree and nature of problems and refer to appropriate community resources. May determine eligibility for financial assistance and/or advocate on clients' behalf to government or nonprofit agencies.

Volunteer Coordinator

Recruit, train, schedule and provide supervision to volunteers at non-profit organizations. Arrange for on-the-job and other required training, supervision and evaluation of volunteers. Serve as liaison between administration, staff, and volunteers.

Youth Organizer

Manage and administer youth and community projects and resources; conduct needs assessment and plan and deliver relevant programs of personal and social education via discussions, arts-based activities, community/environmental projects, residential activities, and outdoor/sports activities.

INTERNATIONAL

Cultural Tour Guide

Plan and organize themed trips that encompass sites and experiences related to the fine arts. Educate travelers, handles special needs, and coordinate transportation. Work for tour company or on freelance basis.

ESL/ESOL Teacher

Provide rigorous and appropriate instruction to international students that supports the acceleration of English and appropriate academic content. Also, serve as a liaison between the student, his/her family and the school, by providing cross-cultural information to all parties that foster positive relationships.

Foreign Service Officer

Analyze and report on political and economic developments, including agricultural trends, humanitarian and social conditions. Identify export markets, negotiate international agreements, and interpret US policies and interests for foreign governments, opinion leaders and publics. Issue visas to foreign nationals, provide development assistance, and arrange cultural exchanges.

Intelligence Officer

A member of the armed forces, police officer or civilian intelligence agency who specializes in the gathering, fusion and analysis of information and intelligence in order to provide advice to their government or another organization.

Peace Corps Volunteer

Peace Corps Volunteers work internationally in the following areas: education, youth outreach, and community development; health and HIV/AIDS; agriculture and environment; business development; and information technology. Within these areas, the specific duties and responsibilities of each Volunteer can vary widely.

MEDIA/PUBLISHING

Copy Editor

Act as liaison between author, editor, and proofreader. Review manuscripts for grammar and style usage. May develop in-house style guide, supervise freelance staff, and handle author queries.

Copywriter

Write articles, bulletins, sales letters, speeches, and other related informative, marketing and promotional material for use by publication or broadcast media to promote sale of goods and services.

Grant Writer

Write and develop grant proposals, which includes conducting needs assessments and matching product needs with available funding. Write progress reports to organization funding the grant. Work for government or non-profit agencies.

Staff Writer

Research and write articles for fine arts magazine. May write article promos, short features, author bios, or photo captions. May work on freelance basis or for one particular magazine.

Travel Writer

Write features with detailed, accurate, timely and up-to-date information regarding destinations, hotels, restaurants, tours, activities, etc, using a variety of sources of information. Involves thorough research and travel.

RESEARCH

Information Broker

Perform research for clients in business, healthcare, government, law, and science. Use Internet, database, and library resources to find specific information. May also analyze information, write reports, and train clients in information retrieval. Often work for consulting firms or on freelance basis.

Institutional Researcher

Write institutional and policy histories; research and report on current issues and long-range trends; edit records; manage archives. Work for government agencies, private corporations, public archives and libraries.

Market Research Analyst

Research market conditions in local, regional, or national areas to determine potential sales of a product or service. May gather information on competitors, prices, sales, and methods of marketing and distribution. May use survey results to create a marketing campaign based on regional preferences and buying habits.

Preservation/Restoration Assistant

Conduct architectural, art, and urban historical research; apply technological and artistic conservations skills; research-related laws and tax issues. Work for specialized preservation services firms.

Social Science Research Assistant

Assist social scientists in laboratory, survey, and other social research. May perform publication activities, laboratory analysis, quality control, or data management.

SOURCES

Career Opportunities in the Visual Arts by Richard Clark and Pamela Fehl. Ferguson, 2006.

Career Opportunities in Art by Susan Haubenstock and David Joselit. Facts on File, 2001.

UT Art & Art History Department: www.finearts.utexas.edu/aah/

