ART + DESIGN
COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

The CVPA Master of Fine Arts programs at UMass Dartmouth are for artists and designers who are ready to build their artistic vision and further their professional work.

CVPA MFA students are makers dedicated to critical inquiry, are open to working in multiple media and collaborate across disciplines.

CVPA faculty believe that great art and design is the product of inspired concept, critical dialogue, community engagement, individualized mentorship, and maturing skill.

MFA PROGRAMS

ARTISANRY
- Ceramics
- Fibers
- Jewelry/Metals

FINE ARTS
- Drawing
- Painting
- Printmaking
- Sculpture

VISUAL DESIGN
- Digital Media
- Graphic Design
- Illustration
- Photography
CVPA’s Master of Fine Arts (MFA) is a 60 credit, 2 to 3 year mentor-based program of study

Close relationships with your faculty advisor, student peers, and committee members support research and experimentation. At the same time, studio and seminar classes will help you refine your creative vision and explore the role of art and design within contemporary culture.

In CVPA at UMass Dartmouth, you’ll have the focus of an Art School and the opportunities available at a research University. In addition to graduate seminars in art history, critical theory, and writing, you will be encouraged to cross disciplines and explore relationships between media and ideas that challenge and contribute to the rapidly evolving dialogue in the visual arts. Past and present students have developed connections with faculty in Art History, Interior Architecture and Design, Music, Women and Gender Studies, Engineering, Computer Science, Sustainability, and English/Creative Writing.

Under the guidance of a faculty committee, you’ll develop a thesis project that is intellectually, formally, and technically rigorous – with both a visual and written component – based on your research and practice.

FACULTY
Graduate faculty at CVPA are exhibiting artists, practicing designers, published scholars, and experienced advisors who are dedicated to exploring, making, learning and building community.

VISITING ARTISTS
To further your connection to contemporary practice CVPA hosts accomplished visiting artists, designers and scholars to conduct lectures, workshops, exhibits, studio visits, and critiques with students.

In addition, faculty organize and lead field trips to conferences, galleries, museums, and major metropolitan cultural centers.
**MFA DEGREE PROGRAMS**
CVPA MFA degree programs prepare students for participation in a broad range of professional contexts, from exhibition and art commissions, to curating, publication, and activism. Our grads go on to be self-sustaining artists, practicing designers, educators, entrepreneurs, and more.

**2 YEAR PROGRAM | FULL-TIME**
Graduate students complete 15 credits of coursework per semester for a total of 60 credits at the completion of the two-year program.

**3 YEAR PROGRAM | PART-TIME**
Graduate students who are working professionals complete at least 9 credits per semester for a total of 60 credits.

**NOTED COURSES**
Graduate Seminar meets weekly and addresses topics related to contemporary art and theory

**Social Practice**

**The Theory + Practice of Erasure**

**SOFA Chicago Fair Collaborative Installation**
*(The Sculpture Objects Functional Art and Design Fair)*

**Pedagogy and Instructional Development**

**Art of the Book**

**Politics and the Body**

**Time, Space and Meaning**

**Architecture and Sustainability**

**ACCREDITED** by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design **NASAD**

**CONCRETE OPPORTUNITIES**

**Assistantships** | provide stipends, tuition waivers and fee reductions

**Exhibition Opportunities** | local, regional, and on campus

**Facilities** | labs, technology, equipment, and tools for exploration and production

**Workspaces** | assigned to each graduate student at the Star Store New Bedford Campus

**Mentorship and Collaboration** | from a creatively diverse community, faculty involved in scholarly, creative, and professional projects

**Art History** | strong emphasis on the methods and theory of art and design

**Career Preparation** | networking, writing, and post-graduation career planning process

**Interdisciplinary** | projects and committees are encouraged

**University Education** | access to courses and faculty in other fields

**Curricular Support** | for creative work driven by research and inquiry

**Visiting Artists** | enrich your artistic and professional development

**Study Abroad** | Students work with the Study Abroad Office to find programs all over the globe. CVPA programs include trips to China, Italy and a partnership with the University of Darmstadt’s Design Department in Germany.

**Learning Through Engagement** | UMassD is committed to making connections between learning and our communities—professional, scholarly, social, cultural, economic or political. This is done through linking practice and context, volunteerism, activism, public and participatory art.

**Location** | an hour from Providence, Boston, and Cape Cod, three hours from New York City

**New Bedford** | an active downtown arts community, rich cultural heritage
INSPIRING PLACES
UMass Dartmouth is in a vibrant, coastal community on the South Coast of Massachusetts. Minutes from the Atlantic Ocean; no more than an hour’s drive from Boston, Providence and Newport, Rhode Island.

CVPA has two locations. Studios, classrooms and galleries are located on both our Dartmouth campus and at the Star Store in downtown New Bedford.

DARTMOUTH CAMPUS
The Dartmouth campus features distinctive Brutalist architecture designed by noted architect Paul Rudolph. There is much to explore in its intricate concrete surfaces and sweeping atriums. Furthermore, the university has large areas of green space, including extensive wooded areas, trails and ponds.

NEW BEDFORD CAMPUS
The Star Store is a vital component of downtown New Bedford’s emergence as a cultural and thriving arts scene. One of the most appealing aspects of the campus is its location—near museums, galleries, artist cooperatives, and a rich diversity of businesses, shops, restaurants, and a waterfront that is among the nation’s busiest. Star Store is a 15-minute drive from the main campus; our Loop shuttle provides free transportation between the campuses throughout the academic year.

76,000 square feet of studio space
You will have an individual graduate studio at our Star Store campus in New Bedford. This downtown arts campus houses all disciplines in graduate study, fostering a communal environment in which multi-discipline projects and collaborations are possible and encouraged.

Students have access to labs and maker spaces on both campuses that are equipped with technology and tools, galleries and installation spaces to exhibit work, as well as resources for research, academic collaboration and university support.
FINANCIAL SUPPORT
Available on a competitive basis, CVPA offers financial support to graduate students through teaching positions, research and administrative assistantships, technical support employment within our labs or galleries, stipends and tuition waivers.

APPLICATION PROCESS
CVPA at UMass Dartmouth seeks candidates of high personal motivation who have successfully completed their undergraduate studies. The application committee looks for a strong body of completed work demonstrating a developed studio and/or design practice as well as potential in interdisciplinary and innovative areas of inquiry.

In addition to your application and fee, you are required to provide the following:

Portfolio
Portfolio of 20 images uploaded to SlideRoom representing your art and/or design work, process of thinking, implementation of concepts, and studio production. The portfolio is the equivalent of the entrance examinations which other academic areas often require.

Requirements include
- A statement of purpose (minimum 300 words)
- Curriculum Vitae / Résumé
- Official transcripts of all post-secondary education
- 3 letters of recommendation

APPLY ONLINE
Submit your application materials to the Office of Graduate Studies
Submit your portfolio (20 images) to Slideroom

TUITION + FEES
(30 credits per academic year 2019–20)
MA Residents $16,915
Regional NE Proximity $21,410
Out of State $30,103
Activity and Technology Fees $525
CVPA Course Support Fee $451
International Student Fees $510