

ART, BFA

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

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UW–Madison’s vision for the total student experience, the Wisconsin Experience (<https://wisconsinexperience.wisc.edu/about/>), combines learning in and out of the classroom. Tied to the Wisconsin Idea (<https://www.wisc.edu/wisconsin-idea/>) and steeped in long-standing institutional values – the commitment to the truth, shared participation in decision-making, and service to local and global communities – the Wisconsin Experience describes how students develop and integrate these core values across their educational experience.

UW–Madison encourages students to mindfully engage in four core concepts throughout their time on campus: Empathy & Humility, Relentless Curiosity, Intellectual Confidence, and Purposeful Action (<https://wisconsinexperience.wisc.edu/intellectual-confidence/>).

Since its inception, the School of Education has embraced the concepts of the Wisconsin Experience, providing opportunities for students to learn in venues beyond the traditional classroom. Our students also independently seek out related activities and experiences, thus creating their own unique Wisconsin Experience.

ART AND THE WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

The UW–Madison Art Department provides a wide range of opportunities for students on campus and beyond. Available resources include courses that connect with the community, job opportunities, the chance to show work, and the ability to manage campus student organizations.

Visiting Artists

The Art department is unique in its ability to bring in weekly visiting artists through the Art Colloquium series. A professional national or international artist comes to campus to provide an artist’s talk, studio visits, and general conversation about artmaking with students. Individual courses often bring in visiting artists throughout the semester to provide workshops on unique techniques from those who specialize in particular processes.

Career Advising and Internships

The School of Education Career Center (<https://careercenter.education.wisc.edu/>) has a designated advisor for art students who can provide connections with hourly campus employment, internships, and career options after graduation. The Art department offers courses that focus on internships in the arts and many studios hire hourly workers who learn the basics of maintaining an artist’s studio space. The BFA capstone course also provides detailed instruction in writing a resume, cover letter, grant proposals, and residency applications.

Student Organizations

Student organizations are an excellent opportunity for art majors to establish connections with working artists, host workshops for the community, and raise funds for travel. Fresh Hot Press (printmaking), AIGA (graphic design), Mad Gaffers (glassblowing), and Art for Change (activism) are just a few of the art-related options (<https://art.wisc.edu/art-at-uw/student-orgs/>). Student organizations are led by undergraduates and graduate students, with several using fundraising throughout the year to attend national conferences. Overall, there are multiple ways for undergraduates to refine their professional and technical

skills in relation to their future career goals in the arts through student organizations.

Exhibiting Artwork

It is important for any artist to consistently show their work, and the Art Department does its part to provide this professional development to our students. Undergraduates have the opportunity to reserve one of our three large-scale galleries to install their work for documentation and submission of future exhibitions. Students also work with faculty to submit their pieces into galleries throughout Madison, Milwaukee, and nationally. The Art Department works with students in many ways to help promote their work and develop the skills necessary to establish a thriving career in the world of art.