



Cornell University
College of Architecture, Art, and Planning

Department of Art

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Dear First-Year BFA students, Class of 2016:

Greetings from Ithaca! Congratulations on your acceptance to the Bachelor of Fine Arts program at Cornell! This letter is to familiarize you with the BFA curriculum and encourage you to begin thinking about your first year in the BFA program. This provides information about your academic program for the next four years, gives a general picture of requirements for your first year, identifies specific courses you will be pre-enrolled in for the fall 2012 semester, and makes suggestions for pre-enrolling in a first-year writing seminar and one physical education course for the coming semester. Please carefully consider Parts I – IV of this letter. Upon matriculation, you will receive additional information.

Part I. Your Academic Program – General

1. I am the director of the undergraduate program in the Department of Art and will be your academic advisor for the first year. I look forward to meeting with you and having the opportunity to speak with each of you when you arrive. In the second semester of your second year you will be assigned a new faculty advisor. Anytime after your third semester you may change advisors by securing the signature of a new faculty advisor on a change of advisor form.
2. You must take a minimum number of 12 academic credit hours during each semester to be considered a “full-time” student at the University.
3. To graduate with the BFA you will need a minimum of 130 academic credits. In the first semester of the program, you will enroll in 14 academic credits. During each subsequent semester you should carry an academic load of approximately 16-17 credit hours (i.e., 16.5 credit hours per semester for eight semesters will yield a total of 130 credit hours). It is not important that you carry exactly 16-17 credit hours in any particular semester, but you will need to maintain a semester average of 16-17 credit hours over the remaining seven semesters to graduate in four years.
4. The BFA curriculum is designed to combine a general liberal studies education with studio practice. During the first four semesters, all students follow a common course of study designed to provide a broad introduction to the arts and a basis for the intensive studio experience of the last two years. Students are encouraged to work across disciplines focusing on an intellectually rigorous independent practice. The second and third years include semester programs in New York City and Rome, Italy to experience professional and global art worlds. The final year is focused on the development of a visual thesis.

Art courses will occupy about one-half of your program of study at Cornell; the remaining time is devoted to a diversified program of academic subjects with a generous provision for electives.

The five-year BFA Dual Degree Program is highly recommended for all students. The BFA Dual Degree Program allows you to earn the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of Arts and Sciences, or a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Engineering, or a Bachelor of Science degree from the Department of Fiber Science and Apparel Design in the College of Human Ecology. You will find complete information on the BFA Dual Degree under Part IV: Special Academic Options.

5. **Fall semester 2012** of your first year you are required to take the following four courses:
- Art 2103: Introductory Art Seminar
 - Art 2501: Introduction to Drawing
 - One additional studio (You will be placed in a studio based on your response to an email ballot asking that you rank your preferences.)
 - One First-Year Writing Seminar
 - It is recommended you pre-enroll in one of two required physical education classes.
6. **Spring semester 2013** of your first year you are required to take the following five courses:
- Two introductory studio courses
 - One First-Year Writing Seminar
 - One Art History course
 - One out of college elective
 - It is recommended you pre-enroll in the second of two required physical education classes
7. The following is the recommended sequence for completing all course requirements for the BFA. Spring of the second year you may choose a semester of study at the AAP/NYC Program in New York City. During the fall or spring of the third year you may elect to study abroad in the Cornell in Rome program. In your second year you may apply for admission to the five-year dual degree program.

Fall 2013 and spring 2014, 2nd year, you will take the following courses:

- Two introductory studios
- Three 3000 level required studios
- Two art history elective courses
- One 3000 level theory and criticism course
- One out-of-college elective

Fall 2014 and spring 2015, 3rd year, you will take the following courses:

- Two 3000 level studios
- Two art history elective courses
- One 3000 level theory and criticism
- Three out of college elective courses
- One in or out of college elective course

Fall 2015 and spring 2016, 4th year, you will take the following courses:

- Art 4000: Studio Research Workshop
- Art 4001: Thesis I
- Art 4002: Thesis II
- Three out of college elective courses
- One in or out of college elective course

Part II. Your Fall Semester 2012 Courses

1. For the fall 2012 semester you are pre-enrolled in three required BFA courses: Art 2103 - Introductory Art Seminar, 3 credits; Art 2501 - Introduction to Drawing, 4 credits; and one other introductory art studio, 4 credits.

2. (A) All BFA students must complete two First-Year Writing Seminars. You are required to take one of them during this coming semester and one during the spring 2013 semester. Each First-Year Writing Seminar is a 3 credit hour course. Cornell offers a huge array of First-Year Writing Seminars in many different departments. You have a great deal of latitude in choosing which writing seminars to take.

(B) BFA students ballot online (http://www.arts.cornell.edu/knight_institute/fws/index.htm) for a First-Year Writing Seminar from Wednesday, July 11 through Friday, July 20. Additional information is available at the Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines (http://www.arts.cornell.edu/knight_institute/index.htm). You should identify potential seminars **that do not conflict with class times of the art courses in which you are enrolled**.

3. Your enrollment in Art 2103, Art 2501, one art introductory studio and your First-Year Writing Seminar will give you 14 credit hours for the fall 2012 semester. It is recommended you enroll in one of two required physical education classes for which you will receive no academic credit. Students eager to explore out of department elective courses may add one additional elective with permission of the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS). You should pre-enroll in this elective during the pre-enrollment period and meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies during orientation to receive approval.

Note on Advanced Placement Credit: AP credit is generally applied as non-required elective credit toward the 130 needed to complete the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and graduate from Cornell. However, advanced placement credit can be applied toward a maximum of one First-Year Writing Seminar. Students earning a score of 5 on **one** English literature and English language exam will receive 3 credits that will be applied toward one First-Year Writing Seminar. Students earning a score of 5 on **both** English literature and English language exams will receive 3 credits toward one First-Year Writing Seminar and 3 credits toward the in/out-of-college elective requirement.

Part III. Course Enrollment Procedures

1. **Art Studio:** On May 15th, you will receive an e-mail ballot to rank your art studio preferences. Carefully review course descriptions and return this ballot to the AAP Registrar's Office at aap_registrar@cornell.edu by June 1st. Based on your ballot, you will be enrolled in an art studio. All ballots received by June 1st will be given equal consideration. Every effort will be made to honor ballot requests. Please be thoughtful when submitting your ballot as changes to enrollment will not be allowed after placement is made.
2. **ART 2103 and ART 2501:** You will be enrolled in ART 2103 and ART 2501 by July 1. You can confirm your enrollment in Student Center at www.studentcenter.cornell.edu.
3. **First-Year Writing Seminar:** You are required to take a First-Year Writing Seminar in Fall 2012. You will ballot for a FWS Wednesday, July 11 through Friday, July 20, using the First-Year Writing Seminar ballot at http://www.arts.cornell.edu/knight_institute/fws/index.htm. Additional information is available at the Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines at (http://www.arts.cornell.edu/knight_institute/index.htm). **Students must be careful to ballot for First-Year Writing Seminars that do not conflict with required art or physical education courses.**
4. **Physical Education:** BFA students will enroll in a physical education course using Student Center from Wednesday, July 11 through Friday, July 20. A complete listing of physical education classes is available on the Fall Course Roster page at <http://registrar.sas.cornell.edu/courses/roster/FA12/>. Enrollment instructions are available online at <http://registrar.sas.cornell.edu/Student/enroll.html>.

Part IV. Special Academic Options

Dual Degree Program with Other Colleges:

The Dual-Degree Program enables especially ambitious undergraduate students to pursue programs of study in two colleges. Dual-degree candidates may earn both a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning and: (1) a bachelor of art degree from the College of Arts and Sciences; or (2) a bachelor of science degree from the College of Engineering; or (3) a bachelor of science degree from the Department of Fiber Science and Apparel Design in the College of Human Ecology. Students enter one of these colleges as freshmen or sophomores and begin the Dual-Degree Program with the second college in the second or, in some cases, the third year. Once admitted, students are assigned an advisor in each college to assist with course planning and graduation requirements. The Dual-Degree Program awards two degrees and therefore requires five years to complete. Dual Degree candidates must satisfy all requirements for both degrees and a minimum of 160 academic credits. At least 63 of the total credits must come from courses offered in the Department of Art. It is expected that a dual-degree candidate will complete the Studio Research Workshop ([ART 4000](#)), Thesis I ([ART 4001](#)) and Thesis II ([ART 4002](#)) requirements for the BFA degree during the fifth year. Dual-Degree students are eligible for 10 semesters with financial aid.

AAP/NYC Program:

The AAP/NYC Program is an immersion in the professional art world of New York City. The curriculum draws from the city's wealth of artists, art institutions and art related enterprises. The NYC Program makes possible engagement with professional art practice and educational opportunity not available in Ithaca. All students enroll in New York City Studio, a 3000 level studio course, New York City Seminar, a course on contemporary art and theory, New York City Professional Practice, a two day a week internship and an art history elective. The AAP/NYC semester is planned for art majors in their second year, students in advanced years may also participate. Early in the first year, students work closely with the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Art to plan for both the second year NYC semester and the third year Rome semester. Students in good academic standing who have completed the requirements of the first three semesters of the BFA curriculum are eligible for participation in AAP/NYC.

Cornell in Rome Program:

Cornell in Rome program offers close individual instruction and studios that are structured but flexible enough to accommodate personal interests. Additionally, students intern ten hours per week at local galleries, museums, arts organizations, or artist studios gaining professional, international work experience and exposure to emerging and world-class international artists. Resident artists visit the program and give lectures and critiques. Day trips to the studios of Rome-based artists and artisans provide further stimulation. Each student has access to studio space for the term and shares the palazzo and many facilities and courses with undergraduate architecture and urban studies students, as well as visitors from other colleges and universities. Cornell in Rome participants frequently exhibit in professional galleries and art spaces locally.

Undergraduate Minor Fields of Study:

Students may pursue minors in any department in any college that offers them, subject to limitations placed by the department offering the minor or by the students' major. Completed minors appear on the student's final transcript. Not all departments offer minors. Consult the Undergraduate Minor Fields of Study website (<http://www.cornell.edu/academics/minors.cfm>) or contact the appropriate department for information on minors offered and how to pursue a minor.

Part V. AAP New Student Orientation Schedule

Saturday, August 18

10:30am-11:15am: Dean's Convocation • Abby and Howard Milstein Auditorium

Welcome and reception for new students and parents. You will meet the dean, college faculty and staff, and department chairs, as well as other students and parents.

11:15am: Dean's Reception • Milstein Hall Dome

Monday, August 20

10:00am-11:00am: Advising Briefing for New First-Year and Transfer Students • Abby and Howard Milstein Auditorium

This is an important, required introduction for students to their first semester in Architecture, Art, and Planning covering topics that include advising, AP/transfer credits, course enrollment, diversity programming, career services, and off-campus study.

11:00am-12:30pm: Art Department Meeting • 324 Tjaden Hall

You will meet with department faculty and staff, to find out about first-year courses, writing seminars, and other important information. And you'll meet your classmates. Don't miss this.

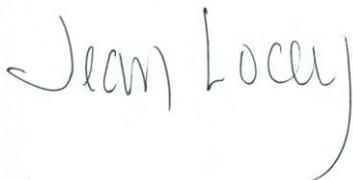
1:00pm-4:00pm: AAP Advising Open House • B1 West Sibley Hall

The AAP Advising Office, which includes academic advising, career services, and diversity and inclusiveness, is having an open house for all new AAP students. Please feel free to stop by and meet the staff.

Additional orientation information is available online at <http://newstudentprograms.cornell.edu/orientation/>.

This is a rather long letter and may take some time to digest. If you have questions you may email me at, jeanlocey@cornell.edu. You may also contact the registrar's office by phone at 607-255-4376 or email at aap_registrar@cornell.edu. I am delighted you have chosen Cornell and look forward to meeting you in August.

Sincerely yours,



Jean Locey,
Professor of Art
Director,
Undergraduate Program in Art