INCOMING TRANSFER STUDENTS

As you likely know, it is difficult to transfer credits from one institution to another and receive full, or fair, credit for completed course work. In art history or studio art classes, you would be evaluated individually. This is particularly true because the content of coursework varies greatly from school to school and degree programs are organized differently.

It is particularly difficult to transfer credits from schools with two-year certificate programs to those with four-year degree programs. The BA and BFA degrees are much more specialized, and the first year through the fourth year courses are structured to treat material in greater depth. The Department of Art & Art History makes a serious effort to utilize as many transfer credits as possible, but transfer students should not be overly optimistic. You will often learn that transfer credit is accepted by the university but may not be accepted by the department for major credit. You can review general education classes and Art History 2500 for majors that will transfer within the state of Utah at http://oche.utahsbr.edu.

In our Art History Program, our students begin with Art History 2500, Introduction to the History of Art, and then go on to a range of upper-division coursework in the specialization of their choice. Through submission of documents such as syllabus, term paper and exams potential art history students may earn credit for an upper-division course.

In our studio program, you will take the First-Year Studio Program of 21 hours (including Art History 2500) before any work in the art major emphasis area can begin. As a transfer student, you will usually be placed in the First-Year Studio Program. Depending on the strength of your portfolio, serving as a "placement exam," you may not be required to take all 5 first-year studio classes.

The sophomore year in Graphic Design is also like a "one year design" program, and students are not designing actual advertising or editorial material until junior and senior years. Acceptance into this emphasis is through a portfolio review during Spring Semester, usually March.

Art portfolios must be reviewed by the end of the first semester of classes at the University to receive any transfer credit for major requirements. The Department of Art & Art History will not be responsible for portfolios left in the office two weeks after notification of results, unless special arrangements have been made. Please see the reverse side of this letter for more helpful material. Feel free to contact the Department office, 581-8677 if you have further questions or visit our website at www.art.utah.edu.
Transfer Art Students

What if I am transferring from another art program?
Transfer students apply to the University through the Admissions office. The department does not require a separate admissions process. To transfer art classes into departmental requirements for the major, transfer art studio majors are required to submit a portfolio and a copy of transcripts or summary of transfer credits to the department for assessment of transfer credit. This review takes place in April for fall semester entrance and in November for spring semester entrance (contact our office for exact dates). Portfolios will not be reviewed for major credit after the first semester of classes in the department. A minimum of 40 credit hours must be taken within our department to receive a BFA from the U of U.

What if I can’t get there during the designated portfolio review time?
You can send your portfolio and transcripts to the department to the attention of Nevon Bruschke, University of Utah, Department of Art & Art History, 375 S. 1530 E. Room 161, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112-0380.

What should I have in my portfolio? How many pieces?
Studio classes that may count towards required courses in First Year Studio and/or the intended emphasis area should be represented with up to 12 examples from each class. Faculty, in the desired emphasis area, review work in the portfolio for quality, so including the best work is very important. If you petition to waive part or all of the first-year studio sequence, demonstrate the basic principles, such as line, perspective, value and color in 2D. Painting and drawing work derived from photographs do not make a successful portfolio. Work should not be matted or rolled up. 3D work should exhibit strength in composition through the use of visual elements, i.e., line, shapes and planes, mass, space, texture, color and light, etc. Principles of organization in compositions should include balance, scale and proportion, contrast, repetition, rhythm, and unity and variety. 3D works must show an attention to technique and demonstrate a reasonable proficiency in the handling of construction materials such as foam-core board, plaster, wire, wood, and clay. Art 2400, Visual Language, is a requirement for all transfer students. Original work (unless large or framed) is preferred for 2D, although slides, photos or CD are accepted. Please submit 3D work in slide, photo or CD form only.

I am interested in Graphic Design.
If you are interested in the Graphic Design, you are required to submit a portfolio and transcripts on a designated day during spring semester, usually March, for fall semester admission. The portfolio should include artwork done in a basic program similar to our first-year studio program with a strong emphasis on perspective, line drawings, figure drawings and compositions that address spatial issues. Call the department for submission deadline and/or go to the department website at www.art.utah.edu and select Studio Art Areas. Students with no previous work begin with First Year Studio. Graphic Design is a three to four-year sequential program.

What about scholarships?
Transfer students wishing consideration for a continuing student scholarship must be Utah residents and have declared art or art history as a major to be eligible. Scholarship Portfolio Review is in March of each year.