

Board Meeting  
July 23, 2020

CONSOLIDATE AND REVISE THE MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN NEW MEDIA ARTS, MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN MOVING IMAGE, MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN PHOTOGRAPHY, AND MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN STUDIO ARTS, COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN, AND THE ARTS AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, CHICAGO

**Action:** Consolidate and Revise the Master of Fine Arts in New Media Arts, Master of Fine Arts in Moving Image, Master of Fine Arts in Photography, and Master of Fine Arts in Studio Arts, College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts and the Graduate College

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Chicago Senate, College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts, and the Graduate College recommends the consolidation and revision of four Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degrees into a single MFA in Art.

The Department of Art currently offers coursework leading to four, two-year MFA degrees. The degrees each require 64 hours in total and follow the same curricular structure, including 32 hours of shared coursework in contemporary theory and advanced graduate critique. Students then complete 20 hours of advanced art courses, depending on specific MFA, emphasizing creative projects and research; 12 hours of electives; and a public exhibition or showing for review, and documentation in the form of a major paper and DVD.

Graduate education in the department focuses on contemporary art practice and theory, which increasingly requires interdisciplinary models of thinking and discourse. Further, practice in the arts has moved away from a clear distinction among media. A single MFA will better enable students to expand disciplinary boundaries and work across media. Students in the MFA in Art will continue to complete 64 hours in total, comprised of 36 hours of contemporary theory and advanced critique, 16 hours of advanced art, 12 hours of electives, and the public exhibition and paper.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respect with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.