


◀ MFA Art Studio - Master of Fine Arts in Art Studio

CON Confl Low-Res Interdiscip Art Confluence Low-Residency Concentration in Interdisciplinary Art

Under Review | Spring 2025

Proposal Information

Status	Workflow Status
Changes	In Progress
Active Retired	Refresh  Form Submission, Proposer collapse ▼
Warning: All versions that start after the retired version will be deleted.	Submitted for Approval Proposer
	✓ Amy Hawkins 8/22/2025 11:32 AM
	Skipped
	➔ Maggie Sumruld
	need to get all proposals out of this step to fix issue 9/04/2025 1:38 PM
	Department Chair Pre-Approval, Art/Art History
	Approved Department Chair
	✓ Lee Montgomery 9/04/2025 2:22 PM
	Registrar Office Technical Check Approval, Registrar Technical Check
	Approved Registrar Technical Check
	✓ Michael Raine 9/22/2025 8:27 AM
	— Maggie Sumruld
	CFA Committee, CFA Curriculum Committee
	Notification Sent College-level Curriculum Committee Member
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patrick Manning
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Angela Beauchamp
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karl Hinterbichler
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donna Jewell
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Lisignoli
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Katie Dukes Walker
	CFA Curriculum Chair
	Approved
	kualiadmin 9/26/2025 2:57 PM
	CFA Curriculum Chair, CFA Curriculum Committee
	Approved College-level Curriculum Committee Chair
	✓ Scott Ney 9/29/2025 5:08 PM
	College/School Dean Approval, College of Fine Arts
	Approved College or School approver
	✓ Scott Ney 9/29/2025 5:09 PM
	Library Approval, Main Campus Library
	Approved Library Approval
	— Sever Bordeianu
	✓ Caitlin Wells 9/30/2025 9:55 AM
	SGPC Approval, Faculty Senate Graduate and Professional Committee
	Approved Chair

✓ Robben Brown | 11/06/2025 10:08 AM

FSCC Member notification, Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee

Notification Sent | Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee Member

- ☒ Joe Anderson
- ☒ Laura Belmonte
- ☒ Sara Ice
- ☒ Mary Rice
- ☒ John Russell
- ☒ SueNoell Stone
- ☒ Jonathan Wheeler
- ☒ Kirsten Thomson
- ☒ Paulo Dutra
- ☒ Randi Archuleta
- ☒ Joan Lucas
- ☒ Julia So
- ☒ Jennifer Henry
- ☒ Christopher Holden
- ☒ Justine Ponce
- ☒ Isabella Goss
- ☒ Vanessa Ferguson
- ☒ Lauren McQuiston
- ☒ Jennifer Laws

Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee Approval, Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee

Approved | Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee Chair

✓ Janet Vassilev

Conditionally Approved 11/14/25 pending written comments from the committee within a week. There were none so it is now approved.

11/21/2025 8:42 AM

— Nicole Capehart

Provost Approval, Main Campus Provost

Approved | Provost

✓ Pamela Cheek | 12/22/2025 2:40 PM

Faculty Senate, Faculty Senate

Waiting for Approval | Faculty Senate Approval

Nancy Middlebrook

Theresa Sherman

Registrar Office Final Approval/Processing, Registrar

Approval | Registrar final approval

Michael Raine

Maggie Sumruld

Notification, Proposer

Notification | Proposer

Amy Hawkins

EMRT notification, EMRT users

Notification | EMRT user

Enrollment Mgt Reporting Team

Lobotrax notification, LoboTrax Team

Notification | LoboTrax Staff

Sherri DeLeve

Paula Freitag

Hannah Epstein

Allie Martinez

Glenda Johnson

Changes

- participants
- Sponsoring faculty/staff member
- Sponsoring faculty/staff email
- Proposed Effective Term and Year
- Concentration Justification

Show All ▼

Proposal Information

Proposed

Sponsoring faculty/staff member ⓘ

Amy Hawkins

Proposed

Sponsoring faculty/staff email

alhawkins@unm.edu

Existing

Sponsoring faculty/staff member ⓘ

Carol Padberg

Existing

Sponsoring faculty/staff email

padberg5@unm.edu

College

College of Fine Arts

Department

Art/Art History

Campus

Main Campus

Effective Term and Year

Proposed

Proposed Effective Term and Year

Spring 2025

Existing

Proposed Effective Term and Year

Fall 2023

Justification

Proposed

Concentration Justification

The Confluence program has ended its association with UNM Art Departement as of July 29th, 2025 when their final classes graduated.

Existing

Concentration Justification

Low-Residency MFA Concentration

Justification for Program

Introduction

The Low-Residency Concentration of the Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art currently has 15 students that have transferred to the University of New Mexico in fall 2022. The concentration was invited to join the Department of Art following a faculty vote in January 2022. Two Professors of Practice have been hired: Co-Directors Mary Mattingly and Carol Padberg. This curriculum is dedicated to regenerative culture with courses that prepare students for community engagement, ecologically informed art practices, and interdisciplinary, cross-sector arts-based research. With two residencies a year in sites in the Americas, the majority of the courses are held in-person and feature a hybrid course structure. These field-based courses are supported by follow-up seminars. There are two exclusively online courses. This curriculum was developed in 2016 as an independent program and is now becoming a concentration within the existing MFA in Studio Art. The curriculum currently has international sites in Oaxaca, Mexico and San Salvador, El Salvador; as well as US sites in Miami, Minneapolis, Oakland and Albuquerque.

Justification

The low-residency concentration of the MFA provides a path to a flexible interdisciplinary MFA degree with a focus on regenerative culture. This concentration augments the existing MFA degree which is tied to specific disciplines such as Painting, Photography and Sculpture, among others. These current MFA options can still be interdisciplinary, but they are interdisciplinary from a specific discipline's home base. Thus the concentration adds a missing component in the Art Department's graduate offerings.

This low residency concentration makes the UNM MFA in Studio Art more accessible. It brings a new population of graduate students from around the state and around the world. These new students can include native New Mexican students who wish to stay in their communities, and students from all locations who wish to live where they have jobs and communities while they pursue their Master of Fine Arts at UNM.

This curriculum acts as a hub for new pedagogies. In this concentration faculty can teach experimental, field-based courses that support faculty research and extend opportunities for students. This benefits faculty and students alike.

The low-residency concentration adds students at a time when academic institutions are bracing for a demographic shift that may result in dramatically fewer graduate school applications.

This program has a focus on regenerative culture. Regenerative culture goes beyond sustainability in its ability to develop human capacity for deep change and adaptation. Training artists in community engagement, systems thinking and ecology is in keeping with the University of New Mexico's mission of serving the state and the world at large while addressing the world's most vexing problems. This pragmatic, interdisciplinary curriculum supports UNM's commitment to innovation in higher education.

This will be one of the first low-residency MFA opportunities in visual art within a public university in the United States.

Associated Forms

Select any associated Kuali course forms that exist

ARTS 522 - Techno Lab I (3)
ARTS 524 - Art and Place Reconsidered I (3)
ARTS 555 - Distinguished Practitioner I (3)
ARTS 525 - Art and Place Reconsidered II (3)
ARTS 523 - Techno Lab II (3)ARTS 571 - River Lab (3)
ARTS 580 - Creative Economies (3)
ARTS 556 - Distinguished Practitioner II (3)
ARTS 526 - Art and Place Reconsidered III (3)
ARTH 589 - Writing, Art, and Agency (3)

Proposed

Document uploads

- ConfluenceMemo_Letterhead_2023.pdf

Existing

Document uploads

Program Information

Degree Name

MFA Art Studio - Master of Fine Arts in Art Studio

Degree Type

Master of Fine Arts

Program Type

Graduate

Program Description

No Parent Selected

Degree Hours

60

Minimum Major Hours

Degree Requirements

M.F.A. in Studio Arts

60

Total Credits

- Complete all of the following
 - Earn at least 3 credits from the following:
 - ARTS502 - Interdisciplinary Seminar (3)
 - Earned at least 21 credits from 500 - 699

- Earned at least 6 credits from ARTH 500 - 699
- Earn at least 18 credits from the following types of courses:
Twelve credit hours outside studio; Six credit hours any area.
- Earn at least 12 credits from the following:
 - ARTS699 - Dissertation (3 - 12)

Grand Total Credits: 60

Concentration Information

Concentration Title

Confluence Low-Residency Concentration in Interdisciplinary Art

Program Level

Graduate

Concentration Requirements

- Complete all of the following
 - Year 1 Summer ARTS 522 Techno Lab, 1, ARTS 595 Tutorial*, ARTS 502 Interdisciplinary Seminar*, ARTS 524 Art & Place, Reconsidered, 1, ARTS 544 Art and Ecology: Creating Change *.
 - Earn at least 3 credits from the following:
 - ARTS595 - Graduate Tutorial (1 - 9)
 - Complete the following:
 - ARTS522 - Techno Lab I (3)
 - ARTS502 - Interdisciplinary Seminar (3)
 - ARTS544 - Art and Ecology: Creating Change (3)
 - ARTS524 - Art and Place Reconsidered I (3)
 - Year 1 Fall ARTS595 Graduate Tutorial (3)*, ARTH 584 Problems in Interdisciplinary Studies*.
 - Earn at least 3 credits from the following:
 - ARTS595 - Graduate Tutorial (1 - 9)
 - Complete the following:
 - ARTH584 - Problems in Interdisciplinary Studies (3)
 - Year 1 Winter: ARTS 555 Distinguished Practitioner, 1 ARTS 525 Art & Place, Reconsidered, 2
 - Complete the following:
 - ARTS555 - Distinguished Practitioner I (3)
 - ARTS525 - Art and Place Reconsidered II (3)
 - Year 1 Spring: ARTS595 Graduate Tutorial (3)*
 - Earn at least 3 credits from the following:
 - ARTS595 - Graduate Tutorial (1 - 9)
 - Year 2 Summer: ARTS 523 Techno Lab, 2, ARTS 699 Dissertation*, ARTS 571 River Lab, ARTS 580 Creative Economies.
 - Earn at least 3 credits from the following:
 - ARTS699 - Dissertation (3 - 12)

- Complete the following:
 - ARTS523 - Techno Lab II (3)
 - ARTS571 - River Lab (3)
 - ARTS580 - Creative Economies (3)
- Year 2 Fall: ARTS 699 Dissertation.
- Earn at least 3 credits from the following:
 - ARTS699 - Dissertation (3 - 12)
- Year 2 Winter: ARTS 556 Distinguished Practitioner, 2, ARTS 526 Art & Place, Reconsidered, 3.
- Complete the following:
 - ARTS526 - Art and Place Reconsidered III (3)
 - ARTS556 - Distinguished Practitioner II (3)
- Year 2 Spring: ARTH 589 Writing, Art and Agency, ARTS 699 Dissertation.
- Earn at least 3 credits from the following:
 - ARTS699 - Dissertation (3 - 12)
- Complete the following:
 - ARTH589 - Writing, Art, and Agency (3)
- Year 3 Summer: ARTS 699 Dissertation.
- Earn at least 3 credits from the following:
 - ARTS699 - Dissertation (3 - 12)

Grand Total Credits: 60

Concentration Description

The Low-Residency Concentration in Interdisciplinary Art is a curriculum dedicated to regenerative culture. Regenerative pedagogy brings artists one more step beyond sustainability. Regenerative culture is about co-building everyone's capacity to be adaptable, healthy, and resilient.

The concentration's field-based residencies provide hands-on learning experiences that support a range of art practices including art and ecology, film and video, sculpture, printmaking, painting, traditional crafts, social practice and experimental artforms. Students are connected to each other and the faculty through a robust online community that provides the educational infrastructure for two annual field residencies a year. Over the course of the curriculum, students take eighteen classes in-person during residencies. Two courses are completely online. This structure allows students to continue to live in their own communities and countries while studying at an R1 research university. Between residencies students meet virtually with their artists' cohort and their faculty to exchange feedback, deepen their critical awareness of contemporary art practices, and synthesize what they have learned during the in-person residencies.

* Courses designated with an asterisk have special sections low residency students must register for.

Registrar Office Only

CM Concentration Code

CON Confl Low-Res Interdiscip Art

Catalog

Main Campus

Catalog Activation Date

07/31/23

Notes

BANP

3/29/23

MR, 8/23/23: per Sheila's exception,
added concentration to 202360 term in
Banner.

Concentration Code
CLRA