



Board of Governors, State University System of Florida

Specialized Admissions Status

Initial Approval Request Form

In Accordance with Board of Governors Regulation 8.013, Specialized Admissions

INSTITUTION: University of Florida

DEGREE PROGRAM: Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design

CIP CODE: 50.0409

Effective Academic Year: 2022-2023

1. Does this request for specialized admissions status apply to the whole degree program? If no, please specify which major(s) or track(s) are seeking the status.

Yes, for admission to the upper-level of the degree.

2. Which criteria for specialized admissions status does the program meet?

Limited Resources (if approved, the status will last a maximum of four years)

Minimal Skills (if approved, the status will last a maximum of five years)

Accreditation Requirements (If checked, you must also select either limited resources or minimal skills)

3. Provide a rationale for why the program meets the criteria selected above.

This is a visual arts programs where students must demonstrate that they have (1) the minimum skills necessary to benefit from the upper level of the program and (2) potential for success. The specialized admission requirements assess how well students were able to use their aptitudes, talents, and continual practice (1) to benefit from their time at the lower-level, whether at UF or a state college, and (2) to reach a benchmark level of skill and achievement. Reaching that benchmark suggests a likelihood of success in developing further in the upper-level of the degree and finishing the degree.

4. If the program is seeking specialized admissions status due to limited resources and/or is a Program of Strategic Emphasis, provide the institution's plan and timeline for increasing program resources. If the institution does not plan to increase capacity over the next few years, please provide a rationale. Not applicable.

We have recently increased capacity in this degree from 20 students to 36 students admitted to the upper-level per year. The degree's capacity is now sufficient to accommodate all applicants who demonstrate the minimum skills necessary to benefit from the upper level of the program and potential for success. We are also in the process of proposing a new Graphic Design BA degree, which would increase overall capacity in this Program of Strategic Emphasis, starting 2024-2025 (the earliest possible date). The BA in Graphic Design will offer a more flexible curriculum than the BFA, which will increase accessibility to students. In offering two degree paths (BFA and proposed BA), we seek to make sure that we can accommodate all qualified students interested in this Program of Strategic Emphasis.

5. If approved for specialized admissions status, what will be the program’s admissions requirements? Additionally, please indicate how these requirements and procedures ensure equal access for qualified Florida College System Associates in Arts graduates competing for available space in the program.

Access to the upper level of the programs is granted after faculty review of a portfolio application. The portfolio application includes the student’s academic record, responses to prompts, analysis of an example of the student’s creative process, and a portfolio of work. In reviewing the applications, faculty use a rubric and criteria that assess whether the applicant has the necessary skills and potential for successful advanced study in Graphic Design. Hiring in the field also hinges on review of an application including a portfolio of work, so this process serves also as part of the students’ introduction to professional practices. Transfer applicants with Florida College System Associate of Arts degrees apply and are considered at the same time with the same procedure.

6. What is the current race and gender profile of the program? Describe the potential impact on the race and gender profiles of the program. What strategies will be implemented to promote and maintain diversity in the program?

Data gathered for our yearly reporting for accreditation with the National Associate of Schools of Art and Design shows the following for this year’s BA in Art students:

Female	Male	Amer. Indian	Asian	Black/Afr. Amer.	Hispanic	Other/ unknown	White	Pacific Islander
79.1%	20.9%	2.6%	11.5%	7.9%	27.3%	3.6%	47.5%	0%

As the program has always been “Limited Access,” we do not expect Specialized Admissions to have an impact on the race and gender profiles of the program. As stated above, we have recently increased the number of students admitted to the upper level of the degree, which increases accessibility to students. We are also in the process of proposing a BA in Graphic Design with a more flexible curriculum, which will increase the accessibility of degrees in the Program of Strategic Emphasis. The College of the Arts strategic plan focuses on maintaining and increasing diversity, and we are examining all our practices from faculty hiring to curriculum to student recruitment to achieve this goal. Currently, our specialized admission process reviews students' portfolio applications holistically, evaluating a student's aptitudes, talents, and skills while at the same time allowing students the opportunity to provide context about their work. This comprehensive review enables faculty evaluators to consider factors other than GPA when making admission decisions to help to promote equity and diversity. We have a robust visiting artists program that brings students into contact with a diverse group of professional role models. We have also developed a Student Ambassadors program, where some of our most engaged students from diverse backgrounds support our recruiting and mentoring efforts.

Required Signatures

Elizabeth Ross

Requestor/Initiator

7/13/22
Date

Dr. P. Cruz

Signature of College Dean

7/14/2022

Date

Signature of Campus EO Officer

Date

Signature of Provost

Date

Signature of Chair of the
Board of Trustees

Date

Date Approved by the Board of Trustees