



Art Program • School of Visual and Performing Arts • University of Louisiana Monroe

CAREER OPTIONS

There are many wide-ranging career options a Bachelor of Fine Arts graduate may find. Careers as craft or fine artists, multimedia artists, art directors, or art teachers are a few. Students studying for this degree usually pursue majors like ceramics, graphic design, painting, drawing, studio art, or art education. Following are some areas and statistics about job growth and salary.

Art Teacher

BFA graduates with an art education major may be qualified to teach art in elementary, middle or secondary school if they also earn a teaching certificate. The program also provides preparation for continued master's degree study that may be expected by state education departments.

Art education majors learn how to introduce children to basic concepts in art, from hands-on activities in a variety of artistic media to art history and art criticism.

According to predictions from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, a 6% job growth rate is expected from 2014-2024. In 2015, according to BLS, high school teachers of all subjects earned an average wage of \$57,200 per year, middle school teachers saw an average yearly income of \$55,860 that year, and kindergarten and elementary school teachers averaged an annual wage of \$54,550.

Fine Artist

Fine artists in training typically earn a BFA degree in studio art. They may choose a concentration in sculpture, painting, illustration, photography or printmaking. Studio art coursework refines artists' technical skills and creative talents and guides them to develop their own artistic style.

These graduates may become sculptors, painters, illustrators or printmakers. They may work independently, displaying and selling work through their studios or art galleries. Fine artists may also work for commercial art studios, design companies, publishers or ad agencies. Some pursue freelance work or accept commissions. The BLS said these artists were earning a median wage of \$43,950 in May 2015 and should see an employment growth of 2% during the 2014-2024 decade.

Craft Artist

With the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in majors like ceramics, jewelry, metalwork, textile design or fiber arts, craft artists show and sell handmade pieces and artwork in a variety of venues. Freelancing and working on commissioned projects is also possible. BFA classes allow students to pursue their area of interest in-depth and prove

their ability to meet deadlines. Learners usually work out of owned or shared studio space.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) listed the median annual salary for craft artists at \$45,080 in 2015. The BLS projects that craft artists will see a 2% increase in job opportunities between 2014 and 2024.

Multimedia Artist

Using hand-drawn or computer-generated images, multimedia majors who graduate with BFA degrees can create animation sequences or storyboards. They work for ad agencies or for software, gaming, film or television companies. Multimedia artists combine skills they have learned in art, computer and design classes.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), multimedia artists can expect a slower-than-average job growth rate of 6% between 2012 and 2022. In 2015, their median annual salary was \$63,970, the BLS indicates.

Graphic Designer

Graphic designers create visual concepts, using computer software or by hand, to communicate ideas that inspire, inform, and captivate consumers. They develop the overall layout and production design for various applications such as advertisements, brochures, magazines, and corporate reports.

Many of these workers are employed in specialized design services, publishing, or advertising, public relations, and related services industries. In 2014, about 1 in 5 graphic designers were self-employed.

Opportunities are expected to increase 1% from 2014 to 2024, with a median yearly wage of \$46,900 reported for the profession in 2015.

Art Director

Graphic design or multimedia design majors who graduate with Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees and gain work experience can also become art directors. They've developed technical competence in computer art and design in BFA classes. Successful graduates also have proven ability to meet deadlines.

An art director typically guides the development of visual and written material through layout and design of artwork and copy. Art directors often work for ad agencies or publishing companies. The BLS indicates that art director opportunities are expected to increase 2% from 2014 to 2024, with a median yearly wage of \$89,760 reported for the profession in 2015.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art

Students graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) have completed a course load that is two-thirds art courses. The BFA is an artist's professional degree. According to the Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design, the BFA degree prepares students for professional careers in the arts. Most programs include studio courses along with many hours of creative practice. The **Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art** degree offered at the University of Louisiana - Monroe, is a professional degree providing training and practice in a variety of studio areas. The diverse course offerings in the art core, 42 credit hours, are important to all creative professionals entering the workforce. The concentration hours provide a focus in a specific field (graphic design, painting, art ed. etc.) and the art electives allow further development and maturity in the art making practice. A BFA degree is also an excellent path to obtaining a Master of Fine Arts (a terminal degree in studio art) or other higher education degrees.

Additional Career Paths for the Creative Professional/Designer/Artist

According to a study by the National Endowment for the Arts, visual artists are highly entrepreneurial. They are 3.5 times more likely to be self-employed than the rest of the US population. The BFA degree can lead to self-employment, or working as an assistant, in the areas of:

Painter
Sculptor
Printmaker/ Poster Artist/ Lithographer
Photographer
Ceramicist
Graphic Designer, etc.

Other options are numerous. Following is a small list of career options available to those with a BFA degree.

- Gallery Owner/Administrator
- Gallery Director
- Greeting Card Designer
- Master Printer/Print Studio Owner
- Multi-Media Specialist
- Model Maker, Muralist
- Museum Educator/Researcher

- Photography Lab Technician
- Portrait Painter/Sculptor, Set Designer
- Postsecondary Instructor
- Package Designer, Product Designer
- Photo/Computer/Digital Lab Technician
- Researcher
- Restorer, Conservator
- Scientific Illustrator, Technical Illustrator
- Social, cultural agencies; Education
- Teacher/Administrator
- Teacher/Administrator, Art Lecturer
- TV/Film, Entertainment
- Teacher/Instructor - Overseas
- Teacher of Art and Recreation
- Toy Manufacturer and Designer
- Urban Graphics Designer (display, signs, billboards)
- Visual Resources Curator (Education & Industry)
- Web Designer, Webmaster

A studio degree can also assist one considering a career in the business of art, including:

Artist's Agent
Art Critic
Museum Director
Curator
Conservator and Restorer
Art Archivist
Display Designer
Art Consultant
Art Appraisal
Art Dealer/ Auctioneer
Art Authentication

These are just a few of the possibilities for creative professionals pursuing a BFA degree.