WHAT CAN I DO WITH AN ART DEGREE?

A degree in art can help students prepare for a world in which the expression of thoughts and ideas, and the conveying of information, has become an increasingly visually-oriented enterprise. The skills gained through studying art are highly valued and transferable to many career paths, including those requiring a strong sense of visual design and organization. Alongside a range of practical, specialized skills related to a variety of media, art graduates develop critical thinking skills; sound observational, analytical and research skills, including the ability to creatively problem solve; craftsmanship and attention to detail; and the ability to work well independently and collaboratively. Whether one chooses to apply these desirable skills and understandings to being a practicing artist or to another field, an art degree can help students to prepare for their future.

ART AT SRU

The Department of Art offers students a strong foundation in the arts and an opportunity to explore art’s connections with a wide range of disciplines. Faculty is comprised of art professionals from various backgrounds and disciplines who are focused on providing individualized instruction for every student they teach. Students who major in art will develop the capacity to make tangible their aesthetic responses to experience. Our programs provide students with a diverse background, which, in concert with professional training, should lead to a successful career in art and applied vocations. By increasing awareness of themselves, their environment and their culture, and by learning to think and act creatively, students prepare themselves for a life enriched through art.

WHY CHOOSE SRU ART?

1. Accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design: Accreditation by NASAD implies that our program meets or exceeds the industry standards developed by experts in the field.

2. Opportunity for freedom of individual creative pursuits: The department fosters a creative learning environment filled with opportunities for students to advance technically and conceptually while gaining a broadened understanding of historical, theoretical and cultural context relevant to art and art-making.

3. Small classes and accessible faculty: Faculty is comprised of art professionals from various backgrounds and disciplines who are focused on providing insightful individualized instruction for all students. Every undergraduate is assigned an academic adviser to guide them through their program of study and help them make decisions about educational and career goals.

4. Well-equipped studios in six centralized locations: Students have extensive access to studios providing opportunities to engage in wide-ranging artistic production.

5. Educational experience: The department offers domestic, international and study abroad travel opportunities, all of which serve to enhance student knowledge and experience.
INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
SRU art students complete internships based on their individual interests. Students have completed internships at various locations including:

- Special Needs Art Internship at Neshannock High School, New Castle, Pennsylvania
- Artists Image Resource
- Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Tucor, Inc., Harmony, Pennsylvania
- SRU’s University Communication and Public Affairs

CAREER OUTCOMES
While many SRU art majors will continue their education after earning their bachelor’s degree, graduates of the department have secured careers in the following areas:

- Art teacher/numerous school districts in Pennsylvania and other states
- CAD Designer, Macy's, Inc., New York
- Graphic designer, Natural History Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Rights, reproductions & photographic services manager, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Collections database administrator, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Art therapist, partial hospitalization program, Pittsburgh Mercy Behavioral Health
- Professor of art or art education
- Art therapist, Pittsburgh Mercy Behavioral Health, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Maria Camera, ‘15
Bench jeweler, Design & Service Center for Signet Jewelers
“The BFA I pursued at SRU was well-rounded in all visual artistic areas, though my focus was in metals and jewelry, and this helped me to excel in my current field of jewelry repair with basic and complex problem-solving skills. The community that is fostered in the department showed me how to be reflective of not only my work, but of the work of those around me.”

Megan Cassioli, ’14
Assistant graphic designer, Slippery Rock University
“Sometimes people graduate but choose to either stay at or come back to the place that gave them the experiences and the confidence to make their dreams a reality. SRU is that place for me. From the incredible art faculty who really give students the opportunity to find and choose their own path, to the remarkably creative environment the department generates where each student is lucky enough to be both challenged and rewarded at the same time.”

Kristin Riding, ’13
Art therapist, MA-ATR, BC, Pittsburgh Mercy Behavioral Health
“Art at SRU offered me an opportunity to find out who I was as an artist and what my creative side could offer an audience. My experience at SRU also set me on the right foot to understand my own art but the art making process as a whole as I began my graduate degree in art therapy.”

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS
- Art Society
- Potter’s Guild

*This concentration includes all coursework and requirements specified by Pennsylvania Department of Education, with student teaching and K-12 Art Teacher Certification obtained through Carlow University. Students must achieve a passing or qualifying score on Pennsylvania Department of Education required exams. If you are interested in teaching in another state, please contact the Department of Education in that state.