

The M.F.A. program of the Photography Division provides a scholastic atmosphere in which graduate students and faculty conduct a vigorous and open investigation into the nature and meaning of the art of photography in contemporary culture. Students are expected to demonstrate commitment to expressive inquiry, maturity of vision and self-motivation. Instruction emphasizes the responsibility of professional commitment and the rewards of knowledge.

The Photography Division takes a broad and progressive approach to the practice and definition of photography. It is a goal of the Photography division to question and expand the boundaries of the medium of photography. Students are not limited to but may work in traditional black and white darkroom photography, color photography, large-scale photography, alternative processes, video, performance art, digital photography, and combined and mixed media. The M.F.A. program is a 60-credit hour, three-year program. The first two years graduate students complete their course studies including art history courses. The third year is devoted to effort on a thesis exhibition with the student working closely with their chosen faculty thesis committee.

Concentrated emphasis is given to helping students bring significant substance to their personal views through their imagery. The program encourages a broad background in the visual arts, and awareness of the resources of the University, and an intense specialization in the historical, cultural and visual aspects of our medium. Facilities for students include black and white darkrooms, color darkrooms, an alternative process darkroom, a lighting studio and digital labs. Graduate students are provided a studio space with graduate students from the other studio divisions.

It is the goal of the M.F.A. program for graduate students to embrace the value of artistic intelligence as a mode of thinking and discovery, develop and refine a personal vision as evidenced through a body of work, develop a depth of art experience across a range of media, have an understanding of current contemporary photographic and art practice, have an understanding of the history of photography and art, have an understanding of critical theory, be able to articulate verbally and in writing their practice of art, utilize the Center for Creative Photography as an integral part of their educational experience, refine technical skills using traditional and/or new forms, and be prepared to be an active contributor in the profession of art

The Center for Creative Photography plays an important role in the education of the photography students and the Division's relationship to the Center is critical. The Center offers photography exhibitions, lectures, gallery talks, a library of photographic art books, an artists' book collection, and an extensive archive of photographic art and related materials. Both formally and informally, students have the opportunity to interact with the Center, its staff, visiting artists, historians, critics and theorists and are able to utilize this unique institution.