

## Robert R. McComsey Career Development Center



### Careers In...Interdisciplinary Art (B.A.)

Alfred University  
Alfred NY 14802

Phone: 607-871-2164  
Fax: 607-871-2791  
[www.alfred.edu/cdc](http://www.alfred.edu/cdc) - [cdc@alfred.edu](mailto:cdc@alfred.edu)

*Hours: 8:30-4:30 Monday-Friday*  
*Walk-in hours: 1:00-4:30 Tues., Wed., and Thurs.*

### The Field

The B.A. degree in Interdisciplinary Art combines studio work in the arts with studies in art history, art theory and criticism, and cultural studies. Interdisciplinary Art majors develop skills in the visual arts, an understanding of how to think about art making and performance, and a grasp of the interpretative problems that enter into the contemporary arts. The B.A. program is distinguished from the B.F.A. program in the College of Ceramics by its greater emphasis upon the cultural setting of the arts, its stress on questions of interpretation, its broad grounding in the general education program of Liberal Arts, and its interdisciplinary ties to the Division of Human Studies and the Performing Arts.

A real strength of this degree is the ability to apply not only artistic knowledge to a position, but also the communication skills and liberal arts background that many employers are looking for. This lends itself well to positions within education, art administration, government, and commercial art.

### Sample Job Titles

- Archivist
- Slide librarian
- Art appraiser
- Technical stage director
- Director of development
- Critic
- Art journalist
- Studio artist
- Electronic imaging specialist
- National Endowment for the Arts administrator
- Director of children's art program
- Museum education manager
- Free-lance artist
- Graphic designer
- Exhibition coordinator
- Fundraiser
- Director, arts commission
- Assistant curator
- Grants specialist
- Stage designer
- Performance artist
- Advertising specialist
- Art instructor
- Photographer
- Gallery assistant
- Sound technician
- Floral designer

### Our Graduates...Where Are They Now?

*Within the past few years, graduates have obtained positions as...*

Ceramic Instructor/Studio Manager – Munroe Center for the Arts  
Administration and Gallery Assistant – Design Source International  
Graphic Designer – St. James Hospital

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Art Teacher – Half Hollow Hills High School  
 Senior Sales Associate – Smithsonian Institution  
 Printmaker Associate, Teacher – The Ink Shop  
 Potter – MacKenzie Childs  
 Print Stylist – PajamaGram  
 Ceramic Instructor & Sales – Portland Pottery  
 Gallery Assistant/ Studio Artist – Inspired Fire Glass Studio & Gallery  
 Research & Product Development Assistant – Ontel Products Corporation  
 Art Therapist- Children’s National Medical Center  
 Apprentice Craftsman- Walker Metalsmiths  
 Graphic Designer- VT Democratic Party  
*...and have gone to graduate school at...*  
 Syracuse University (Museum Studies)  
 Ryerson University (Photo Presentation and Collection Management)  
 California Institute of the Arts (Film/Video)  
 University of Rochester (Finance)  
 Nazareth College (Computer Technology, Education)  
 University of Virginia (Elementary Education)  
 Savannah College of Art and Design (Photography)  
 Mankato State University (Theatre Arts/Design)  
 University of Buffalo (Early Childhood Education)  
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Electronic Arts)  
 Michigan State University (Painting)  
 Marywood University (Ceramics)

### **Get Experience on Campus**

Try to get involved on campus in activities or organizations related to your area of interest. For example, if your dream is to become a designer for Nike, volunteer to take on freelance design projects to build your portfolio. Some campus organizations, clubs, or offices through which you can gain relevant experience include:

- Assist a visiting artist or faculty member
- Work in the art department of the Fiat Lux, the Kanakadea Yearbook, Poesis, etc.
- The Art Union
- Dancer’s Union
- Show your work as much as possible on campus and around town. Talk to a CDC staff member about finding opportunities outside Alfred.
- Work with performing arts organizations (Friday Night Live, Pirate Theatre, and AU Performing Arts) to design sets, lighting, costumes, props, etc.
- Get involved with other clubs and organizations that will allow you to create for them, to build your portfolio

### **Where to go from here?**

- Individual career counseling for anything from choosing a major to getting a job
- Saxon JobLink web services ([www.alfred.edu/cdc](http://www.alfred.edu/cdc)) to view jobs and internships, post a resume and more
- Saxon Career Volunteer network – speak to alumni in your career field
- Choices CT computerized program for searching graduate schools
- Web resources: An excellent clearing house for employment and professional links is the **Riley Guide** at [www.rileyguide.com/arts.html](http://www.rileyguide.com/arts.html), [www.Idealist.org](http://www.Idealist.org), or [www.artjob.com](http://www.artjob.com)

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