



## BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS IN PHOTOGRAPHY

The Photography major's breadth of traditional and cutting-edge processes is unique to the Art Academy of Cincinnati. Students learn processes for 35mm, digital, medium-and large-format film cameras, darkroom, and digital printing, the color of light, interdisciplinary, and alternative process photography, and the moving image. They have the opportunity to link photographic theory and practice to other artistic disciplines.

The major provides a blend of theoretical and real-world instruction that prepares students to build careers as commercial photographers, professional artists, photojournalists, and professionals in other disciplines. Many alumni enroll in graduate school or pursue careers in the gallery or museum world and fields of client-based work or fine art photography.

Loraine Wible, MFA  
Assistant Professor, Animation, Film, Video



### Educational Objectives | Photography Major

#### Creativity

Photography majors engage in a range of diverse processes and produce creative and unpredictable outcomes that contribute to the dynamic, eclectic practice and innovative definition of contemporary photography and lens-based work.

#### Curiosity

Through their commitment to inquiry, research, and experimentation, Photography majors define the formal and conceptual interests related to their own process, vision, and voice.

#### Individuality

Photography majors articulate a unique and rebellious voice in their work; one that establishes a connection to the past while embracing the present and future expansiveness of multiple genres.

#### Education

Through exposure to digital, darkroom, and experimental processes, Photography majors employ and integrate the technical skills, strategies, and critical thinking necessary to create relevant contemporary work.

#### History

Students determine and defend the role of photography in relation to their deepening cultural and intellectual understanding of the contemporary art world and/or the commercial aspects of art and design professions, and its role in their own work.

#### Community

Through their pursuit of form and meaning, Photography majors make meaningful connections with the diverse communities within and beyond their chosen disciplines.

†Artwork: Erika Allen

### Educational Outcomes | Photography Major

#### Introductory to Intermediate

- Understand and operate chosen cameras, lenses and lighting efficiently and confidently
- Develop skill and discipline in darkroom and digital processes
- Acquire technical competence in learning to use a manual film camera
- Process and print black and white negatives in the darkroom
- Practice safety in the darkroom, labs and lighting studio
- Explore and learn the many possibilities for innovative imagery and the manipulation of techniques available to students working in the darkroom, on computers, in the studio and wherever the art takes one
- Pursue opportunities to work with various historical photographic processes
- Implement visual imagery purposefully in order to communicate effectively and begin to express a personal vision
- Describe influences through knowledge and appreciation of the work of contemporary and historical photographers and photo-based artists
- Explore various printing methods and papers
- Become more comfortable with risk, failure and experimentation as essential to artistic growth
- Explore the dynamic relationships among process, media, intent, and strategy
- Identify key strategies and concepts that form the basis of students' process in the development of their work
- Utilize the sketchbook and/or other image collection as a tool for collecting source materials, research, and exploration
- Demonstrate a drive to take risks
- Create original work that demonstrates personal voice and vision

#### Intermediate to Advanced

- Dictate one's own path in attaining photographic knowledge
- Gain knowledge and experience in the ways alternative media and presentation can be utilized in photographic processes and develop an awareness of new strategies
- Create and use digital negatives
- Explore the possibilities and relationship of photography and video-based work within – and in relation to – performance
- Work with web-based camera systems
- Learn about photography and the color of light in a logistical and emotional context
- Prepare a professional documentary project for publication
- Create and edit a focused body of work
- Create and work with photographs for commercial purposes
- Apply advanced digital camera techniques
- Produce small and large-format digital prints with appropriate craft
- Describe, analyze, and interpret relevant historical and contemporary criticism and readings
- Gain an increased understanding of the work of important contemporary artists who utilize traditional and experimental methods, materials, processes, and practices
- Develop a personal voice as well as an understanding of one's own placement in contemporary photography
- Give a public talk
- Write an exhibition proposal application or grant application (mock or actual)
- Create and publish a portfolio website
- Create a body of original work that demonstrates the student's voice and vision
- Further the ability to articulate ideas/concerns and increase the student's critical awareness of their work and that of others
- Create self-driven work in a multi-disciplinary and conceptually diverse atmosphere
- Work individually and collaboratively to gain essential experiences in the development of the student's own work through collaborative teaching within a range of disciplines
- Demonstrate learning at the AAC by completing the Formal Creative Presentation, Performance, and/or Exhibition, and a successful Culminating Capstone Review



Emily Momohara, MFA  
Associate Professor,  
Head of Photography Major

Photography Curriculum

FYE: STUDIO ARTS	FY101	Communication	3	
	FY102	Ideation	3	
	FY103	Discovery	3	
	FY104	Voice	3	
	FY105	Digital Literacy	3	
FYE: LIBERAL ARTS	AH105	20th and 21st Century Art and Design: Issues and Ideas	3	
	AH110	20th and 21st Century Art and Design History: Media	3	
	HU101	Artist as Writer Workshop	3	
	HU102	Artist as Reader Workshop	3	
PHOTOGRAPHY MAJOR	PH201	Digital Photography	3	
		Illustration: Process and Media	3	
	FA211	Art and the Moving Image		
		Video Documentary		
	FA213	Video and Interdisciplinary Arts		
	FA314	Sound and the Moving Image		
	FA315	Film, Video, and Audio: Motion Graphics, Authoring and Special FX	6	
		PH301	Medium and Large Format Photography	
	PH302	Experimental Photography		
	PH304	Commercial Photography		
	PH305	Special topics		
	PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE	PC201	Introduction to Professional Practice	3
		PC301	Professional Pathways Preparation	3
STUDIO ELECTIVES			27	
ART HISTORY	AH2xx	Any 200-level Art History Elective	3	
	AH3xx	Any 300-level Art History Elective	3	

LIBERAL ARTS	Critical Thinking: Choose One	AH211	Introduction to Visual Culture		
		HU201	Aesthetics	3	
		HU210	Introduction to Philosophy		
LIBERAL ARTS	Additional Liberal Arts Coursework	Natural Science Elective			3
		Social Science Elective			3
		Humanities Elective			3
Liberal Arts Electives			9		
SENIOR YEAR EXPERIENCE	LA481	Senior Thesis	3		
	SA482	Senior Seminar	3		
	SA491	Senior Pathway Studio 1	6		
	SA492	Senior Pathway Studio 2	6		

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS

**120 HRS**

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS | PHOTOGRAPHY MAJOR

Course descriptions for SA482 Senior Seminar, SA491 Senior Pathway Studio 1, and SA492 Senior Pathway Studio 2 are located in the Studio Arts Course Descriptions portion of the Catalog. Students may enroll in any Studio Arts course per the prerequisites specified for the course.

PH201 Digital Photography (3)

This course is an introduction to digital photography. Students will learn fundamental camera operations, basic use of photo manipulation software, input, output, and image quality. Issues of color, image storage, image compression, resolution, and image quality are covered. Students will be challenged to understand digital photography within the larger context of photography. Students are required to have a digital camera with manual aperture, shutter, and color options. A modest supply of AAC cameras is available for student use. (Prerequisite: Permission of Course Faculty & Registrar)

PH202 Darkroom Photography (3)

Darkroom black and white photography explores the limits and allure of this medium as a means for personal expression. Students will learn darkroom procedures, including developing film and printing photographs. The aesthetics of photography

will be studied historically in relation to important trends of the 20th century, including post-modern installation work and current image-making. Students must have their own 35mm single lens reflex camera with adjustable apertures and shutters. An ample supply of AAC cameras is available for student use. (Prerequisite: Permission of Course Faculty & Registrar)

PH301 Medium and Large Format Photography (3)

Medium and Large Format Photography focuses on photography as an expressive art form and the development of critical thinking. The course covers technical information about negative and printing controls for medium-format cameras, the 4x5 camera, and studio lighting. (Prerequisite: PH202)

PH302 Experimental Photography (3)

This is a course in experimental photography and mixed-media approaches to photography. Emphasis is placed on the development of a unique vision and portfolio of work. Processes covered may include, but are not limited to: pinhole cameras, cyanotypes, and chemigrams. Painterly and sculptural approaches to photography and moving images are explored. This course is designed to provide students the opportunity to employ a single experimental or historical method or a combination of experimental approaches in the development of a significant, original body of work. (Prerequisite: PH202)

PH304 Commercial Photography (3)

Commercial photographers must balance craft, technique, their clients' goals, and safeguard of their images. Commercial Photography touches upon those skills in various genres of commercial photography. Photography marketing, copyright, image dissemination, and archiving are also addressed. In a workshop-like context, students work with several professionals who are active in the field. (Prerequisite: PH201)

PH313 Intermediate Photography and Personal Vision (3)

Intermediate Photography and Personal Vision introduces students to advanced editing and shooting techniques as well as helps students to refine their personal voice. Interdisciplinary as well as current photography techniques are demonstrated and utilized in group hands-on experiences. Students develop their own ideas and experiment with new processes. (Prerequisites: PH201 and PH202)

Photography: Sample Schedule

First Year			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Communication	3	Ideation	3
Discovery	3	Voice	3
Digital Literacy	3	Artist as Reader Workshop	3
Artist as Writer Workshop	3	Art History	3
Art History	3	Studio Elective or Digital Photography	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>
Second Year			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Darkroom Photography	3	Photography Selection	3
Studio Elective	3	Studio Elective	3
Studio Elective	3	Introduction to Professional Practice	3
Liberal Arts OR Critical Thinking Elective	3	Liberal Arts OR Critical Thinking Elective	3
Art History Elective	3	Liberal Arts Elective	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>
Third Year			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Photography Selection	3	Intermediate Photography and Personal Vision	3
Studio Elective	3	Studio Elective	3
Studio Elective	3	Studio Elective	3
Liberal Arts Elective	3	Art History Elective	3
Liberal Arts Elective	3	Professional Pathways Preparation	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>
Fourth Year			
Fall Semester		Spring Semester	
Senior Pathway Studio 1	6	Senior Pathway Studio 2	6
Senior Thesis	3	Senior Seminar	3
Studio Elective	3	Studio Elective	3
Liberal Arts Elective	3	Liberal Arts Elective	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS

**120 HRS**