In April 1984, the West Virginia Board of Regents formally approved the establishment of the College of Fine Arts at Marshall University, effective with the beginning of the fall semester 1984. The college includes the academic departments of art, music, and theatre, and the Marshall Artists Series.

MISSION OF THE COLLEGE

The fine arts are aesthetic responses to human nature and experience. They celebrate the best of human endeavor. They contribute to the individual and to society by reflecting
and projecting values which shape every culture. They proceed from creation to experience and provide both the artist and audience with deeper understanding of traditions of human existence and thought. Thus, the fine arts are essential to education. Consistent with the goals and purposes of education at Marshall University, the College of Fine Arts is dedicated to the transmission, application, and advancement of knowledge in the arts. The specific goals of the College of Fine Arts are:

1. To educate and train those seeking professions in the fine arts;
2. To support the university’s general academic curricula by providing courses which stimulate understanding of and response to the fine arts;
3. To present regular, varied programs for the enrichment of students and the community; and
4. To provide leadership in the fine arts, and to promote them through service and programs.

PROGRAMS OF THE COLLEGE

Education in the fine arts is the central responsibility of the College of Fine Arts and provides the source of other collegiate activities. The combination of liberal education and a rigorous program for the development of artistic skills is necessary for students in each area of the fine arts. The educated professional in any facet of the arts must rely upon intellectual, creative, and critical abilities. These must be accompanied by discipline and sensitivity to insure independent growth and learning.

The curricula of the College of Fine Arts are designed to certify that, upon graduation, students of fine arts have completed a program which leads to development of the ability:

1. To master techniques necessary for performance in the fine arts or practice of an artistic discipline;
2. To express ideas effectively in speaking and writing;
3. To perceive, investigate, and solve problems through critical thinking, analysis, active imagination, and the application of appropriate research methods;
4. To acquire and interpret information and to form standards for the evaluation and appreciation of their cultural heritage and that of others; and
5. To understand the continuing evolution of their art form, its relationship to the other arts, and the place of arts in society and culture.

The College of Fine Arts offers undergraduate programs leading to the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree (B.F.A.) with majors in music, theatre, and the visual arts. Programs leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in education with certification in art or music education for teachers in West Virginia public schools are listed under the College of Education and Human Services in this catalog. Graduate programs leading to the Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in art and music may be found in the Graduate Catalog. All university students are encouraged to participate in courses and activities of the College of Fine Arts. Students wishing to develop or advance their artistic skills are welcome to enroll in studio or applied courses and to join the various arts organizations. Students who desire a minor in the arts should refer to the departmental listings for the sequence of courses in each program.

Through the College of Fine Arts, Marshall University enriches the campus and regional community with many performances, exhibitions, lectures, and special presentations. The programs of the Marshall Artists Series, including the Baxter Series, Mount Series, Belanger Series and International Film Festival and special events throughout the year, present world-class artists and organizations. Exhibitions in the Birke Art Gallery are open to all students. The Department of Music presents many recitals and concerts by its faculty, students, and ensembles in addition to programs featuring guest artists. Throughout the academic year and during the summer sessions, the Marshall University Theatre
provides many major dramatic productions. Students are cordially welcomed to all events and are urged to explore the excitement, enrichment, and entertainment offered by the College of Fine Arts. Additionally, the college offers musical arts experiences to community students of all ages through the Music Preparatory Division in the Department of Music.

THE BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS DEGREE

The degree offered by the College of Fine Arts is the Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.). This is a professional degree designed to prepare students for two future objectives: (1) career entry as professionals in their chosen artistic discipline; and/or (2) further professional study on the graduate level in their chosen field. Students enrolled in the B.F.A. degree program will select one of three majors: music, theatre, or visual arts. Within each major, students are further required to select a major area of emphasis, allowing specialization in a specific artistic medium. The approved majors and areas of emphasis are as follows:

MUSIC MAJOR: Areas of Emphasis
Composition
Jazz Studies
Performance
Theory

THEATRE MAJOR: Areas of Emphasis
Performance
Production

VISUAL ARTS MAJOR: Areas of Emphasis
Ceramics
Graphic Design
Painting
Photography
Printmaking
Sculpture
Weaving

Students should contact the department chairperson for information pertaining to each of the majors and areas of emphasis and to determine special admission requirements for each potential sequence. In unusual circumstances, students may enter the B.F.A. program as undecided majors upon the recommendation of the dean or department chairperson.

Curricular Structure

The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program, designed to parallel professional degree programs in the arts in United States higher education, has two distinct components: General Education Requirements 52 credit hours
Majors and Area of Emphasis Requirements 76 credit hours
Total Required for Graduation 128 credit hours

General Education Requirements for the B.F.A. degree
English Composition: ENG 101, 102, or 201H ................................................................. 6 credits
Communication Studies: CMM 103 or 104H ..................................................................... 3 credits
Students who have had a high school speech course and who pass a proficiency exam administered by the Speech Department may have this requirement waived at the discretion of the Speech Department, and the number of credits required for graduation reduced by three.
Foreign Language/Cultures ................................................................................................... 9 credits
Students who have had a high school speech course and who pass a proficiency exam administered by the Speech Department may have this requirement waived at the discretion of the Speech Department, and the number of credits required for graduation reduced by three.
Successful completion of three courses from the following: French, German, Latin, or Spanish; OR Anthropology 201; Classics 200, 230, 231, 232, 319, 435, 436;
Geography 100, 203, 309, 314, 317, 403, 405, 408, 412; History 101, 102, 103, 208, 219, 220, 261, 301, 302, 304, 312, 378, 380, 429, 430, 435, 436, 445; Political Science 309, 410, 411, 420, 422, 425, 428. Students who have had coursework in foreign language may receive advanced standing depending upon their proficiency.

Humanities ................................................................................................................................ 6 credits

Selected from:

Classics
English (300 or 400 level literature courses)
Modern Languages (Literary or cultural courses beyond the language requirements listed above)
Philosophy (except 304)
Religious Studies

Arts Appreciation (outside the major) .................................................................................. 3 credits

Social Sciences ........................................................................................................................... 6 credits

Selected from: Anthropology, Criminal Justice, Economics, Geography (except GEO 101), History, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Womens’ Studies

Mathematics: MTH 121 or higher ........................................................................................ 3 credits

Natural Sciences ..................................................................................................................... 7-8 credits

Must include at least one Integrated Science course (ISC: 4 hours).

Additional courses to complete the requirement can be selected from the following areas:

Biological Sciences
Chemistry
Computer Science
Geography 101
Geology
Mathematics (excepting developmental courses)
Physical Science 109, 109L, 110, 110L

Electives (outside the major) ............................................................................................... 8-9 credits

Students eligible for speech and/or foreign language waivers must conform to the university policy of a minimum of 128 hours required for baccalaureate graduation.