Ready to live life in full color?

We’re guessing that you already have a passion for visual art in one (or several) of its many forms: drawing, painting, ceramics. Maybe you’ve been an “art kid” for years and gravitate toward other like-minded kids, or maybe it’s something that has recently taken hold of you.

Whether your love for visual art is long-standing or somewhat more recent, we thought we’d paint a picture for you to give you an idea of what it’s like to be a Visual Art major at Walnut Hill School for the Arts, and show you where an education here at Walnut Hill can take you.

Supporting YOUNG ARTISTS

Visual art studies at Walnut Hill provide a solid foundation for the continuation of artistic pursuits while also developing skills like confidence, collaboration, and persistence that will serve you well in any number of future endeavors. We couple those skills with a rigorous academic program, and as a result, we are poised for success.

Walnut Hill Visual Art students have continued their studies at some of the world’s best colleges and art schools including:

- Academy of Art University
- Alfred University
- ArtCenter College of Design
- Brown University
- California College of the Arts
- California Institute of the Arts
- Central St. Martin’s College of Art and Design (UK)
- Chelsea College of Art and Design (UK)
- Fashion Institute of Technology
- Georgetown University
- Hampshire College
- Maine College of Art
- Maryland Institute College of Art
- Northeastern University
- Otis College of Art and Design
- Parsons The New School for Design
- Pratt Institute
- Ravensbourne (UK)
- Rhode Island School of Design
- Ringling College of Art and Design
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- School of Visual Arts
- Skidmore College
- SMFA at Tufts
- Syracuse University
- University of the Arts
- London (UK)
- Washington University in St. Louis
frequently asked QUESTIONS

How many studio classes do I take?
Most students in the Visual Art Department take 3 or 4 art studio classes in a variety of mediums per semester. Each class meets one afternoon per week for 3.5 hours. Classes average about 10 – 12 students, and students are mixed together by grade, experience, and skill level. Classes are a combination of skill practice exercises, experimentation, introduction to new materials...and a lot of fun.

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Do you have a fashion design program?
We don’t have a fashion design program, but we do have “apparel design” classes as part of our curriculum, and many of our graduates do go on to study and major in fashion design in college.

Will I get to showcase my work in galleries?
We have 2 major all-department exhibitions in which the artwork of all Visual Art majors is showcased: one in January at the end of the semester, and then another in June at the end of the school year. In addition, smaller exhibits are mounted throughout the year. We also have “senior shows” in the spring, which are an important part of the curriculum where 2 or 3 seniors at a time get to curate and present their artwork in the school gallery space.

What level does my artwork have to be at to apply?
We encourage you to present what you have. Some of our students have elaborate portfolios, reflecting a great deal of formal training. Others present much more improvised and wide-ranging (even random) portfolios that reflect their personal interest and passion for visual art. You might not have had the opportunity to really study your art in a serious way: this is to be expected. There is no one “right” way. This makes for a very exciting, dynamic, and fun working environment. Don’t be intimidated if you are interested and passionate about visual art, show us your work!

How does the faculty support the college review process?
The Visual Art faculty are very involved in the portfolio preparation and college application process. We help you present a balanced portfolio in a professional manner to the appropriate schools of your choosing. The art schools around the country and the world are very familiar with our program, and we have a lot of communication with them. This helps our faculty know what colleges need and want to see in an applicant’s portfolio.

How many of your visual artists go on to study visual art in college?
Most all of the Visual Art graduates do go on to continue their studies in art school. However, this is by no means a requirement. Some students each year go on to pursue their interests in other fields. Our goal is to make you fully prepared and to give you more choices in the future, not fewer. We believe this commitment, the study of visual art, will help you in whatever path you choose to pursue.

When you get here, you’ll be learning about visual art with other like-minded people—a whole group of students from across the globe who are passionate about their chosen art.