

Master of Arts in Critical Craft Studies Degree Requirements

Each student is required to participate in 4 semesters (residency plus off-site instruction) plus one final 5th residency. Each student will have experiences connected to writing, speaking, and curating; a final Practicum Project is required of each student, and may include a thesis-length essay, exhibition, course development, or other form that demonstrates application of course offerings and critical inquiry in the field.

Grades: Students must pass all courses at a grade of B+ or better to count toward fulfillment of the degree. Students must maintain an overall minimum GPA of 3.3.

MACR grading scale is as follows:

A = 95.00-100

A- = 90.00-94.99

B+ = 88.00 - 89.99

B = 85.00 - 87.99

B- = 80.00 - 84.99

80 or below is an F

Pass = 92

Fail = 80

Performing below grade level places a student on probation. Students will be notified at midterm if they are at risk of falling below the required grade and GPA by the Director. If the student does not meet grade requirements at the conclusion of a semester, they will be notified of probation status via email.

Following consultation with the Director and Core Faculty, the student may resubmit their work no later than one month following the end of the semester for reconsideration and revision of the grade. If accepted and the grade is increased, the student will be removed from probation, and a revised grade filed with the Registrar's Office.

If the resubmitted work is not approved, the student will need to retake the course the following year.

Total Credit Hours: To fulfill the requirements for the MA in Critical Craft Studies, students must earn sixty credit hours distributed as follows:

- History and Theory Courses (14 credits)
- Materials Labs (14 credits)
- Research Labs (14 credits)
- Practicum Project (18 credits)

MACR COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Each semester has an overarching theme that is engaged through all courses:

- Semester 1 - Introduction to Critical Craft Studies
- Semester 2 - Craft and Public Space
- Semester 3 - Craft and Communication
- Semester 4 - Craft and Learning

All students in a given class work through the same curriculum, based around four courses each semester and supplemented with workshops and other special programming during residency. The four core courses of the MA program are History and Theory, Materials Lab, Research Methods Lab, and Practicum Project. During the final residency, the focus is on presentations and sharing research.

HISTORY AND THEORY: This course is focused on craft history and theory. Year 1 (History and Theory I and II) focuses on craft discourse and the forms through which craft history is conveyed, for example: survey texts, museum publications, and anthologies. Students engage archives as a form and source for research and knowledge construction, examining how archives reinforce knowledge, and explore ways to create knowledge outside of existing constraints. With a focus on writing and resources available in English, the course addresses contemporary and modern thinking about craft from multiple global perspectives. Close attention is paid to representation, voice, and unsettling coloniality. This writing- and experience-focused course includes: individual and group research projects, field trips, writing development, and work with mentors in addition to instructor and advisors. During their second year, students learn and apply multidisciplinary theoretical concepts in History and Theory III and IV. Through close readings and applied projects that build research and communication skills, the course expands craft discourse, through study of concepts drawn from multiple fields, such as: anthropology, culture studies, embodied learning, folklore, gender studies, material culture, philosophy, and sensorial studies. Courses begin during residencies, which also include workshop faculty mini-courses.

The reduced load of History and Theory III and IV (3 credits each) is structured to accommodate revisions of final Practicum Projects.

Total 14 credits over four semesters:

CRFT 5130 History and Theory I - 4 credits

CRFT 5230 History and Theory II - 4 credits

CRFT 6130 History and Theory III - 3 credits

CRFT 6230 History and Theory IV - 3 credits

MATERIALS LAB: This course is designed to focus on applying questions about materials and materiality through observation, analysis, and presentation of concepts in a range of formats (writing, audio guides, podcasts, zines, etc.). Materials Lab I and II shifts thematically with each instructor, and may focus on developing a variety of skills to convey research and observations through writing, examine topics connected to craft such as the environment and sustainability, or build object analysis skills.

Materials Lab III and IV expands writing and observational skills to applied learning contexts, such as site analysis, audio guides, student-led publication, and symposium content development. The course is designed to introduce a wide variety of ideas and ways of presenting them from short-form essays to journalistic texts, films to long-form essays and opportunities for object analysis. Materials Lab III and IV continue to develop students' analytical skills in connecting how craft materials and materiality are examined and communicated through multiple platforms and models, culminating in a group project to demonstrate experiential learning and collaborative work towards representing concepts in a physical form; this student-led and faculty-guided project might be a publication, exhibition, symposium or other form. Attention is paid to ensure that sources and discussions include diverse sources from within and outside of academia.

The reduced load of Materials Lab III and IV (3cr each) is structured to accommodate revisions of final Practicum Projects and completion of student-led publication/symposium.

Total 14 credits over four semesters:

CRFT 5140 Materials Lab I - 4 credits

CRFT 5240 Materials Lab II - 4 credits

CRFT 6140 Materials Lab III - 3 credits

CRFT 6240 Materials Lab IV - 3 credits

RESEARCH METHODS LAB: This course introduces students to a range of research methods, from historical analysis through examination of archival documents to developing and conducting research interviews, data analysis drawn from design anthropology to public pedagogy through Wikipedia and social media platforms. Through individual and group projects, Research Methods Lab I and II offer a combination of textual analysis skill development with applied learning experience developing, conducting, and analyzing research interviews. Research Methods 2 is structured to prepare students for year 2, when they will complete their Practicum Projects.

Research Methods III and IV continue the focus on applied learning through group projects that may include: Wikipedia entries to expand craft knowledge online; analysis of decades of a single craft publication; exploration of social media platforms as tools to convey history and theory; data tracking and analysis; and learning to develop and clearly articulate research methods and strategies employed in their own research and projects. Attention is paid to scholarship in the broadest sense — to include indigenous knowledge and diverse voices, and to recognize power structures in how research is formulated, conducted, and conveyed. Courseload shifts to support moving students through the

development of research from concept to completion. Courses begin during residencies which also include workshop faculty mini-courses.

The reduced load of Research Methods Lab III and IV (3cr each) is structured to accommodate the application of course readings and analysis to each student's Practicum Project.

Total 14 credits over four semesters:

CRFT 5150 Research Methods Lab I - 4 credits

CRFT 5250 Research Methods Lab II - 4 credits

CRFT 6150 Research Methods Lab III - 3 credits

CRFT 6250 Research Lab Methods IV - 3 credits

PRACTICUM PROJECT: The Practicum Project course offers guided space to conduct, develop, and complete a comprehensive research project. Practicum Project I focuses on different forms through which research is communicated, and offers students a chance to experiment with potential final projects. Practicum Project II offers additional time for students to independently complete and submit their final project proposal, and continues the exploration into various possible forms for a final project. Mentors work with the Director through Practicum Project I and II to help open up potential research avenues, explorations of forms, and building professional relationships. The course moves from idea to proposal through the first year, preparing students to submit their research proposal upon return in the July Residency for the second year.

Practicum Project III and IV focus on the completion of the Practicum Project. Practicum III begins in July Residency with the presentation of a Research Proposal, linked to a form that matches the project in content and scope, such as: a publication, nonfiction journalistic article, series of collection of exhibition reviews, an online or in situ exhibition, an educational website, a set of podcasts, etc. Students submit their Qualifying Draft at the end of Practicum Project III.

Practicum Project IV focuses on completion of the project, incorporating and responding to feedback from Faculty and Mentor, developing areas that need attention, and finishing the project for submission in April.

Practicum Project V focuses on the sharing of research and presentation of learning in multiple forms: a formal presentation, discussion through a Q+A, or participation in a public symposium (planned for every other year; funding contingent). Final presentations are shared with currently enrolled students as well as friends, family, and leaders in craft and craft-adjacent fields as a way to model teaching through what one has learned.

As part of the Practicum grade, every student is required to compile a portfolio of all assigned work completed for the program. See Addendum II for details.

One course credit for CRFT 5160 (3cr) and CRFT 5260 (3cr) includes ongoing research guidance and applied learning engagement with a mentor external to the program. One course credit for CRFT 6160 (5cr) and CRFT 6260 (5cr) includes working with a mentor on completion of the Practicum Project.

Credit hours per semester are adjusted as the program progresses to accommodate students' need for analysis and communication development.

Total 18 credits over four semesters plus final residency:

CRFT 5160 Practicum Project I - 3 credits

CRFT 5260 Practicum Project II - 3 credits

CRFT 6160 Practicum Project III - 5 credits

CRFT 6260 Practicum Project IV - 5 credits

CRFT 6300 Practicum Project V Presentation - 2 credits