ARTS INSTITUTE

The Stanford Arts Institute offers interdisciplinary arts curricula and research programs, drawing on the wide-ranging intellectual resources of Stanford University. The Institute forges arts connections across the University; presents arts events; incubates new arts projects; and supports artists and cultural groups across campus. Since its founding in 2006, the Stanford Arts Institute has been a catalyst helping the Stanford arts community to grow, experiment, and advance art thinking and making.

Courses offered by the Stanford Arts Institute are listed under the subject code ARTSINST (http://explorecourses.stanford.edu/search?q=ARTSINST&view=catalog&pageSize=0&academicYear=&collapse=&filter-departmentCode=ARTSINST=on&filter-courseStatus=Active=on&filter-catalognumber-ARTSINST=on on the Stanford Bulletin’s ExploreCourses web site.

Honors in the Arts

Web site: https://arts.stanford.edu/for-students/academics/honors-in-the-arts/

Information concerning the 2020-21 program will be available on February 14, 2020.

The Stanford Arts Institute offers an interdisciplinary Honors in the Arts program, for interested undergraduates in any major. The program supports collaborative or individual projects that combine the critical and creative imaginations. Projects must be completed in one year. All students will work with mentors and also participate in a weekly workshop.

Honors in the Arts can be completed in addition to honors work in a student’s home department or alongside another capstone program, such as the Senior Reflection in Biology (http://web.stanford.edu/~suemcc/TSR).

Admission

Students must have an overall GPA of 3.4 or higher. Students with demonstrated strengths relevant to the program may petition the GPA requirement at the time of application.

To qualify for admission, students must identify three courses, at least two of which must be completed by the end of the third year, that have provided the necessary foundation for the capstone project. The Creativity Course Guide (https://arts.stanford.edu/for-students/creativity-course-guide) and the Interdisciplinary Course Guide (https://arts.stanford.edu/for-students/interdisciplinary-course-guide) include courses that provide an introduction to the study of the arts disciplines as well as incorporating the arts in an interdisciplinary context.

How to Apply

Admission to the program is competitive. Students apply for entry into the program during the Spring Quarter of their junior year.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Stanford senior during the academic year following the Spring Quarter application.
- A minimum overall GPA of 3.4 is normally required. However, applicants can submit a GPA petition if needed.
- Completion of previous courses and/or creative projects that have prepared the student to execute an interdisciplinary capstone project.

Application materials include:

- Honors project proposal which addresses the following:
  a. the concept for the interdisciplinary capstone project or research
  b. a description of the student’s background in the disciplines to be drawn upon for the project
  c. why the project cannot be completed in your major department
  d. a statement of the relevance of Honors in the Arts to the student’s education both at Stanford and beyond
- Unofficial transcript
- A completed Faculty Reference Form (provided in the application)
- Portfolio of relevant work. The details for the portfolio vary depending on a student’s main medium of expression. If the following limits present a significant obstacle, please contact Devin Garnick (dgarnick@stanford.edu):
  • Creative writers should submit work that best exemplifies their strengths as a writer. Most writers submit about 12 pages of prose, 5-7 poems, or a short scene from a play, depending on the proposed project.
  • Artists working in visual, audio, or other forms of visual or digital media should submit work that most exemplifies their strengths in the relevant form. The committee accepts the following: up to 5 images (compiled in a single pdf file), 5 minutes of video or audio, pdfs, and linked external media (such as YouTube, Vimeo, and SoundCloud).

See the Honors in the Arts website (https://arts.stanford.edu/for-students/academics/capstone-in-the-arts) for additional information on applying to the program.

Preparation for Honors in the Arts

To qualify for admission, students must identify three courses, at least two of which must be completed by the end of the third year, that have provided the necessary foundation for the capstone project. The Creativity Course Guide (https://arts.stanford.edu/for-students/creativity-course-guide) and the Interdisciplinary Course Guide (https://arts.stanford.edu/for-students/interdisciplinary-course-guide) include courses that provide an introduction to the study of the arts disciplines as well as incorporating the arts in an interdisciplinary context.

Requirements

Students admitted to the program are required to take the following sequence of courses (6 units total) during their senior year:

- Autumn Quarter, Senior Year: ARTSINST 200A Capstone in the Arts Workshop (2 units)
- Winter Quarter, Senior Year: ARTSINST 200B Capstone in the Arts Workshop (2 units)
- Spring Quarter, Senior Year: ARTSINST 200C Capstone in the Arts Workshop (2 units)

In addition to the above courses, students admitted to the program are required to take the following courses or actions prior to their senior year:

- Prior to Spring Quarter, junior year: Two preparatory courses for interdisciplinary study, 4-8 units
- Prior to Spring Quarter, junior year, or concurrent with Autumn Quarter of senior year: One further preparatory course for interdisciplinary study, 2-4 units
- Spring Quarter, junior year: Apply for admission to Honors in the Arts
- Spring Quarter, junior year: Confirm preparatory courses with honors program director

Each Spring, students present their honors projects during a public symposium.
Honors Projects

All accepted projects are eligible for modest financial support for materials needed to complete the project.

Through a yearlong process, students develop a capstone project that goes beyond the traditional boundaries of their major.

- Honors projects are typically creative projects involving an arts practice element. Honors projects may also be scholarly research projects involving a multidisciplinary approach.
- Students can apply with an individual or team-based project. For team-based projects (2-5 students per team), applicants must delineate what expertise each student brings to the project.
- Students must receive at least an ‘A’ on the capstone project. Students who receive a grade of less than an ‘A’ but greater than ‘NP’ receive credit for the workshops but do not receive honors.
- Mentors: Each student works closely with a graduate student mentor or a lecturer to develop and shape the capstone project. Students in the program are responsible for setting up regular meetings with their mentor throughout the academic year. The workshop class also allows for weekly progress reports and strategies for advancing the work.

Requirements and further information can be found here on the Honors in the Arts (https://arts.stanford.edu/for-students/academics/honors-in-the-arts) website.

Arts Immersions

New York City Arts Immersion


Students travel with Stanford faculty and Arts Institute staff for a weeklong engagement with the arts, meeting institutional leaders, policy makers, and arts practitioners. On past trips, students have visited museums, galleries, concert halls; have seen dance rehearsals, opera, and a Broadway show; and they have had the chance to meet with alumni in the arts. In the Spring Quarter class ARTSINST 11Q Art in the Metropolis, students revisit their immersion experience by reading critical literature and participating in rigorous discussion.

See the Arts Immersion (https://arts.stanford.edu/for-students/academics/arts-immersion) web site and subscribe to the Arts Update (https://arts.stanford.edu/for-students/artsupdate) for information about upcoming information sessions in Autumn 2019.

Admission

Applications are welcomed from all undergraduate class years. Before applying, students should be aware that they must enroll in and attend the Spring Quarter course: ARTSINST 11Q/TAPS 11Q Art in the Metropolis.

Venice Arts Immersion

In collaboration with the Bing Overseas Program, the Stanford Arts Institute offers an Arts Immersion trip to Venice, Italy to visit the 58th Venice Biennale September 5-17, 2019. Special attention will be paid to key issues in contemporary art, including globalization, the role of exhibitions and the art market, and the relationship between art and its immediate historical context. One of the primary aims of this course is to place the work on display at the Biennale in conversation with the rich art historical legacy of the city of Venice. To this end, students will explore issues of migration, cultural exchange, and labor in sites including the Peggy Guggenheim Foundation, the Arena Chapel in Padua, the Jewish Quarter, and the Doge’s Palace.

Creative Cities

Building on a three-year postdoc fellowship program during 2016-2019, the Creative Cities Working Group examines the complex life of art in cities. The Working Group engages a broad array of Bay Area writers, thinkers, artists, and curators who are engaging critical thought at the nexus of art and urban life. Seeking to advance and understand the historical and future roles of art in cities, our project fosters research, conversation, and artistic projects in urban life. Using the city as the stage for inquiry, the project examines how art helps and hinders developments in the urban sphere, creative economies, urban studies, the built environment, and more. Please check the Creative Cities website (https://arts.stanford.edu/arts-institute/creative-cities) for current information about the Creative Cities Working Group, guest speakers, and other programming.

Artist in Residence

Stanford Arts Institute routinely hosts Artists in Residence. Please check our website (https://arts.stanford.edu/arts-institute) for current information about courses and programming related to visiting artists.

Interim Chair: Jisha Menon

Director of Undergraduate Studies: Jisha Menon