Theatre and Visual Arts

Theatre
The Fordham Theatre Program trains emerging artists to develop their process through mentored exploration in performance, directing, design and production, and playwriting. The best way to learn is by doing, so our experiential curriculum includes 20 studio and four mainstage productions a year. It encompasses classical and experimental work, and is taught by a faculty with diverse aesthetics. Artistic freedom is crucial, so we give students agency; our studio season is created and run completely by students. Process is primary; a result is only a point in time in a continuous process. Collaboration is the keystone of the art of theatre; therefore, the first course for all our theatre majors is a year long class in collaboration. Merging the professional world with our training means that we coproduce on our MainStage with leading New York City theatre companies. Graduates of the Fordham Theatre Program are skilled, flexible, and empowered to meet the demands of our dynamic, evolving field. Ignite your vision. Begin your practice.

Visual Arts
The study of visual arts provides students with technical knowledge and skills as well as a critical and historical understanding of the field. The visual arts at Fordham are open to all students and are taught within the context of a liberal arts education. Students are given a knowledge base particularly suitable to today’s visually oriented world and job market. Classes are small, with considerable one-on-one contact with the instructor. Critique is emphasized in all classes, and students are given the resources to develop and take full advantage of their creativity. Engagement in New York City’s culture, museum and gallery tours, studio visits, and visiting artist lectures are an integral part of each concentration’s curriculum. In addition, students are encouraged to explore on their own and to take advantage of all that New York City has to offer as the arts capital of the country. There is an opportunity for senior thesis projects, study abroad, internships, and tutorials in each area of concentration.

Architecture and Theatre Design
To prepare students for careers in construction and theatre industries, major students in Visual Arts (Architecture) and Theatre (Design and Production) share drawing and 3-D design foundation courses, and are encouraged to sample a wide range of specialized upper-level offerings across the full breadth of the design disciplines. Advisement is especially crucial in these programs, so that the students’ needs and capabilities are best matched by course selections and sequences both in these majors and in the core.

Pre-Architecture Program
Fordham’s pre-architecture program is designed to prepare students for professional training in architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, historic preservation, urban and regional planning, and urban design. Most graduate schools do not specify a particular major for admission, but a concentration in architecture within a visual arts major is generally recognized as an appropriate and useful preparation for all the environmental design professions. At Lincoln Center, architecture students share foundation and elective courses with the theatre design students. At Rose Hill, certain minor programs may be of special interest to pre-architecture students, for example engineering physics and business administration. Pre-architecture, an introduction to the environmental design professions, is available as a visual arts major or art history major, but also as a visual arts minor in association with majors in environmental policy, urban studies, or engineering physics.

For graduate school application advice and admission requirements please refer to the Pre-Architecture section of this Bulletin. For students who plan to work immediately after graduation, this concentration will support careers in real estate, construction and community development. Students leave the program with highly sought skills in computer-aided drafting and design (CAD).

Program Activities

Ildiko Butler and Lipani Galleries
The Ildiko Butler and Lipani Galleries are maintained by the faculty for professional and student art exhibitions. Gallery director: Stephan Apicella-Hitchcock. Visit the Fordham University Galleries for more information.

Honors in Visual Arts
To graduate with honors, a visual arts student must complete and exhibit a senior thesis project. Majors wishing to have a senior exhibition must submit an application to Junior Review in the spring of their junior year. After Junior Review, students approved for a senior exhibition will work with an adviser and will be admitted to VART 4600 Senior Seminar: Studio Art in the fall of their final year. Students who do not qualify for admission to Senior Seminar may, with instructor and departmental approval, still complete a senior thesis and/or a portfolio.

Visual Arts Awards
Up to three Ildiko Butler Travel Awards are given annually for independent research in the medium of photography. A travel award and a visual arts award are given in honor of Susan Lipani. The travel awards are offered to juniors for summer study abroad prior to senior year. A portfolio award in honor of James Storey is offered to a senior whose work over her or his years at Fordham has shown evidence of exemplary talent and potential.

Junior Review
In the spring of their junior year, visual arts majors wishing to do a seminar thesis will submit a portfolio of their work for faculty review. The purpose of this review is to determine admission to the VART 4600 Senior Seminar: Studio Art. A subsequent review in the following fall will determine if a student will receive a senior exhibition.

For more information
Visit the Theatre program web page
Visit the Visual Arts department web page
Visit the Pre-Architecture Program web page

Contribution to the Core
The Department of Theatre and Visual Arts contributes VART 1101 Urbanism and THEA 1100 Invitation to Theatre as courses to fulfill the fine arts requirement. VART 4300 Representation in Art is recommended for visual arts majors to satisfy their Values Seminar/EP4 requirement, but it is not required. It does not count as an elective toward the visual arts major.

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Programs

- Art History and Visual Arts Double Major
- Theatre Major
- Theatre Minor
- Visual Arts Major
- Visual Arts Minor