

2015

The Integrative Arts Program:
Application Guide
University Park



Application Guide

The Pennsylvania State University
College of Arts and Architecture
Integrative Arts Program

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The Integrative Arts Program (University Park)



The images shown above are details of art works created by Integrative Arts students T. Davies, J. Cardell, A. Bosley, and R. Bronaugh, respectively.

What is Integrative Arts?

The Integrative Arts Program at University Park (INART) is a multidisciplinary, student-designed degree program that leads exclusively to a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Integrative Arts. Students who major in Integrative Arts focus their programs of study on vocational, scholarly, or creative interests in the arts and design that exist outside or across the boundaries of existing majors in the College of Arts and Architecture at Penn State.

The Integrative Arts Program is specifically designed to encourage and to provide students with the broadest opportunities to explore unique and unexpected creative, intellectual, and vocational pathways. The Integrative Arts Program is dedicated to helping its students acquire the unique intellectual and creative tools they will need to achieve their individual career goals and creative aspirations.

Integrative Arts students identify a unique course of study for their degree program that may focus on a particular topic, creative path, or a unique career goal in the arts. In consultation with an adviser, students devise an individualized academic plan that will best help them to explore and to investigate their chosen theme and to do so by combining study in two or more arts areas with explorations in other subject areas such as science, engineering, business, or communications.

The Integrative Arts Program encourages students to engage in career-related internships, self-directed research projects, as well as independent study courses. Such opportunities for hands-on work and research experience add extra levels of enrichment to a student's academic program and assist the student in further defining his or her creative and career goals.

The Mission of the Integrative Arts Program

The Mission of the Integrative Arts Degree Program is to prepare undergraduate students to work successfully as innovative and dynamic artists, designers, and performers in an increasingly interdisciplinary world. The Integrative Arts Program provides opportunities for students to pursue intellectual and creative pursuits that require exploration and study beyond the boundaries of traditional arts majors through the integration of focused study and related experiences in a primary area in the arts or design as well as in supporting arts and design areas, and, when appropriate to the student's goals, integration of study outside the arts. As such, the Program serves as a

foundation for undergraduate students to develop an individualized, comprehensive educational plan that provides for intellectual study and creative experiences that lie outside the framework of traditional disciplinary majors offered by the College of Arts and Architecture.

The Integrative Arts Program Core Values

In support of its Mission, the Core Values of the Integrative Arts Program are that the Program will:

- **Provide an Innovative and Responsive Education for Students.** The Integrative Arts program strives to create and sustain a responsive and flexible educational framework that supports the evolving academic and creative needs of our students.
- **Encourage Crossing Intellectual and Creative Boundaries.** The Integrative Arts Program recognizes the interdisciplinary construction of knowledge and supports intellectual and creative inquiry and exploration that encourages students to build bridges of discovery and understanding among the arts and with disciplines that lie outside the arts and design.
- **Foster Intellectual Inquiry and Creative Risk Taking.** The Integrative Arts Program is committed to fostering and encouraging responsible scholarship and creative risk taking so that our students are prepared to be innovative thinkers and makers in a diverse and inter-related world.
- **Support Social and Cultural Engagement.** The Integrative Arts Program believes in the essential role of art and design in the cultural and intellectual life of every society and supports the development of our students as creative and involved members of regional, national, and global communities.

Program Goals and Educational Objectives

The Integrative Arts Program is committed to the preparation of graduates for careers in which they will use their creative and intellectual skills and knowledge to create, perform, design, communicate, and innovate across disciplinary boundaries within the arts and design as well as in disciplines that lie outside the arts. This commitment is exemplified by Program Goals (PG) and Educational Objectives (EO) that are designed to ensure students will acquire and employ knowledge and skills that blend multiple creative, academic, and practical avenues of study and application in ways that prepare them to work and create in an increasingly complex and multidisciplinary world.

Program Goals

The Integrative Arts Program Goals (PG) identify in broadly defined statements the ways that graduates will be prepared to enter into a multi- or inter-disciplinary professional world. Upon graduation, it is expected that Integrative Arts students will:

1. Have learned the theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary for entering careers that blend multiple forms of art, performance, or design.
2. Have acquired hands-on, experiential knowledge for creating, performing, designing, and innovating in a multidisciplinary world.
3. Have developed the skills and knowledge needed to create and to evaluate complex interdisciplinary artistic and/or design products for regional, national, and international audiences and markets.
4. Have acquired in-depth understandings of the market, challenges, and opportunities for a career in the arts.
5. Be prepared to recognize, understand, and assess the social and cultural implications of their work so that they are able to work ethically and responsibly as members of regional, national, and international communities.



Educational Objectives

The Educational Objectives (EO) of the Integrative Arts program build upon the Program Goals and more specifically describe what Integrative Arts students are expected to know and be able to do by the time of graduation. The Educational Objectives listed below identify how each objective relates to the more broadly defined Program Goals (PG). Graduates of the Integrative Arts Program will be able to:

1. Understand, apply, and analyze art historical and aesthetic concepts related to the creation and/or design of creative works that combine multiple forms of art, design, or performance. (PG 1)
2. Identify and assess philosophies and theories relevant to careers that require knowledge and understanding of multiple forms of arts and/or design. (PG 1 and PG 3)
3. Demonstrate mastery of tools and practices used in the creation of art, design, and performance works in contexts related to the student's particular area of concentration. (PG 2 and PG 3)
4. Create original, compelling works of art, design, or performance in contexts related to the student's particular area of concentration and which reflect the integration of multiple forms of art, performance, or design. (PG 2 and PG 3)
5. Synthesize and evaluate creative output, contribute to critical discourse, and learn how to incorporate feedback and critique as part of the creative process. (PG 2, PG 3, and PG 4)
6. Demonstrate the ability to create complex works of art, design, or performance that combine multiple art forms in a manner relevant to individual experiences and which convey a personal visual vocabulary. (PG 2, PG 3, and PG 5)
7. Demonstrate the ability to plan and implement exhibitions or presentations of creative work from conceptualization through promotion, preparation, and physical installation and/or performance and to present that work to diverse audiences. (PG 3, PG 4, and PG 5)



Who Should Consider Applying to the Integrative Arts Major?

In order to be successful as an Integrative Arts major, you should be able to answer “Yes!” to the following:

- I am passionate about several areas in the arts and am committed to finding a way to bring them together in my studies and future career.
- I have investigated the other majors in the College of Arts and Architecture and found that none of them will really prepare me for what I want to do in the arts.
- I understand and am willing to make the commitment of time and effort required to design and complete my own academic plan and to do so in a clear and coherent manner.

If your response to these statements is “Yes!,” then Integrative Arts may be the major for you.

The Integrative Arts Major Is Not for Everyone

Integrative Arts is not designed to accommodate students who have been unsuccessful at meeting their academic goals in another major. Similarly, Integrative Arts is not designed to provide a major for students who have accumulated many credits and wish to use them most efficiently as a means to simply graduate with a baccalaureate degree. As an Integrative Arts student, you are required to think about your goals and plan more thoroughly and thoughtfully than you would in many other majors. Since the Integrative Arts major is not composed of prescribed coursework, you must plan several semesters of coursework for yourself around a theme

you choose, and you will be called upon to periodically evaluate your proposed choices of coursework and adjust your plan accordingly. You may have to revise your initial plan because of the availability of courses, or your understanding of your theme or your specific vocational goals may shift as you progress through the major. Unless you are prepared to assume these responsibilities, you should not consider entering the Integrative Arts major.

What Are the Program Requirements in Integrative Arts?

To earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Integrative Arts, a minimum of 120 credits is required in the following areas:

GENERAL EDUCATION: 45 credits (for additional information, refer to the description of General Education in the University Bulletin at: <http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergrad/generaleducation/>)

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: 24 credits

NOTE: Three of these 24 credits are included in the REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR, GENERAL EDUCATION, or ELECTIVES and 0-12 credits are included in ELECTIVES if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR: 42 credits

(This includes 6 credits of General Education courses: 6 credits of GA)

SUPPORTING COURSES AND RELATED AREAS: 42 credits*

(Must include at least 15 credits at the 400 or equivalent level)

(Must include 6 credits in History of the Arts)

Select 24 credits from Primary Focus (Arts Area I) (Sem: 1- 8)

Select 18 credits from Supporting Arts (Arts Area II) (Sem: 1- 8) including 6 credits of GA (Sem: 1- 8)

ELECTIVES: 15 credits

FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR (credits vary): (Included in ELECTIVES or GENERAL EDUCATION course selection)

UNITED STATES CULTURES AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURES (6 credits): (Included in ELECTIVES, GENERAL EDUCATION course selection, or REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR)

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM (3 credits): (Included in REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR)

* A student enrolled in this major must receive a grade of C or better in these courses, as specified in Senate Policy 82-44.

Learning More about the Integrative Arts Program

Individuals interested in learning more about the Integrative Arts Program may wish visit the Integrative Arts website at:

- <http://artsandarchitecture.psu.edu/inart>

A link to the complete “How to Apply to the Integrative Arts Program” guide is available at the Program website as well as additional links to guides for the following:

- How to apply to the College of Arts and Architecture;
- A Quick-start Guide for Academic Planning
- A suggested “Academic Plan” for the Integrative Arts degree;
- How to apply for earning credit for an Integrative Arts internship



(INART 295 or INART 495);

- How to develop and apply for credits for completing an independent study project (INART 296 or INART 496); and
- Planning a career in “Expressive Arts Therapies.”

How to Contact the Integrative Arts Program

Individuals are also welcome to contact the Integrative Arts Office to speak with our office staff or to arrange an in-person visit.

Office Location

The Integrative Arts Program is located in 104 Borland Building, University Park, PA 16802.

Office Hours

During the regular academic year (September – April), the Integrative Arts Office is open during the following hours:

Monday / Tuesday: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Wednesday / Thursday: 8:00 AM – NOON
Friday: Closed

During the summer season (May – August), the Integrative Arts Office is open on a limited basis. Telephone and E-mail messages are, however, retrieved and responded to on a regular basis. Please visit the Integrative Arts website (<http://artsandarchitecture.psu.edu/inart>) for the link to the Office’s “Summer Hours” schedule.

Telephone, Fax or E-mail

Please use the information below to contact us directly by phone or E-mail:

Telephone: (814) 865-1750
Fax: (814) 865-7140
Email: jhartranft@psu.edu

The Application Procedure

The application procedure for admission to Integrative Arts is designed to help you decide if the major is right for you, make sure that you understand the major and its requirements, and have a clear idea of the effect that choosing Integrative Arts as your major will have on your undergraduate career. It will also help us decide if Integrative Arts is the “right fit” for your interests and allow us to direct you to other options if it is not. In order to do this you must have a clear sense of what you want to do and be able to articulate your interests, plans, and goals in a formal written proposal. It is, obviously, important that you take time and give careful consideration to this proposal.



Key points to Remember as Your Prepare Your Application

You are undertaking a significant responsibility by choosing Integrative Arts as your major. In most academic majors, it is the department’s faculty that chooses courses they believe will best develop students’ competency in a discipline. As an Integrative Arts major, however, you are required to investigate courses and design an individualized program for yourself that reflects academic integrity worthy of a Bachelor of Arts degree.

You must propose to investigate and study a theme or concept from the viewpoint of at least two different arts areas. In addition, consider the following:

- In designing your program, you may not attempt to duplicate existing majors at Penn State.
- Completion of the proposal in a timely fashion is your responsibility, not your adviser's.
- Be sure to allow ample time for drafts, review, and revision.

Step One: Compose a one-page *Admission Request* Letter

In your letter, identify your current semester standing, the major in which you are currently enrolled, and the reason(s) you are considering the Integrative Arts program. Also, provide a description of the area(s) of study you hope to pursue in Integrative Arts and list some potential courses offered at Penn State that would allow you to accomplish this goal. If you are transferring from another institution, please indicate the semester in which you intend to begin your studies at University Park. Finally, make sure you include your current contact information: your name, address, telephone number, and an E-mail address. "Admission Request" letters must be received by the Program at least two weeks prior to the deadline for the formal Application Materials.

Mail the completed ***Admission Request*** letter to:

Integrative Arts Program Coordinator
104 Borland Building
University Park, PA 16802

Or, if you prefer, send the ***Admission Request*** letter in .doc/docx or PDF file format as an attachment to an E-mail message to the Integrative Arts Program Coordinator at:

jhartranft@psu.edu

If sending your request by E-mail, please place "Integrative Arts Admission Request" in the subject header of the E-mail message.

Once the ***Admission Request*** letter is received, an Integrative Arts staff assistant will contact you to arrange an appointment for you to meet with the Integrative Arts Program Coordinator to review your request and to help you in preparing a formal proposal for admission into the Integrative Arts major.

Step Two: Prepare and Submit a Formal Proposal for Admission to the Integrative Arts Major

To be eligible to enter the Integrative Arts major, you must submit a formal written proposal no later than November 15 (for admission for Spring Semester) and March 30 (or admission for Summer or Fall Semester). The ***Formal Proposal for Admission*** will be reviewed by the Integrative Arts Program Coordinator who will notify you when your proposal has been approved. Once your proposal is approved, you will then be permitted to formally enter the Integrative Arts Program. Proposals that are rejected may be resubmitted but will generally not be considered until the following semester's review.

The ***Formal Proposal for Admission*** is required to include the following five (5) components:

1. A Written Statement

The written essay statement should explain your reasons for seeking the Integrative Arts major and carefully outline the "theme" or focus of your intended program of study. The written essay statement must identify and explain the professional, scholarly, or creative goals that you wish to achieve through the major. Great care should be taken in the preparation and editing of the essay statement so that it clearly and articulately conveys your thoughts and ideas. The essay statement is the foundation of your application and must be authored completely by the student applicant. The essay should be between 500 and 1000 words in length.

2. A Course List

The course list should indicate those courses that you believe will support and advance your interests in the major. The list should indicate a clear and complete list of the coursework that you plan to explore in

your major. It's important that when preparing a course list that you pay careful attention to necessary prerequisites and the need to include 15 credits of 400 or equivalent level coursework in the major. Your course list should indicate which courses you will propose to fulfill the 24 credits required for the "Primary Arts" area and which courses you will propose to fulfill the 18 credits "Supporting Arts" area.

3. A Semester-By-Semester Plan

The semester-by-semester plan should outline how many semesters you see as being necessary to complete your degree work and what classes you intend to schedule during each of those semesters. A guideline for developing a semester-by-semester Recommended Academic Plan (RAP) can be found online at: http://artsandarchitecture.psu.edu/students/current/academic_plans/integrative_arts.

4. Evidence of Aptitude, Background, or Ability

Evidence of aptitude, background, or ability should relate specifically to your area of intended focus within the arts. Evidence of aptitude, background, or ability may be demonstrated by 1) the successful completion of coursework in an area of intended focus or 2) submission of two (2) letters of recommendations by faculty or professionals who can speak to your qualifications and potential.

The following list identifies how applicants will be required to demonstrate aptitude and ability in specific discipline areas if their intended area of focus will require enrollment in courses offered by the School of Visual Arts, School of Theatre, School of Music, or the Graphic Design Program (in the Stuckeman School). Each School and Program has specific deadlines by which submissions/auditions/performances must be submitted for review and applicants must adhere to those submission deadlines. The requirements for each area and deadlines for submission are available online at:

- For students whose area of focus will require enrollment in studio art courses offered by the School of Visual Arts, evidence of ability will be based on the student receiving a successful portfolio review by the faculty of the School. Guidelines for submitting a portfolio may be found at: <http://artsandarchitecture.psu.edu/students/howtoapply/sova>.
- For students whose area of focus will require enrollment in graphic design courses, evidence of ability will be based on the student receiving a successful review of a "Design Portfolio" submission to the Graphic Design Program (Stuckeman School). Guidelines for submitting a "Design Portfolio" may be found at: <http://stuckeman.psu.edu/gd/admissions#IA>
- For students whose area of focus will require enrollment in performance-based courses such as dance or music, evidence of ability will be based on the student receiving a successful review of auditions presented or submitted to the appropriate department (e.g., School of Music or School of Theatre). Audition requirements for the School of Music may be found at: <http://artsandarchitecture.psu.edu/students/howtoapply/music>. Audition requirements for students interested in dance classes may be found by clicking on the "Upload Required Materials to Slideroom" link at: <http://artsandarchitecture.psu.edu/howtoapply/theatre>.

5. A Current Transcript

A current transcript will provide a sense of your overall academic performance and offer some indication of your qualifications and potential for achieving your indicated goals.

Step Three: Submitting Your Proposal

The **Formal Proposal for Admission** should be sent in .doc/docx or PDF file format as an attachment to an E-mail message to the Integrative Arts Program Coordinator at the address below:

jhartranft@psu.edu

Please place "Formal Proposal for Admission" in the subject header of the E-mail message.

The Formal Proposal for Admission may also be submitted by postal mail to the address below:

Integrative Arts Program Coordinator
104 Borland Building
University Park, PA 16802

Tips for Composing the Integrative Arts Application Essay Statement¹

One of the requirements for completing the Integrative Arts application materials is the inclusion of an essay statement in which you are asked to discuss 1) the rationale for why you are applying to the Integrative Arts Program (University Park), 2) why pursuing an Integrative Arts degree is the best choice for you, and 3) how the courses you have completed and/or propose to complete will assist you in achieving your academic and creative goals. One way to think about this component of the application materials is as a personal essay in which you present your understanding and justification of the individualized program of study that you are proposing as “your” Integrative Arts degree program. Your essay statement must illustrate that your goal(s) and your plan for being prepared to accomplish that goal or goals has clarity, purpose, and cohesion.

It’s important to establish an understandable rationale for why you are interested in the Integrative Arts degree and how the degree will help you reach your goals—academically, creatively, and vocationally. You need to explain your rationale for the courses you propose to fulfill the degree requirements. Students may use various routes to justify their choices. The first is that particular courses may have a direct and obvious relationship to their workday or professional existence. The second method of justification is that there may be some coherence among the courses themselves, particularly as they relate to an interest you articulate elsewhere in your essay statement. For instance, you may combine a study of theater, finance, and management in order to prepare for advanced study in arts administration or you may correlate work in the biological sciences with a study in the visual arts in order to become a medical illustrator.



Because the Integrative Arts major allows you to design your own individual program emphasis, your career direction may be in whatever arts-related area that you desire. Graduates have embarked on careers and/or advanced study in theater administration, music publishing, historic renovation, expressive art therapies, and public education in the arts. Independent study opportunities with professors and internship experiences in a variety of cultural communities or arts and design-related fields will help you enrich your program of study and should be part of your proposal design. While these two traditional means of program justification serve useful purposes in successful Integrative Arts proposals, another way of approaching this task is to emphasize another aspect of your academic training: the development and exercise of academic skills.

Finally, as you finish the draft of your proposal, you should pay attention to mechanics, style, usage, “flow,” and other writing concerns. The Writing Tutors at the Penn State Learning centers (<http://pennstatelearning.psu.edu/>) are available to help you with these matters and will offer advice for refining your writing. Also, remember to consult your adviser to obtain specific advice for improving your proposal. After all, this essay will be kept on file in the Integrative Arts Program as a representation of YOU and the Bachelor of Arts degree you have designed and earned in Integrative Arts at University Park.

¹ This essay is adapted from an essay by Ellen A. Knodt, Professor of English and former Division Head of Arts and Humanities at Abington College and included here courtesy of the Integrative Arts Program at Abington College.

Acknowledgments

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- Ms. Lynell Morris,
- Dr. Thomas Smith, and
- Dr. Karen Weekes

Most especially, we wish to acknowledge that several sections of this guide contain language directly quoted from the Abington College guide. Those sections include:

- “The Integrative Arts Major Is Not for Everyone”
- “Preparing and Submitting a Formal Proposal for Admission to the Integrative Arts Major”

