

2018

The Integrative Arts Program  
University Park



Application Guide

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

9/10/2018

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# The Integrative Arts Program (University Park)

The Integrative Arts Program at University Park (INART) is a multidisciplinary, student-designed major that leads exclusively to a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Integrative Arts. This unique, individualized studies program is ideal for students who find that no other major offered in the College of Arts and Architecture (A&A) meets their creative and vocational goals. The successful INART candidate will have a strong understanding of what they want to study in the arts and why those goals cannot be accomplished within any other degree program within A&A.

The Integrative Arts Program gives students the opportunity to complete a Penn State degree that is unique to their intellectual and creative interests. This individualized major is for highly motivated students whose academic needs and career goals cross disciplinary boundaries. If you're an undergraduate student with creative interests or professional aspirations that encompass different areas in the arts and design, the Integrative Arts program might be the place for you. Integrative Arts encourages students to explore unique and unexpected creative, intellectual, and vocational pathways. The 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.

INART students identify a unique course of study for their degree program that may focus on a particular topic, creative path, or career goal in the arts and design. Students devise an individualized academic plan in consultation with an advisor 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 or design areas with explorations in other subjects such as science, engineering, business, or communications. The following list is a small sample of the way in which students have combined areas of study for their Integrative Arts degree plan:

- Painting, Sculpture, and Biology
- Illustrating and Writing Children's Literature
- Music Production and Arts Entrepreneurship
- Dance and Psychology
- Theatre and Communications
- Photography, Art History, and Printmaking

The Integrative Arts Program also 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.

## Program Mission

The Mission of the Integrative Arts 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.

## 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.

## Learning Outcomes

The Educational Objectives of the Integrative Arts program identify what Integrative Arts students are expected to know and be able to do by the time of graduation. Graduates of the Integrative Arts program will be able to:

- Understand, apply, and analyze art historical and aesthetic concepts related to the creation and design of creative works that combine multiple forms of art, design, or performance.
- Identify and assess philosophies and theories relevant to careers that require knowledge and understanding of multiple forms of arts and design.
- 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.
- Create original, compelling works of art, design, or performance in contexts related to the student's particular area of concentration and that reflect the integration of multiple forms of art, performance, or design.
- Synthesize and evaluate creative output, contribute to critical discourse, and learn how to incorporate feedback and critique as part of the creative process.
- 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 that convey a personal visual vocabulary.
- Demonstrate the ability to plan and implement exhibitions or presentations of creative work from conceptualization through promotion, preparation, and physical installation and performance and to present that work to diverse audiences.

## 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 Right 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 changed majors several times and accumulated random credits in unrelated disciplines bound by not coherent theme or plan.

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.

## Applying to Integrative Arts

To be eligible to enter the Integrative Arts major at University Park, you must submit a formal application proposal. The application procedure is designed to guide you through the process of 1) deciding if the major is right for you, 2) making sure you understand the major and its requirements, and 3) have developed 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. It's important that applicants have a clear sense of what they want to do and to be able to articulate their interests, plans, and goals in a formal written proposal. It is also important that applicants take time and give careful consideration to the development of the application proposal. These considerations are key to helping us decide if Integrative Arts is the "right fit" for your interests and to direct you to other options if it is not. It's important for applicants to have a clear sense of what they want to do and be able to articulate their interests, plans, and goals in a formal written proposal.

### Getting Started

The first step in the application process is to contact the Integrative Arts Office to arrange a time to meet with the Program Coordinator to discuss the Integrative Arts major and your specific goals in the arts and design. To prepare for this meeting, visit the Integrative Arts website at <http://artsandarchitecture.psu.edu/inart> and review the information there. Also, please visit the Integrative Arts information available in the Penn State Undergraduate Bulletin at <https://bulletins.psu.edu/>.

As you prepare for your meeting with the Program Coordinator, it's important consider why you believe a degree in Integrative Arts might be right for you, and in what ways the degree will allow you to accomplish your creative and professional goals.

### Key Points to Remember

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 that reflects academic integrity worthy of a Bachelor of Arts degree and which will help you meet your creative and vocational goals.

Your application proposal must convey how you will investigate and study a theme or concept from the viewpoint of at least two different arts or design 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 advisor's.
- Be sure to allow ample time for drafts, review, and revision.
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## Contacting the Integrative Arts Program

**Office Location:** 104 Borland Building, University Park, PA 16802.

### **Telephone and E-mail:**

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