Artists create the cultural icons by which civilizations are remembered. What would America’s cultural identity be without the musical contributions of George Gershwin, the exquisite desert paintings and sculpture of Georgia O’Keeffe or the lighthearted cinematic and theatrical work of Nathan Lane?

“The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without work.”
–Emile Zola, 19th Century French playwright and novelist

**Careers in Visual and Performing Arts**

The combination of creativity, communication and critical thinking skills fostered by the School of Arts and Humanities (A&H) makes this degree applicable to a variety of occupations. Graduates with degrees in visual and performing arts enjoy careers such as teaching or working in arts organizations and museum settings as commercial artists and independent artists. Some pursue graduate studies in fields such as law, medicine or the arts.

The University’s Career Center is an important resource for students pursuing postgraduate employment. Licensed counselors are available to provide strategies for mastering job interviews, writing professional cover letters and resumes and connecting with campus recruiters, among other services.

**Visual and Performing Arts at UT Dallas**

Aspiring artists can find an academic home at UT Dallas, which currently boasts more than 150 courses in music, visual arts, creative writing, film studies, dance, theatre, art history and communication. Students must successfully complete 120 hours to graduate, with 42 hours from the University’s core curriculum and 45 in the major. Students are attracted to the visual and performing arts program at UT Dallas because they can study across disciplines. Visual and performing arts majors specify their following field of study in the optional concentrations: art history, communication, film, dance, music, theatre and visual arts.

Beneficial high school preparation includes four years of English and social science, including history; two to three years of a single foreign language; and at least one year of arts curriculum.

** Marketable Skills**

UT Dallas BA in Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) graduates will understand the principles and engage in the methods of visual and performing arts disciplines represented within the curriculum. They will have developed competence in specific disciplines within VPA and be able to communicate effectively across disciplines within and outside of the arts with the following skills:

- Manage long term projects through the application of analytical, critical thinking, and creative skills to interpret creative work, solve problems, make strategic decisions, and demonstrate originality and inventiveness
- Obtain, interpret and use knowledge, facts, and evidence to engage in meaningful and relevant discourse based in principles and theories of the visual and performing arts
- Adapt effectively to new and emerging technologies
- Practice integrity and ethical behavior, act responsibly with the interests of the larger community in mind, and respond constructively to feedback
- Interact respectfully with all people and understand individuals’ differences
- Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms, and through creative practice
The School of Arts and Humanities prepares students for the changes they will face in a media-rich 21st century. By connecting the visual and performing arts with the humanities (philosophy, literature, history), students learn how to think creatively as well as critically. Faculty members, many of whom are internationally recognized scholars and performers, provide quality instruction on topics ranging from the history of the Holocaust to the world of Harry Potter.

**Degrees Offered**

*Bachelor of Arts:* History*, Latin American studies*, literature*, philosophy, visual and performing arts*

*Master of Arts:* Art history, history, history of ideas, humanities, Latin American studies, literature, visual and performing arts

*Doctor of Philosophy:* History of ideas, humanities, literature, visual and performing arts

**Minors Offered**

If your academic focus leads you elsewhere at UT Dallas, but you would still like to pursue studies in the School of Arts and Humanities, the following minors are available:

- Art history
- Asian studies
- Communication
- Creative writing
- Dance
- Film studies
- History
- Latin American studies
- Literature
- Medical and scientific humanities
- Music
- Performing arts
- Philosophy
- Spanish
- Theatre
- Visual arts

**Honors Thesis and Fast Track**

The School of Arts and Humanities honors thesis offers the opportunity for advanced creative and scholarly work and recognition. To earn A&H honors, students must graduate with:

- A minimum of 30 graded, upper-division semester credit hours at UT Dallas.
- A GPA of 3.67 in a student’s major.
- The completion of an honors thesis or project evaluated by two faculty members with a grade of at least B+.

*Exceptionally well-qualified Arts and Humanities undergraduates who meet the requirements for admission to graduate school should consider the Fast Track program, which allows them to begin work on an A&H master’s degree before graduation. Qualified seniors may take up to 12 credit hours of approved A&H graduate courses during their senior year, which will apply to their undergraduate degree plans. For more information regarding Fast Track, visit [utdallas.edu/ah/fasttrack](http://utdallas.edu/ah/fasttrack).

**Additional Facts**

Several faculty members have been awarded prestigious fellowships, including those from the Guggenheim, Fulbright, Alexander S. Onassis and Woodrow Wilson foundations. Others are recipients of the Füst Literary Award, as well as awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The school’s centers further enhance students’ educational experience by bringing the concept of globalism to campus, by bringing world events into focus through research and by encouraging innovation and creativity.

The National Science Foundation recently awarded a major grant to the school’s Center for Values in Medicine, Science and Technology to study the mentoring and education that occurs in science laboratories.

**Contact Information**

**Office of Admission and Enrollment**

800 West Campbell Road
Richardson, TX 75080-3021
Phone: 972-883-2270 or 1-800-889-2443
Email: interest@utdallas.edu
Website: utdallas.edu/enroll

**AH Advising**

School of Arts and Humanities
800 West Campbell Road, JO31
Richardson, TX 75080-3021
Phone: 972-883-2759 or 972-883-2980
E-mail: AHadvising@utdallas.edu
Website: ah.utdallas.edu

800 W Campbell Rd, Richardson, TX 75080
[www.utdallas.edu](http://www.utdallas.edu)