

St. Ambrose art students can explore programs in graphic design, painting, book arts, and art education. Each of the four disciplines allows for a high degree of personal exploration and creativity. We'll find a way to craft your degree so that it incorporates topics you are passionate about. If you are career-driven or anticipate post-graduate studies, our program provides aspiring artists, designers, and educators unique opportunities to excel at what you love.

Passion and enthusiasm. We are a small department that puts out BIG quality in terms of student work and classroom instruction. Our faculty and staff are highly skilled technicians and talented artists with a strong record of exhibition. The passion and enthusiasm in this department is contagious, and is reflected in students' work and attitudes. Our program is rigorous yet nurturing. Our excellent faculty are devoted to making learning exciting and challenging, and aid students as they move into the working world. Our students have a strong track record of job placement and acceptance into graduate school.

Strong and original portfolios. Opportunities are provided for internships at museums, design firms, galleries and other locations. Art students have many venues in which to exhibit their work, including the opportunity for a senior show. Upper level painters enjoy private studios and our graduates have strong and original portfolios that stand out in the job market and graduate school.

Ambrose Advantages

Bridges of support and collaboration. Small class sizes allow greater opportunity for meaningful interaction with the instructor. The programs are open and cross-disciplinary; painters mingle with graphic designers and vice-versa—there are no “barriers” between majors, only bridges of support and collaboration. We provide opportunities for students to create art for their portfolios and gain experience for their résumés. Some examples are: Art Club, Art Portfolio Day, *Quercus* (a student-run creative arts journal), our senior honors program, and internships.

Opportunities and an original voice. First-year students can be part of an art-focused learning community—Introduction to Creative Arts: Text as Image, Image as Text. During the first year of an art student's studies, emphasis is on mastery of basic drawing and hand skills, problem-solving, writing and learning relevant and accurate research. In subsequent semesters, students synthesize their influences and establish an original voice.

A multi-media environment. We are one of a small number of schools in the country that offers an undergraduate degree in book arts—an excellent concentration for artists desiring a multi-media environment and who have a flair for diverse materials.



Printmaking, papermaking, unusual and standard binding techniques, computer applications, drawing, painting and design all convene in the book. Our studio consists of 8 presses, a bindery, over 100 drawers of wood and lead type, a papermaking room, ample workspace and storage, and multiple exposure units.

We value students and their development. We excel at one-on-one interaction, and that applies to everything from learning the technical aspects of a new computer program to mixing paint to create a specific color. In the arts, one learns by seeing, listening, doing and—it must be said—making mistakes. A significant habit of our faculty is to spend time outside of the formal class structure with our students. We value their artistic, intellectual and social development and academic advising is an integral part of this mentoring relationship. We help students create a workable schedule, encourage the ongoing creation of an original portfolio and discuss internships, graduate school options, jobs and exhibition opportunities.

Career Opportunities

Art students can be the creative and visual voice for many areas of the working world. Aside from the expected **art teacher**, **graphic designer** or **fine artist/craftsperson**, occupations range from **gallery director**, **curator**, **marketing assistant**, **visual communications specialist**, **production artist**, **illustrator**, **museum educator**, **museum preparator**, **photojournalist**, **research assistant**, **public relations coordinator**, **design assistant**, **web designer**, **project coordinator**, **typographer**, **book production artist**, **sign painter**, **media designer**, **printer**—and that’s just the start!

Career Outlook

- > The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the job market for graphic artists to increase by 17,400 jobs through 2022.
- > Art directors earned a median salary of \$80,880 in 2012. The market for art director jobs is projected to grow by 2,200 through 2022, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- > The median salary for multimedia artists and animators was \$61,500 in 2012. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projected an additional 4,300 jobs through 2022.

Alumni Success Stories

- > Brittney Allen (SAU 2014) interviewed for a summer internship at Lynco Products. They were so captivated by her work that they created a full-time position for her.
- > Heather Behrens (SAU 2010), a graphic design, book arts, and marketing triple major, is the creative design and marketing coordinator for Genesis Health Systems, and also runs her own very successful freelance design business. Her employment grew out of a design internship with Genesis.
- > After receiving her painting degree, Lauren Connolly (SAU 2009) earned a master’s in museum studies. Today, she is the membership coordinator at the Science Museum of Minnesota. She says she finds herself using skills she learned at St. Ambrose every day.
- > Kim Mahar was so inspired by her book arts studies that she went directly on to a highly competitive book arts graduate program. She has shown in galleries across the country and recently earned her MFA in book arts.
- > Munir Sayegh (SAU 2011), a graphic design and marketing double major, received a post-graduate Fulbright Scholarship to study Arabic calligraphy and typography in Egypt. He credits the art department for providing the foundation in calligraphy that allowed him to fully explore the world of letterforms, both hand-generated and digital.

Where Some of Our Graduates Work

A few of the organizations that employ St. Ambrose art graduates:

- > Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill., preparator and registrar
- > Erie (Illinois) Community School District, art specialist
- > North Scott Community Schools, teacher
- > Genesis Health, graphic designer
- > Jeff Koons Studio New York, studio assistant

Your Career: Networking, Internships and Jobs in the Quad Cities

The Quad Cities is a welcoming and fun place to live as a college student. More than that, it offers a great community to help you prepare for—or even start—your career.

Quad City Arts, a local arts consortium, makes art and the fine arts accessible to thousands with its Visiting Artist program and through its gallery and showcases of works by regional artists. The Figge Museum of Art, housed in a stunning facility designed by London-based architect David Chipperfield, has an extensive permanent collection featuring American, European, Mexican colonial and Haitian art. The local arts community also hosts a Beaux Arts Fair and the Riverssance Festival of Fine Arts.

These are just a few of the organizations that contribute to the Quad Cities’ reputation as a center for the arts, and provide exceptional opportunities for networking, internships and jobs.

Get in Touch With Us Today

We invite you to visit St. Ambrose to learn more about the opportunities here. Our quality academic programs provide one of the best private education values in the Midwest. Check it out for yourself: contact our Admissions Office, 563/333-6300 (toll-free 800/383-2627) or admit@sau.edu, or go online to www.sau.edu.

St. Ambrose University offers a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design, Bachelor of Arts in Painting, Bachelor of Arts in Book Arts, and a Bachelor of Arts in Art Education Teaching (K–12). Minors also are offered in Art and Book Arts. For complete curriculum information and course descriptions, consult the Course Catalog at www.sau.edu/catalog.