

Nova Southeastern University Visual Arts Portfolio Review Process

All NSU art majors may apply for a visual arts grant by submitting a portfolio in addition to supporting materials, detailed below. The grant program is designed to identify and to cultivate emerging professional visual artists. We wish to nurture original creative thinkers and capable artists. Selected students are expected to be effective visual and verbal communicators, committed problem-solvers, respectful colleagues, and scholars who are aware of their historical and contemporary context.

You should choose your portfolio material to show that you have the talent, skill, and commitment to be a grant recipient. Your portfolio should reflect your interest and abilities in studio art and/or graphic design as well as display a developing aesthetic.

In evaluating the portfolio and the other application material, the faculty will evaluate your suitability for the grant by using the checklist at the end of this document. If your overall level of accomplishment in all of these areas is unsatisfactory, you will not be considered to receive a Visual Arts grant.

Prospective and returning students have to bring the portfolio, description sheet, statement and visual arts grant application to the department on designated days. Although portfolios will be reviewed with the utmost care, Nova Southeastern University and the Division of Performing and Visual Arts bears no responsibility for any damage caused during the review process. Once the review is completed, pick the portfolio up promptly by the schedule provided. Portfolios will not be stored after that period. After this period of time, the Division of Performing and Visual Arts has no responsibility for this work and it may be discarded.

Please Note: Visual arts grants are available to art majors only. Grant recipients must declare art as their primary major before funding will be awarded.

Contents of the Portfolio

The portfolio should include 15 to 20 pieces, comprised of projects from the following areas:

Two-Dimensional Design, Three-Dimensional Design, Drawing, Figure Drawing, Color Fundamentals, Graphic Design, Digital Photography, Illustration, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Printmaking

If you have questions about what is appropriate for the portfolio, please contact Visual Arts faculty members, Studio Art: Barbara Ryan (br360@nova.edu) or Graphic Design: Tennille Shuster (ts756@nova.edu).

How to Construct the Portfolio

Craftsmanship and presentation are important in the portfolio.

I. Select/Create and Label the Portfolio

You should use a standard style of portfolio, preferably 24" x 36." Be sure that it is the correct size to enclose your work. You can purchase a portfolio at any art store. This should be considered an investment in your art career. On the outside of the portfolio, put a label with your name, the concentration program that you wish to or are already entered in (Studio Art or Graphic Design), and your contact information (telephone number, address, e-mail).

II. Label Every Piece in the Portfolio

Label each piece with all of the following information:

1. Item number (1-20, as listed on Project Description Sheet, provided below)
2. Your name
3. Medium/materials
4. Year executed

III. Use the appropriate format to present your work.

Do not include any loose works. All work must be mounted or matted with cover sheet, overlay or sleeves.

Acceptable formats for non-digital work:

Include only original work unless the work is larger than 24" x 36" or if work is three-dimensional. Large work and three-dimensional work can be represented by 8" x 10" photo documentation. Please label photos as specified above.

Three dimensional and large scale work should be represented in 8 x 10" color prints.

All two-dimensional work should be matted or mounted and protected with overlays or sleeves.

Supporting Materials

Additional items that need to be submitted for grant consideration are listed below.

(1) Statement of Intent/Artist Statement: one typed page

The Statement of Intent/Artist Statement explains why you are an Art Major at NSU and what you intend to do as an artist. It should:

- describe your specific artistic interests
- explain how your artistic interests are reflected in the submitted artwork
- include a statement of your goals as an artist

Be accurate in spelling, grammar and word usage. Print the statement in Times New Roman, 12pt, double spaced with 1" margins on all sides of an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper.

(2) Project Description Sheet: a numbered list of every item in the portfolio. Use the form provided at the end of this document.

Project Description Sheet Student Name _____

Label each portfolio piece with your name and its corresponding number on this sheet.

1. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

2. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

3. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

4. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

5. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

6. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

7. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

8. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

9. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

10. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

11. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

12. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

13. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

14. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

15. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

16. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

17. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

18. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

19. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

20. Project Title _____ Year Executed _____
Medium/Materials _____

Portfolio Review Checklist

- Unofficial Transcript
- Statement of Intent
- Project Description Sheet
- Portfolio

Students are evaluated based on the following criteria.

Foundation Skills:

- Design skills
- Color mixing and use
- Observational drawing
- Figure Drawing

Fluency with Materials and Visual Problem Solving:

- Technical skills: craftsmanship
- Manipulation of surface and space
- Diverse and appropriate materials and techniques
- Evidence of good revision of work in progress
- Work ethic and commitment to the work

Critical Thinking and Commitment:

- Connection between visual form, construction and concept
- Development of interesting and original ideas
- Innovation and imagination

Historical and Contemporary Context:

- Evidence of art historical knowledge and reference
- Respect for traditional approaches
- Awareness of contemporary concerns
- Knowledge and appropriate use of personal sources

Professionalism:

- Complete knowledge of discipline-specific technical and safety concerns
- Professional presentation and documentation of work