

Carnegie Mellon

Office of Admission

5000 Forbes Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15213
 T: 412-268-2082
 F: 412-268-7838
 E: undergraduate-admissions@andrew.cmu.edu
www.cmu.edu/admission

Carnegie Mellon offers three interdisciplinary degree programs for students interested in studying both the fine arts and the humanities and social sciences (Bachelor of Humanities and Arts), the fine arts and the natural sciences or mathematics (Bachelor of Science and Arts) or the fine arts and computer science (Bachelor of Computer Science and Arts). Collectively the BHA, BSA and BCSA programs are grouped under the single heading of BXA Interdisciplinary Degree Programs.

Bachelor of Humanities and Arts

The Bachelor of Humanities and Arts (BHA) program is a unique interdisciplinary degree program jointly offered by Carnegie Mellon's College of Fine Arts (CFA) and College of Humanities and Social Sciences (H&SS). The program provides depth in one or more of the fine arts and well-rounded exposure to the humanities, social and behavioral sciences. The BHA program differs from the CFA's Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) major programs in that it enables students to receive a broader exposure to the liberal arts than the BFA curricula allow. It differs from the H&SS Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BS) major programs by allowing students deeper and more substantial training (with advising and mentoring) in the fine arts than is generally available to students in H&SS programs.

BHA candidates must apply and be admitted to both CFA and H&SS. The five schools in CFA have the following admission requirements:

- Architecture: recommended portfolio review & required online questionnaire
- Art: portfolio review
- Design: portfolio review
- Drama: audition/interview for directing option; portfolio review/interview for design or production technology and management options
- Music: audition/interview for music option (instrumental, piano, organ, composition, voice), interview for music history and culture or music technology options.

There is no BHA acting or music theatre option. See www.cmu.edu/admission/finearts for details about fine arts admission requirements.

While each student's pattern of study will vary, the most important aspect of the program is for students to **blend** their interests and to explore the connections between their chosen disciplines.

Curriculum

The BHA degree has three main curricular components: 1) General Education coursework, 2) College of Fine Arts concentration coursework, and 3) College of Humanities and Social Sciences concentration coursework. Students work closely with their academic advisors to design a personalized curriculum plan.

BHA General Education (84 units)

The General Education curriculum is a modified version of the H&SS General Education program. BHA students are required to fulfill courses from the following categories: Communicating, Reflecting, Modeling, Deciding and also includes two specific courses: an introductory writing course and the BXA Freshman Research Seminar.

CFA Concentration (108 units)

Students can choose their fine arts concentration from among the five schools in CFA: Architecture, Art, Design, Drama or Music. A student must meet the entry requirements for the particular CFA school of their choice. A student may also choose an interdisciplinary concentration between two or more CFA schools.

H&SS Concentration (72 units)

Students choose their humanities or social/behavioral sciences concentration from the list of majors and minors offered by H&SS, or by self-designing an interdepartmental concentration. Students must complete a total of 369 units for graduation. The total required coursework adds up to 246 units, which leaves 105 units that can be used as free electives.

Advising

Each BHA student receives extensive advising support. The Director and Associate Director of the BHA Program serve as the primary advisors and liaisons between CFA and H&SS. Each student has an additional academic advisor specific to their chosen concentration in each college.

BXA Capstone Project Option

The BHA Program offers a capstone project option. The goal of the BXA Capstone is to give a BHA student the opportunity to weave together the interdisciplinary elements of their curricula into an integrated project. The project's goals are based on the student's individual interdisciplinary "vision" in the arts and humanities/social sciences.

Arts Management Option

BHA students who have an interest in arts management and wish to go on for an advanced degree may select courses in their sophomore and junior years to prepare them in this area. A student in the junior year may apply to the Accelerated Masters Program with the Heinz College. In this program students take both graduate and undergraduate courses in the senior year, earn the BHA degree and continue on for an additional year to complete the work for the Master of Arts Management (MAM) degree.

Bachelor of Science and Arts

The Bachelor of Science and Arts (BSA) interdisciplinary degree program is designed for students who are gifted in both the fine arts and the natural sciences and/or mathematics, and wish to explore dual interests in the College of Fine Arts (CFA) and the Mellon College of Science (MCS). The goal of this rigorous degree program is to allow uniquely qualified students the opportunity to pursue their interests in the fine arts and the sciences simultaneously.

BSA candidates must apply and be admitted to both CFA and MCS. The five schools in CFA have the following admission requirements:

- Architecture: optional portfolio review & required online questionnaire
- Art: portfolio review
- Design: portfolio review
- Drama: audition/interview for directing option; portfolio review/interview for design or production technology and management options
- Music: audition/interview for music option (instrumental, piano, organ, composition, voice), interview for music history and culture or music technology options.

There is no BSA acting or music theatre option. See www.cmu.edu/admission/finearts for details about fine arts admission requirements.

Curriculum

The BSA degree has three main curricular components: 1) BSA Core coursework, 2) College of Fine Arts concentration coursework and 3) Mellon College of Science concentration coursework. Students work closely with their academic advisors to design a personalized curriculum plan.

BSA Core Requirements (108 units)

The BSA core curriculum includes two specific courses: an introductory writing course and the BXA Research Seminar. There is also a series of mathematics and science courses that all students must complete. The remaining core requirements are chosen from a set of "menu electives" in cultural analysis; cognition, choice and behavior; and economic, political and social institutions.

CFA Concentration (108 units)

Students can choose their fine arts concentration from among the five schools in CFA: Architecture, Art, Design, Drama or Music. A student must meet the entry requirements for the particular CFA school of their choice. A student may also choose an interdisciplinary concentration between two or more CFA schools.

MCS Concentration (120 - 135 units)

Students can choose their science concentration from among the four departments in MCS: Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Mathematical Sciences or Physics.

BSA students must complete a total of 380 units for graduation. The total required coursework adds up to 336-351 units, which leaves 29-44 units that can be used as free electives.

Advising

Each BSA student will receive extensive advising support. The Director and Associate Director of the BSA Program are the primary advisors and liaisons between CFA and MCS. Each student has an additional academic advisor specific to their chosen concentration in each college.

BXA Capstone Option

The BSA Program offers a capstone project option. The goal of the BXA Capstone Project is to give a BSA student the opportunity to weave together elements of their curricula into an integrated project. The project's goals are based on the student's individual interdisciplinary "vision" in the arts and sciences/mathematics.

Bachelor of Computer Science and Arts

The Bachelor of Computer Science and Arts (BCSA) interdisciplinary degree program provides an ideal technical, critical and conceptual foundation for students interested in pursuing fields which comprehensively meld technology and the arts, such as game design, computer animation, computer music, interactive stagecraft, robotic art, and other emerging media. It integrates interests in the College of Fine Arts (CFA) and the School of Computer Science (SCS).

BCSA candidates must apply and be admitted to both CFA and SCS. The five schools in CFA have the following admission requirements:

- Architecture: optional portfolio review & required online questionnaire
- Art: portfolio review
- Design: portfolio review
- Drama: audition/interview for directing option, portfolio/interview for production technology and management.
(These are the only two options available to BCSA candidates)
- Music: portfolio/interview for composition and music technology.
(These are the only two options available to BCSA candidates)

Curriculum

The BCSA degree has three main curricular components:
1) BCSA Core coursework, 2) College of Fine Arts concentration coursework and 3) School of Computer Science concentration coursework. Students work closely with their academic advisors to design a personalized curriculum plan.

BCSA Core Requirements (108 units)

The BCSA core curriculum includes three specific courses: an introductory writing course, the BXA Freshman Research Seminar and Art, Science and Technology in Context and Society. There is also a series of mathematical and science courses that all students must complete. The remaining core requirements are chosen from a set of "menu electives" in cultural analysis; cognition, choice and behavior; and economic, political and social institutions.

CFA Concentration (108-145 units)

Students can choose their fine arts concentration from among the five schools in CFA: Architecture, Art, Design, Drama or Music. A student must meet the entry requirements for the particular CFA school of their choice.

SCS Concentration (122 units)

The School of Computer Science concentration requires 56 units of Computer Science Core Requirements; 9 units of Concepts of Mathematics and 57 units of Applications courses or CS electives.

BCSA students must complete a total of 380 units for graduation. The total required coursework adds up to 338-375 units, which leaves 5-42 units that can be used as free electives.

Advising

Each BCSA student will receive extensive advising support and guidance. The Director and Associate Director of the BCSA Program are the primary advisors and liaisons between CFA and SCS. Each student has an additional academic advisor specific to their chosen concentration in each college.

BXA Capstone Project Option

The BCSA Program offers a capstone project option. The goal of the BXA Capstone Project is to give a BCSA student the opportunity to weave together elements of their curricula into an integrated project. The project's goals are based on the student's individual interdisciplinary "vision" in the arts and computer science.

Entertainment Technology Option

BCSA students who have an interest in entertainment technology and wish to go on for an advanced degree may select courses in their junior and senior years to prepare them in this area. A student in the junior year may apply to the Masters Program in the Entertainment Technology Center (ETC). In this program students take both graduate and undergraduate courses in the junior and senior years, earn the BCSA degree and continue on for an additional year to complete the work for the Master of Entertainment Technology (MET) degree.

The Benefits of Interdisciplinary Study

- Promotes self-motivation, self-reliance and independent thinking. Students follow their individual academic passions to self-design their curriculum within the program framework.
- Strengthens program-solving skills. Students learn the language of two disciplines, and are able to view a problem from multiple perspectives.
- Promotes innovation and balance. Students combine focused studies in two disciplines to create a unique, integrated academic experience.

Student Feedback

"Before I joined BHA I was an art student. I liked the program so I didn't want to give it up, but I still felt like I was missing a vital part of my college education. BHA allowed me to continue to explore my artistic dreams while building the academic structure I knew I needed to succeed after college."

-Lauren Feldman, Philosophy & Art

"My goal as an undergraduate student is not to just prepare for a professional career, but to explore the things that interest me. BSA allows me to experience college as an intellectual pursuit and not just a professional one."

-Catherine Matassa, Biology & Architecture

"I appreciate how the BHA program allows for a lot of flexibility in planning a course of study. It allows me to concentrate on my musical studies while additionally getting the chance to take a wide array of liberal arts courses."

-Anne Saverese, French & Music

"Computer science and art are already fused in fields like character animation, game design, electronic music, interactive graphics and information visualization and robotics. The BCSA program will offer me a chance to exercise both sides of my brain and the opportunity couldn't have come at a better time."

-Alyssa Reuter, Computer Science & Art

For more information on the BXA Interdisciplinary Degree Programs, visit <www.cmu.edu/interdisciplinary>.