The BXA Intercollege Degree Programs provide an educational path for students whose goals are best achieved by integrating creative and academic work. Within Carnegie Mellon University’s world-renowned interdisciplinary environment, these students make their mark — their X — that defines an individualized education and career path. Here, academics and arts intersect in innovative opportunities.

**Challenge Definitions with a Multidisciplinary Perspective**

In our BXA programs, you’ll gain access to multidisciplinary courses that help you to create new ideas and challenge definitions. The X in BXA represents this — the variable that changes depending on the academic unit you choose to integrate with your College of Fine Arts concentration. Here, you’ll plot a course to discovery with classes that pique your interest and motivate your mind — arts blended with computer science, humanities, science or engineering. These degrees are uniquely Carnegie Mellon.

You’ll also engage in a Capstone Project that’s an essential component of your undergraduate experience, showing how success can be measured not just by your final output, but also by the process it takes to get there. You’ll work through your BXA Capstone alongside BXA faculty and an expert in your chosen field of interest. Many of these projects are successfully funded by grants.

**Did you know?**

Since 2008, thirteen BXA students and alumni have been AWARDED FULBRIGHT FELLOWSHIPS to research and teach in Argentina, Finland, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Netherlands, Serbia, Scotland, Spain, Thailand, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

91% of the 2021 BXA graduates achieved UNIVERSITY AND/OR COLLEGE HONORS. BCSA seniors who present their Capstone Project at the MEETING OF THE MINDS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM have the opportunity to win the Armero Award for Inclusive Creativity competition prize.

**Incoming Class**

- **Fall 2021**
- 39
Curriculum Overview

You’ll begin your education with the BXA first-year interdisciplinary seminar that introduces arts-based research and modes of representation across media through the Cabinet of Wonder/Wunderkammer model. You’ll take academic courses and creative studios alongside majors in your disciplines. BXA-specific courses in the third year will provide the guidance, structure, theory and research methods you’ll rely upon as you bring together your two chosen concentrations.

In your fourth year, you’ll complete a two-semester, research-intensive Capstone Project. Capstones range from papers, performances and games to apps, installations, business plans and beyond. The goal of the Capstone is to show how you’ve woven together the interdisciplinary elements of your coursework into an integrated project. It provides a concrete representation of your work that you’ll present at the annual Meeting of the Minds Undergraduate Research Symposium, held each May.

Along the way, you’ll receive advising support from various academic areas. In addition to a primary BXA advisor, you’ll stay in contact with a College of Fine Arts advisor and an advisor in your academic concentration. Additional opportunities for growth include research and extracurricular activities within the university and Pittsburgh communities. BXA students are encouraged to study abroad to expand their interdisciplinary experience. On average, over one-third of BXA graduating seniors have studied abroad.

Student Capstones and Research

Zobits
Sebastian Carpenter (BCSA 2021) and Alyssa Lee (BCSA 2021) developed a generative building toy that translates tangible interactions to virtual outcomes. By mixing and matching organism figurines on a play pad, users can see how their creative choices affect an ecosystem on their mobile device.

Breathing Space
Kaitlyn Fong’s (BSA 2021) Breathing Space is a video art piece featuring a garden of four blooming paper cut flowers. The artwork depicts a surreal virtual space and acknowledges the act of living within a COVID context.

Eco Grinds
Sommer Schneller (BHA 2021) repurposed spent coffee grounds to produce novel eco-conscious products including fire starters and body scrubs.

Sending Love through Wearable Technology
Caroline Hermans (EA additional major 2018) explored romantic wearable technology in the form of a pair of scarves that facilitate the wordless exchange of warmth, love and attention. Partners communicate by touching a capacitive sensor embedded in their scarf, which signals the other person’s scarf to warm up using a heating pad.

Alumni Accomplishments

Kaytie Nielsen (BHA 2016) built on her successes in filmmaking and social justice advocacy as a Marshall Scholar, studying screenwriting in the United Kingdom. She previously won a nationally competitive fellowship from the Henry Luce Foundation providing stipends, language training and individualized professional placement in Asia. She also received a Fulbright Award as a first-year creative writing and directing student.

Kathy “Yaeji” Lee (BHA 2015) is a rising singer, DJ and producer known for her unique style of mixing American and Korean lyrics. She’s played Coachella and Lollapalooza, was highlighted as Billboard Dance’s “Ones to Watch” and Forbes’ “30 Under 30,” and covered Fader magazine.