

# VISUAL ARTS BA, HBFA, HBFA/BEd, BA/BEd

## EXPERIENTIAL MAJOR MAP



### FIRST YEAR

### MIDDLE YEARS

### FINAL YEAR

### ACADEMIC SUCCESS



#### DEVELOP

a Course Plan and Build Academic Skills

- Review your program requirements with a [Student Central Professional](#). Check out the [Academic Support Zone](#) for writing and tutoring support.
- Review your program requirements on the [Academic Calendar](#).
- Consider elective courses that interest you. Consider areas you may want to study in the future - look into getting necessary prerequisites for future courses.
- Review the [Academic Regulations](#).
- Familiarize yourself with your myInfo account, self help and degree audit tools, and the D2L platform.
- If you require academic accommodations, meet with our [Student Accessibility Services](#) team.
- Check with instructors about art supplies needed for your courses.
- Purchase art supplies needed for the year and duration of your degree.
- Attend the Visual Arts Orientation Session in September.

- Attend the Academic Skills Prep Sessions offered by the [Academic Support Zone](#).
- Meet with your Department advisor to discuss your academic progress, and current/future courses.
- Consider post-degree programs that may require specific courses or academic requirements and create a plan.
- Ensure your degree audit is accurate, including exceptions if any. You must check your degree audit anytime you add/drop courses.
- Running into challenges? Meet with Student Central early.
- What about art interests you? Where are you hoping it will take you? Think about these questions as you proceed.

- Meet with your Chair and Student Central to ensure you have completed, and are in-progress to complete, all necessary degree requirements needed for graduation consideration.
- Submit your Intent to Graduate.
- RSVP for convocation ceremonies.
- Talk to your instructors/advisors about future program and degree options in Visual Arts and explore application requirements, processes and deadlines for future programs of interest.
- Participate in the Honours Exhibition at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery.

#### ACADEMIC SKILLS CHECKLIST

- Visit the Academic Support Zone.
- Meet regularly with your faculty advisor or the Department Chair to check that requirements are being met.
- Declare your Intent to Graduate.
- Develop professional contacts with faculty instructors.
- Enhance the value of your degree through specialization options.
- Start building your resume by being active in the arts community and by exhibiting your artwork!



#### CONNECT

and Gain Experience with the Local and Global Community

- Consider registering in courses that contain in-class experiential learning opportunities such as a placement.
- Meet the Chair of your Department - get to know them and let them get to know you.
- Interested in entrepreneurship? Check out [Ingenuity's](#) events.
- Get involved in work study opportunities enabling you to work as a studio technician.
- Have you heard of the student group, the Visual Arts Network? Consider joining!
- Get involved in volunteer and paid opportunities with [Def Sup Artist-Run Centre](#), [Die Active](#), [Thunder Bay Art Gallery](#), [Baggage Building Art Centre](#), and [Neechee Studio](#).

- Develop networks and connect with your academic professors.
- Consider a work-study [job](#). This is a great opportunity to gain experience, as well as assist in the cost of your education.
- Volunteer with local art galleries.
- Apply to work with local arts-based organizations such as [CAHEP](#).
- Join the Visual Arts Department Facebook [group](#). Look out for RFP's for public art and community art projects.
- Attend Visiting Artist talks and workshops.
- Submit a piece and participate in the Student Juried Exhibition at the [Thunder Bay Art Gallery](#).

- Consider working on applied research, such as a thesis project.
- Connect to the local community through attending courses that involve case studies.
- Attend fairs and events. An example is the Graduation Fair for all graduating students.
- Connect to local arts organizations and art galleries.
- Become a member of [Definitely Superior Artist Run Centre](#).
- Explore artist groups and art collectives as a way to connect to other artists in your community and beyond.
- Connect to community arts organizations and social service organizations to work or to volunteer
- Participate in nearby exhibitions opportunities offered through galleries and businesses.
- Communicate interest in career-related opportunities with your professor for insights and opportunities.
- Attend art openings, events, and participate in art auctions as a way of establishing yourself in the art community.

#### EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING CHECKLIST

- Join a service club such as Rotary International. These organizations have youth programs and provide valuable networking and volunteer opportunities.
- Consider joining Toastmasters. It is an organization that allows you to develop public speaking skills: one of the most valuable assets an employee or entrepreneur can have.
- Consider joining the [Visual Arts Network \(VAN\)](#).
- Speak to faculty about work study opportunities!
- Consider submitting a visual art piece to [The Artery](#).
- Consider joining the Thunder Bay Art Gallery as a volunteer.
- Consider volunteering for Definitely Superior Artist-Run Centre & Gallery to gain opportunities in the arts community, network, and build upon your skills.
- Consider volunteering for the Thunder Bay Museum to gain experience in education and outreach.
- Submit a piece and participate in The Juried Student Art Exhibition.
- Look into current local calls to artists.



# VISUAL ARTS

BA, HBFA, HBFA/BEd, BA/BEd

## CAREER INFORMATION



### FIRST YEAR

### MIDDLE YEARS

### FINAL YEAR

### ACADEMIC SUCCESS



#### PREPARE

for Postgraduation or Career

- Visit the [Career Zone](#) to find out about the career services offered.
- Check out the job bank at [mysuccess.lakeheadu.ca](https://mysuccess.lakeheadu.ca) to learn about summer job and on campus opportunities in your program.
- Meet with a Student Central Professional to discuss financial management, and funding resources.
- Consider applying for OSAP/Provincial Loan funding.
- Discuss bursary and award opportunities with Student Central.
- Apply for provincial or federal grants in the arts (Ontario Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts).
- Meet with the Northwestern Ontario Arts Council representative for grant assistance.
- Apply for artist residencies.

- Start connecting with employers through on-campus recruitment events, such as career fairs and employer visits.
- Join Lakehead Connect to make connections with alumni in industry.
- Consider taking the [Strong Interest Inventory Assessment](#) to learn about career options.
- Develop relationships with faculty. Future references can be important.
- Look for work and volunteer opportunities at art galleries, artist-run centres, and community arts-organizations.
- Ask a senior artist to mentor you and critique your work.

- Build career readiness skills by attending resume, job search, and interview skills workshops in the Career Zone.
- Attend the Career and Job Fair/Career and Summer Job Fairs to network with employers.
- Consider and discuss graduate school options with your faculty.
- Finish strong with your final year – in many cases, grad programs only look at your last year or two of grades.
- Understand the terms and conditions of your provincial funding to understand the repayment requirements.
- Ensure you have prepared documentation of works of art, have practiced writing application cover letters, and have explored grants and other resources for artists.

#### CAREER DEVELOPMENT CHECKLIST

- Visit the Career Zone.
- Apply for job opportunities in your field.
- Create a LinkedIn account.
- Attend Career Zone job readiness workshops.
- Network with employers on campus. See the Career Zone [calendar](#).
- Check out your department's [resources](#).
- Consider arranging an [informational interview](#) to build connections and explore opportunities in your field.
- Keep track of your skills and experience for future cover letters.
- Have your resume reviewed by the Career Zone. Book an appointment on [mysuccess.lakeheadu.ca](https://mysuccess.lakeheadu.ca).
- Complete [online modules](#) to boost your resume, gain necessary skills, and earn certificates.
- If you're an international student, check out the Lakehead International support [resources and programs](#)
- Visit the [International Student Centre](#), if you're on the Thunder Bay campus!

#### What skills do employers want?

- Written and oral communication skills
- Time management skills
- Ability to think critically
- Ability to adhere to deadlines
- Research skills
- Ability to think creatively
- Computer skills and knowledge of creative software (ie. Photoshop)
- To offer creative solutions to problems

#### What skills will I gain with this major?

- Communicate visually through various media including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics and the digital arts
- Develop studio skills through practical applications of studio materials and processes
- Interpret the world, cultures, and daily life through a creative lens
- Critically analyze visual art and visual and material culture
- Ability to work with, and understand, versatile materials
- Leadership skills
- Computer skills
- Photo documentation skills
- Basic curatorial skills
- Professionally install and art exhibition

#### What double degrees can I do with this major?

- Education

#### What graduate degrees could I pursue?

- Master Degree in Fine Arts
- Masters Degree in Social Justice Studies
- Masters Degree in Art History/Visual and Material Culture
- Masters Degree in Education
- Masters Degree in Architecture
- Masters Degree in Curatorial Studies
- Post-Graduate Diplomas in related field (Art Therapy, Graphic Design, Gaming Design, Craft/Textiles, Blacksmithing, Goldsmithing, Film Production)

#### What types of minors can I do?

- Painting
- Drawing
- Sculpture
- Ceramics
- Art History

#### What careers can I pursue?\*

- Artist
- Curator
- Set Designer
- Arts Administrator
- Gallery Director/Owner
- Book Illustrator
- Art Therapist
- Tattoo Artist
- Art Historian
- Gaming Designer
- Art Director
- Visual Merchandiser
- Graphic Designer
- Advertising Account Executive

\*Your career path is not limited to this list. There could be other options to explore!

#### What field of work are alumni working in?

- Elementary, Secondary and Post-Secondary Teaching
- Gallery Owners and Operators
- Curatorial
- Arts Education
- Professional Artists
- Gallery Director and Management
- Tattooing
- Art Therapy

#### What percentage of graduates are employed within 2 years after graduation?

- 71.4% of graduates from Fine & Applied Arts!

#### STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE

THUNDER BAY (SC0008)

(807) 343-8018  
ssc@lakeheadu.ca  
Monday - Friday | 8:30am - 4:30pm

ORILLIA (OR1021)

(705) 330-4010 x 2118  
orillia.ssc@lakeheadu.ca  
Monday - Friday | 8:30am - 4:30pm

#### CAREER ZONE

THUNDER BAY (UC00)

(807) 343-8010 x 8264  
careerzone.ssc@lakeheadu.ca  
Monday - Friday | 10:00am - 4:30pm

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

THUNDER BAY

lakeheadlife  
 @lakeheadlife  
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ORILLIA

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