

# Leigh Gerdine College of Fine Arts | Undergrad

Paul Steger, dean

Leigh Gerdine College of Fine Arts website (external to catalog)

## Mission Statement

The mission for the Leigh Gerdine College of Fine Arts at Webster University is to provide students the artistic training, preparation and scholarship necessary to achieve excellence in the arts as professionals. The faculty of the Leigh Gerdine College of Fine Arts is composed of working professional artists and scholars who share a passion for teaching and who hold the belief that in a diverse and technologically advancing world, the arts serve as an expression of our culture's deeper value. The College's dedication to continuing its longstanding tradition as a center for quality creative expression, combined with the University's continuing commitment as a home of significant professional arts organizations, create the rich artistic, academic and cultural atmosphere necessary to assure the success of our students in reaching their goals.

This Mission Statement clearly reflects the spirit and atmosphere that permeates the creative atmosphere of the college. The demands placed on students are enormous. In order to succeed, the faculty expect students to be highly disciplined; to be completely focused on the challenges that will be placed in front of them regularly; to be resilient in their spirit to use the talent and instruction available to achieve new levels of excellence and to understand that to be an artist in our community, it is necessary to be a citizen and a leader. The faculty are dedicated to providing the best possible opportunities to develop individual talents within the resources available at the University. It is expected that students will strive to be the best and to set the standards for others to achieve.

In order to ensure that the best opportunities are available to the students, significant partnerships are in place with the outstanding performing and visual arts organizations in the region. The Opera Theatre of Saint Louis and The Repertory Theatre St. Louis are housed on campus and perform their seasons in the Loretto-Hilton Center for the Performing Arts. The Shakespeare Festival St. Louis and the Municipal Theatre Association of St. Louis (the Muni) as well as Variety Theatre and Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre have partnership programs available to students. The Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra has curricular programs jointly offered with Webster. The presence of these outstanding arts organizations provides our students with day-by-day opportunities to understand the discipline and the demand for excellence that must be maintained at the highest level of achievement. The professionals working with these organizations are selected to be members of the faculty of artists that is the Leigh Gerdine College of Fine Arts.

It is expected that through the entrance audition process, our students are excellent. It is expected that our students are ready for the daily regime necessary to excel. It is expected that our students will be intellectually curious. It is expected that our students will utilize the resources available to them to prepare themselves for successful careers in the arts discipline of choice. It is expected that the faculty will provide the models of excellence that are required to ensure that the best training is available. It is expected that the Leigh Gerdine College of Fine Arts will be a regional and national leader in the visual and performing arts. Everyone — students, faculty and staff — is dedicated to being a community of artists reaching for excellence. Expect to be challenged and prepare to succeed.

## Department of Art, Design and Art History

Noriko Yuasa, chair

### Majors and Degrees

- Art (BA)
- Art (BFA) with a Studio Emphasis
  - Ceramics
  - Drawing
  - Time-Based Art
  - Painting
  - Photography
  - Printmaking
  - Sculpture
- Art History and Criticism (BA)
- Graphic Design (BFA)

### Minors

- Art
- Art History and Criticism
- Graphic Design

### Certificates

- Ceramics
- Entrepreneurship (Graphic Design; Studio Art majors track) (In cooperation with the Walker School of Business & Technology)
- Expressive Arts Therapy
- Illustration
- Motion Graphic Design
- User Experience Design (in cooperation with the School of Communications)

### Art Education

Other special opportunities include

Students seeking certification to teach art at the elementary and secondary level should combine an art (BA or BFA) with an emphasis in studio art major with the education (BA) with certification in art K-12 education major in the Department of Teacher Education. The Department of Teacher Education offers courses that prepare an individual to teach at either the elementary or secondary level, while the Department of Art, Design and Art History offers courses conveying the requisite studio art and art historical knowledge. For more information, see the School of Education section. To successfully complete the requirements of both departments, students should have advisors in education and in art.

### Mission Statement

The Department of Art, Design and Art History (DADAH) at Webster University educates students through the creative practice and intellectual endeavors of art, design, and its history to be thoughtful, visionary individuals. DADAH is a community in which all students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to express their individual voices and in turn rely upon the trust and integrity of their peers to mindfully support and challenge one another in the name of inclusion and the expansion of our collective horizons.

Senior major in Art and Design Exhibition at Academic Center

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- Exhibits of professional works throughout the year in the Cecille R. Hunt Gallery and Arcade Contemporary Art Projects
- Internships at area art institutions
- Study at any of Webster University's international campuses
- Annual summer intensive studio trip to Vienna
- Regular international study trips to Florence and elsewhere

## Scholarships

A limited number of talent scholarships are available to qualified students.

- Talent-based scholarships based upon review of entrance portfolio
- ArtMart Scholarship (*for students in their senior year*)
- Leon Hicks Scholarship (*for students in their senior year*)
- Marilynne Bradley Art Education Scholarship (*special consideration given to art education students*)
- Natalie Probstin Scholarship in Art
- Notion Graphic Design Scholarship

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Performance and production majors in the fourth year take part in our annual Showcase, through which they audition and/or exhibit their talents in performances for alumni, agents, casting directors and artistic directors. Designers, stage managers and producers are invited to the students' portfolio reviews.

In recent years, Conservatory students have been placed in internships and practica with The Muny; Walt Disney World; Utah Shakespeare Festival; STAGES St. Louis; the Old Globe Theatre, San Diego; Cirque du Soleil; the Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis; Denver Center Theatre Company; Opera Theatre of Saint Louis; The Repertory Theatre St. Louis; Milwaukee Repertory Theatre; Missouri Repertory Theatre; Dance Saint Louis; Grand Center; Circus Flora; Missouri Citizens for the Arts; Washington Opera; Seattle Repertory Theatre; Paramount Theatre, Aurora; the Nebraska Theatre Caravan; St. Louis Regional Arts Council; Intiman Theatre; the Goodspeed Opera House; the Columbus Ballet; San Diego Repertory Theatre; Shakespeare Festival St. Louis; Metro Theater Company; Variety Theatre; Hudson Scenic Studios; and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

## Scholarships

- Byron Grant Scholarship
- David Huffman Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Edward Chase Garvey Memorial Scholarship
- Emma Lu Middleton Endowed Conservatory Scholarship
- Jeffrey Struckman Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Jenifer Lewis Endowed Scholarship
- Jerome Jaymes Lowe Memorial Scholarship
- Jerry Mitchell Musical Theatre Scholarship
- John & Christy Nickel Endowed Scholarship
- John H. Russell Endowed Conservatory Scholarship



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programs have a time set aside for study in Vienna, with no required courses during that time at the home campus.

The University supports a number of performing groups including Aurelia, Chamber Singers, Chorale, Jazz Singers, Webster University Orchestra, Webster University Wind Ensemble, Opera Studio, Jazz Collective, Jazz Ensembles, and the New Music Ensemble. The department also provides various chamber music ensembles.

## Dual Majors

Students who wish to dual major in composition with an emphasis in concert music and performance with an emphasis in piano may do so. The student must complete the requirement of both degrees, including all recitals and senior projects.

## Scholarships

The Department of Music provides performance scholarships to meritorious students on the basis of audition and also supports returning students through the generosity of many friends who have established endowed scholarship funds.

**Endowed Scholarship Fund website** (external to catalog)

## International Distinction Award

Webster University confers bachelor degrees with an International Distinction Award. This award provides a framework to prepare students for both academic and professional endeavors in a global context. This award demonstrates successful integration of global education into academic pursuits, engages in globally focused co-curricular activities, and allows for rich and long-last learning experience. Students gain a greater awareness of global ideas and cultural diversity, making them a more valuable asset in graduate programs and to employers.

Students pursuing a music degree qualify for the International Distinction Award by:

- Completing the second-language proficiency requirement
- Completing a semester of study abroad experience at one of Webster's international campuses
- Engaging in significant, practical, approved field work in an international location

The International Distinction designation is annotated on both the student's diploma and official transcript. Additional information about the required core components and the application process can be reviewed at <https://www.webster.edu/academics/undergraduate/ida.php>.

## Admission and Audition Requirements

To be admitted as an undergraduate music major or music minor, applicants must complete an audition/interview with the music faculty and complete various diagnostic examinations. Auditions are arranged through the Office of Undergraduate Admission. Specific information on the audition requirements is available from the department's website. Priority consideration for performance scholarships is given to students who complete all admission requirements before February 28 of the application year.

## Ensemble Requirements

Each of the undergraduate degree programs in music includes multiple semesters of participation in a major ensemble. Depending upon specific degree requirements, the major ensembles include Chamber Singers, Chorale, Aurelia, Orchestra,

Wind Ensemble, Jazz Combos, Jazz Singers, Jazz Collective and New Music Ensemble.

Students are placed in ensembles based upon degree requirements and departmental needs. Those students who receive music scholarships will perform in one or more ensembles in their performance areas as designated by the Director of Choral Studies, the Director of Instrumental Studies, the Director of Jazz Studies, or the Department Chair.

## Candidacy Examination

Each undergraduate music major must take a Candidacy Examination in spring of the sophomore year or upon completion of 45 or more credit hours as music majors (whichever comes first). The Candidacy Examination assesses, among other things, a student's success in the first two years of music study and potential for completing the degree in a timely manner.

The examination includes the performance of one or more works, an interview with the faculty, a writing sample and an assessment of musicianship skills. While most students declare their intention from their first semester (BM in performance, BA in music, and so on), no student is actually accepted into the department as a major until the Candidacy Examination is completed successfully.

## Piano Proficiency

Each undergraduate music major must demonstrate proficiency on the piano keyboard. Proficiency is demonstrated by passing a) a piano proficiency examination; or b) taking required class piano coursework.

Piano Proficiency requirements are described in the Department of Music Handbook.

## Performance Requirements

Much of the music that we make is collaborative in nature, with a mix of keyboard, wind, brass, string, and percussion instruments, and voices. So that performance majors develop an ability to work with others beyond an accompanist, all performance majors presenting junior and senior recitals will include on each recital or in a Thursday student recital at least one three-minute work that includes collaboration with a performer other than or in addition to piano. Works longer than three minutes are encouraged.

## Department of Music Handbook

All music major students are responsible for knowing the contents of the Department of Music Handbook, which is issued each academic year. The Handbook contains more detail on various requirements such as piano proficiency, qualifying examinations, ensemble participation, recital attendance and departmental operations. The Handbook is expressly incorporated into the requirements stated in this catalog.

## Other Academic Requirements

Students seeking a bachelor of music (BM) degree must complete at least 30 credit hours of courses in the department. Students seeking the bachelor of arts (BA) degree must complete at least

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## **Music Library Holdings**

Books, periodicals, scores, records, compact discs and videos as recommended for music libraries by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) are conveniently housed in the Emerson Library. In addition, the library subscribes to a number of significant online, music-related resources.