An Artist's Career Path

Our BFA degree programs have two main objectives: to help students develop the commitment and skills necessary to pursue a career in art; and to prepare students for graduate work. Outcomes for artists are very different than for other majors—“career success” can be defined as selling work, exhibiting at shows and galleries, freelancing, and many other activities. For that reason, the CDC provides services to artists in all these areas.

Sample Job Titles

- Studio artist
- Animator
- Set designer
- Photographer
- Industrial designer
- Model maker
- Artist-in-residence
- Restorer
- Furniture designer
- Illustrator
- Slide registry librarian
- Critic
- Website designer
- Archivist
- Communications assistant
- Advertising artist
- Conservator
- Visual merchandising manager
- Graphic designer
- Education director
- Interior designer
- Art teacher/instructor
- Fashion illustrator
- Art appraiser
- Art director
- Film illustrator
- Gallery assistant
- Museum curator
- Buyer
- Art therapist

Our Graduates…Where Are They Now?

Within the past few years, graduates have obtained employment as:

Hot Glass Instructor – Corning Museum
Graphic Designer – OfficeMax (Corporate Headquarters)
Artistic Coordinator – MD Productions
Kids Accessory Designer – Accessory Network Group
Internal Design and Marketing Representative
Production Manager, Jewelry Reproduction –
Capital Printing Ink
Metropolitan Museum of Art
Wax sculpture worker – New Arts
Costume Maker – Izquierdo Studio
Wood Shop Technician – Bucks Rock
Furniture Designer/Painter – MacKenzie
Curator – Poplar Hill Mansion
Childs Ltd.
Photo Editor – Totsy
Shoe Designer – MiuMiu (Prada)
Artist In Residence – Salem Art Works
Fabrication Specialist – Shedd Aquarium
Assistant to an Executive Producer – Fox
Landscaper; Artist- Watkins Garden Center;
Television Animation
Greenhouse Gallery
Jewelry Artist – Walker Metalsmiths
Automotive Sculptor – General Motors of
Scenic Painter – Adirondack Scenic Inc.
North America
Color Consultant – Sephora; Home Goods
Production Manager – Lifetouch, Inc.
Graphic Designer – Time Magazine
Gallery Docent – Wayne County Arts Alliance
…and have attended graduate school at:
Notre Dame Belmont (Marriage/Family therapy with Art Therapy)
SUNY New Paltz (Sculpture)
School of Visual Arts (Photography, Video & Related Media)
California College of the Arts (Architecture)
Lesley University (Creative Arts Learning)
Florida Atlantic University (Landscape Architecture)
University of Cincinnati (Ceramics)
Seton Hall Law School (Law)
Boston University (Education)
Concordia University (Art Therapy)
Rhode Island School of Design (Sculpture/Ceramics, Glass)
Maryland Institute of Art (Photography)
School of the Art Institute of Chicago (Art Therapy)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (pre-med)
California Institute of the Arts (Film/Video)
Leslie University (Expressive Therapy/Art Therapy)
Ohio State University (Ceramics)
Virginia Tech (Architecture)

Alumni who graduated several years ago have obtained employment as:
Professional Artist – Self-Employed (many)
Professor of Art – University of Miami
Artist - Mulcahy Desmett Art Associates
Graphic Designer – Vignelli Associates
Head Librarian- Toledo Museum of Art
Co-Director - Maryland Institute for Individual & Family Therapy
Managing Director – Pope Theatre Company
Art Director/Designer – Keuka College
Fashion Designer – Bye Bye Designs
Assistant Professor of Sculpture- Alfred University

Get experience on campus
Try to get involved on campus in activities or organizations related to your area of interest. For example, if your dream is to become a designer for Nike, volunteer to take on freelance design projects to build your portfolio. Some campus organizations, clubs, or offices through which you can gain relevant experience include:

- Assist a visiting artist or faculty member
- Work in the art department of the Fiat, the Kanakadea Yearbook, Poesis, etc.
- The Art Union
- The Art Therapy Club
- Show your work as much as possible on campus and around town. Talk to a CDC staff member about finding opportunities outside Alfred.
- Work with performing arts organizations (Friday Night Live, Pirate Theatre, and AU Performing Arts) to design sets, lighting, costumes, props, etc.
- Get involved with other clubs and organizations that will allow you to create for them, to build your portfolio

Where to go from here?

- Individual career counseling for anything from choosing a major to getting a job
- Saxon Job Link web services (www.alfred.edu/cdc) to view jobs and internships, post a resume and more
- Saxon Career Volunteer network – speak to alumni in your career field
- Web resources: www.artjob.com, www.artswire.org, or contact the CDC for additional possibilities

Revised 4/2/2015