

KANSAS CITY ART INSTITUTE

Name of Policy: Major Plus Program (+)
Source: Student Affairs and Academic Affairs
Date Revised: November 2017
Form to Complete: Major Plus (+) Application; see your academic advisor to initiate

Policy:

Major + allows a student to study with consistency and depth in two or three major areas. The Major + track allows students to study for up to two non-consecutive semesters in a corollary studio(s).

The Major + program complements KCAT's existing fine arts by providing students a third option. Students benefit from studying in corollary disciplines while still maintaining a great deal of structure offered by a discipline-based studio. Students have a core area of focus, but they work in other areas during specific semesters. This new educational structure provides students with diverse paths and outcomes designed to meet their individual needs, expand career opportunities and mirror the field of creative activities that make up contemporary art and design. Sculpture students, for example, may find that as their work develops, coursework in photography is critical to inform their primary area of emphasis. The structure respects and supports the student who wishes to study in a designated discipline and explore other disciplines with focus and depth. The unique scale and organization of our school enables this flexibility. The educational goal is to create and support a stronger cross-disciplinary experience while continuing to provide the student the values of working in a designated major. In order to prepare for the semester in a different major, students enroll in electives or technical workshops offered by that department. Students must have technical training and demonstrate discipline-specific knowledge before they begin their semester in the alternative major to ensure their potential for success.

Upon completion of the sophomore year in their chosen major, the Major + student migrates for a semester to study in a second major. Upon completion of their semester in the secondary major, they are expected to return to their original major for a semester. Students may choose to complete their B.F.A. requirements in their original major, or, after their return for a semester, again choose to study in another major for a single semester. Students interested in completing a second semester in the same or an alternative corollary discipline must reapply. All students who participate in Major + must complete their final senior semester in their original major. No student will be allowed to be away from their original major for two consecutive semesters.

Interested students should begin planning during the fall of their sophomore year so that they can select electives for spring that will prepare them for their transition to another department during the fall of their junior year or beyond. Students should communicate their interest to their department chair, the alternative studio instructor, and their academic advisor. It is the student's responsibility to prepare for success in Major +. The primary department chair may deny permission to students who have not prepared for their crossover, and, who, as a result, may not be successful in the program.

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Requirements for Entry:

To be eligible for Major +, the student must:

- Complete their sophomore year in a fine arts major studio at KCAI. Transfer students entering at the second semester sophomore or junior level must complete one semester in a fine arts major studio and can only study for one semester in a corollary discipline.
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- Complete the resident requisite elective for their corollary major to acquire necessary technical skills and discipline-specific knowledge during a semester preceding entry into the corollary major. For example, if sculpture is the corollary major, the student must complete the sculpture elective during a semester preceding entry into the corollary major.

Procedure:

Students should begin thinking about entry into Major + at least one semester prior to application.

Interested students need to:

- Meet with their academic advisor to discuss their academic goals and the application process.
- Meet with the chair of their major studio to discuss their artistic direction.
- Write a statement of intent (see guidelines).
- Prepare documentation of their work (see guidelines).
- Meet with the chair of the corollary studio to discuss intent within the department.
- Submit application materials to the Registrar by November 1 for spring and April 1 for fall.