The nationally accredited MFA program offers varied and extensive opportunities for graduate study in a unique setting. Our location is just 90 minutes north of New York City in the historic Hudson River Valley, allowing access to cutting edge artists, historians, critics and curators. The campus features expansive facilities, private and semi-private secure studios, and extensive computer labs and digital fabrication technologies. Additional exhibition spaces complement the prestigious Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art.

The intensive and selective two-year MFA program includes degrees in Ceramics (301), Painting and Drawing (303), Printmaking (305), Metals (302) and Sculpture (306). The Art Department faculty members are dedicated teachers and practicing artists with significant national reputations. SUNY New Paltz is regularly included among the best schools in the Northeast and its Metals program has consistently been ranked as the best in the nation.

Financial assistance and tuition waivers are available. Students interested in a career in academia and pedagogical forms of collaboration have opportunities to assist and frequently teach their own undergraduate course.

Emphasis is placed on disciplinary rigor and interdisciplinary scholarship guided by committed conceptual inquiry. Our graduate program is more than a collection of students, faculty and facilities; we are a dynamic learning community engaged in and encouraging of authentic research, personal growth and a professionally sustainable art practice.

**Admission Requirements**

- One official copy of all undergraduate and graduate course work; the baccalaureate transcript should be from a regionally accredited institution with a 3.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) in the major, and a 3.0 cumulative GPA overall. A Bachelor of Fine Arts degree is preferred, but a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science with a concentration in the major field of specialization will be considered.

- Two letters of reference from former art teachers or other professionals in the field familiar with the candidate’s qualifications (two from the undergraduate institution)
supporting the candidate’s ability to do graduate work.

- Completion of the online application process requires uploading a minimum of 20 separate examples, the majority of which must be in the major field to which application is made.
- Submission of a 300-500 word essay stating the candidate’s goals for graduate study.
- Completion of the online application process requires a 300-500 word artist’s statement that discusses the candidate’s concepts, material processes, research methods and influences.

**Application Procedures**

Students may select to apply online or via paper application. Priority will be given to applications received by January 15.

To apply, submit the following items to the Graduate School in ONE COMPLETE PACKET:

1. A signed application (paper applications) or a signature page (online applications)
2. All undergraduate transcripts, including schools with transfer credits in sealed envelopes
3. One essay stating intent and objective of your graduate studies
4. Two letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes

If you have questions about the application process or the programs offered, please contact the Graduate School at (845) 257-3947 or gradschool@newpaltz.edu.

**Program Requirements**

- File a degree plan of study during the first semester after matriculation.
- Convene a Thesis Review Committee by the conclusion of the second semester.
- Complete prescribed course work and other requirements within five years after matriculation.
- Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better in all courses taken at New Paltz, with no more than two grades below B-.
- Present a thesis exhibition approved by recommendation of the Thesis Review Committee. Final documentation of thesis exhibit must be filed with the library in accordance with departmental guidelines. Complete submission is as follows:
  1. A binder (thinnest possible with grommets) labeled with name, project title, date and degree
  2. Thesis Statement (3 page minimum) with bibliography
  3. Large format photographic prints (b&w or color) of two art works
  4. Exhibition announcement card
  5. Resume
6. A CD ROM with 2D images or DVD for video documentation. Digital images must be JPEGs of at least 300dpi resolution and 1000 pixel dimension (length and width).

MFA students are required to complete their last 30 credits in residence.

International students must meet graduate school requirements for language proficiency. If remedial work in English is necessary, a student may be required to enroll in English as a Second Language. All entrance/placement examinations must be taken before any student may register for graduate classes.

Transfer Credit
With the approval of your academic advisor and the Dean of the Graduate School, students can transfer up to 6 graduate credits. However, credits cannot be transferred after the Plan of Study is approved.

Please note: Courses taken prior to acceptance into the MFA program may not be fully credited on your plan of study, even if taken at SUNY New Paltz.

Curriculum Requirements / 60 credits

- Thirty credits (50% of total credits) must be in the major area including 12 credits in Thesis. Of the total credits, a minimum of 30 credits (50%) must be at the 700 level.
- Twelve credits must be in liberal arts, art history, or theory. Graduate Art Seminar, ARS501, and Graduate Critical Dialogues, ARS700, are required of all MFA candidates and fulfill 6 credits of this 12-credit requirement.
- Of the eighteen credits of electives, at least 12 credits must be in art studio. The remaining 6 credits may be in any graduate level area (art studio, art history, liberal arts, etc.), with the approval of the graduate advisor.

Description of Individual Programs

The Ceramics program emphasizes the conceptual, technical, and professional development of its graduate students. The program provides a structure where students who work in functional, sculptural, and multimedia manners are challenged to critically assess, discuss, execute, and advance the ideas expressed in their work. The ceramics program’s 10,000 square foot facility is housed in the new Fine Arts Building, providing students with spacious studios and very comprehensive new equipment and kilns with which to work. Web site: www.newpaltz.edu/ceramics

The Metal program is premised on the idea that contemporary metal is a rich and complex activity. While existing in an historical context of processes, forms, style, and subjects, contemporary metal engages its time in a more expansive manner. While the experiential condition of studio work is valued, it is grounded in the idea that art is contiguous to social conditions and the nature of the changing arena of metal. Students are given the opportunity and encouraged to seek their particular voice as characterized by the pragmatic and theoretical conditions of our world. It is
ultimately our objective to work with individuals who regard thinking, making, and participating as significant acts in art. The 10,000 square foot studios supply equipment for working in a wide variety of traditional and contemporary metals techniques, as well as allocating private, efficiently organized spaces for each student. Web site: www.newpaltz.edu/metal

The Painting/Drawing program encourages the technical, conceptual, and professional development of its students through a balance of intensive studio experience and critical and theoretical dialogue. Students working in traditional, experimental, and multi-media formats are challenged to assess their work in a contemporary context. The program’s 10,000 square foot facility in Smiley Art Building includes private 200 square foot studios for each MFA student. Web site: www.newpaltz.edu/painting

It is the goal of the Printmaking program to prepare students to be professional artists and to teach art at the college level. The objective is to offer a program that thoroughly grounds the student in a broad range of traditional, contemporary, and innovative techniques. The program is geared to encourage students to formulate and articulate their philosophical and personal concepts and translate them into visual ideas. The program meets these objectives by offering a mix of intensive studio experience with critical and theoretical dialogue. The program is dedicated to acquainting students with the rich and diverse world of multicultural art and its formative impact on the contemporary art scene. The new printmaking studio is a state-of-the-art facility containing a full range of new and top-of-the-line equipment and presses. Students have the capability of working in the traditional processes of intaglio, lithography, serigraphy, and woodcut, as well as contemporary photo, digital, and mixed media printmaking processes. Web site: www.newpaltz.edu/printmaking

The graduate Sculpture program embraces and cultivates the diversity and complexity of what is defined as sculpture today. The program supports investigations that encompass installation, intervention, performance, sound, video, new media as well as more traditional approaches to sculpture. The Sculpture program encourages independent exploration, experimentation, critical awareness, and engagement in the issues, forms and contexts of contemporary, professional investigation. The program challenges and expands on the individual graduate student’s rationale and modes of working. In a flexible program encompassing the breadth of today’s sculptural possibilities, each student has the opportunity to articulate an individual vision and make a significant contribution to the discipline.

The overall footprint of the sculpture facilities encompasses 10,000 square feet of space, which is divided into individual studio space for MFA, MA and BFA students, general class workspace, an area for wood working, welding and metal fabrication. The facilities also include a separate room for experimental work such as installations. Equipment includes welding and metal working tools and machinery, wood working tools and machinery, video and sound equipment and a computer lab for digital image, sound and video production. Web site: www.newpaltz.edu/sculpture

For course descriptions, please click COURSES.