



VERMONT COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
ACADEMIC POLICIES

CREDIT HOURS PER SEMESTER

Approved: May 11, 2011

(Revised to include new programs)

POLICY:

The MFA degrees awarded by VCFA are consistent with comparable degrees offered by other graduate programs in their standards, contents, and length of study. While the self-designed nature of each student’s curriculum assures that learning is relevant and meaningful, the maintenance of rigorous College and program standards for academic progress assures that each student’s learning constitutes a graduate-level education accomplished in a timely manner and within the administrative and educational capabilities of the institution. Intensive one-on-one work with faculty advisors is the student’s primary venue for learning and artistic growth, richly augmented by the five on-campus residencies with their extensive offerings. The work students do during and between residencies—which culminates in the production of their critical and creative theses—is commensurate with the quantity and quality of work done in conventional MFA programs.

In keeping with the standards recognized by the higher education community, VCFA utilizes the following general guidelines for estimating credit hours per semester:

Each low-residency semester at VCFA is 6 months in length, for which 15 to 16 credits are awarded for successful completion. Each semester begins with an on-campus residency with a minimum of 100 hours of instructional time. The remainder of each semester requires an average of 25-30 hours per week of independent study under the supervision of a faculty member. Each program requires students to participate in a final graduation residency, which is the culmination of the educational experience at VCFA.

Unit	Hours	Weeks	Total	Program
1 credit	3	15	45	Standard calculation
15 credits	45	15	675	Standard calculation
15 credits	28	24	675	Visual Art, Music, Graphic Design, Film, Art & Design Ed
15 credits	27	25	675	Visual Art, Music, Graphic Design, Film, Art & Design Ed
15 credits	26	26	675	Visual Art, Music, Graphic Design, Film, Art & Design Ed
16 credits	48	15	720	Standard calculation
16 credits	30	24	720	Writing, WCYA
16 credits	29	25	720	Writing, WCYA
16 credits	28	26	720	Writing, WCYA