

Dear Prospective Graduate Student:

We are pleased to learn that you're interested in studying fine arts at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. The faculty, staff, and approximately 50 graduate students who make up the program feel that this is a really special place! Today, there is an even greater need to creatively interpret our current times.

Our group of diverse, talented, and experienced individuals make up a unique community of makers, thinkers, and creators who work together to develop skills and new ideas; all in a stimulating atmosphere of both challenge and mutual respect. The level of professional activity found among both students and faculty is quite exceptional.

As you consider continuing your studies in the fine arts, you have a lot of options to explore in selecting a program. You'll want to look at information about the faculty teaching in your area, what types of work students are doing, the types of funding and financial aid available to you, as well as where you'll live and work during your time in school. Obviously, you demand an institution where the lively debate of aesthetics pushes you to achieve and ask even more. You want to experience art making in the most diverse contexts that include conceptual as well as craft perspectives. You will need space and equipment to allow your creativity to flourish. Ready access to the advice, skills and guidance of professionals is critical. Perhaps you are drawn to becoming an educator.

Our MFA program offers areas of emphasis in glass, metals, ceramics, design, sculpture, and 2D (painting, drawing and printmaking), with additional opportunities to take courses across a vast research university. Our 3-year MFA programs offer students private studios, equipment and technology specific to their disciplines, research award opportunities for materials and travel, as well as graduate assistantships that offer unique teaching experience and tuition waivers.

Entering a graduate program is a major commitment of time and resources that will affect the rest of your life. This is a program for the person who is ready and willing to work for his or her goals and is determined to grow as an artist. We encourage you to visit our campus to talk with the faculty and students in your area.

If you decide to apply, please be aware that our MFA program space is limited, and the admissions process is competitive, so organize your application materials carefully. Enclosed is our general information packet which includes applications, instructions, and general descriptions of the programs offered. After reading it, please do not hesitate to contact me or the faculty in your area of interest.

The graduate secretary, Diane McClain-Inman, is available at (618) 453-4313, or e-mail at dinman@siu.edu. You can contact me best through email at markpease@siu.edu. I welcome you to consider SIU for your graduate experience!

Sincerely,



Mark Pease
Head of Graduate Studies

MP/dmi