

Visual Arts



Visual Arts at Lee College is a place where creativity, technical skill, and personal expression come together. Whether your passion is drawing and painting, photography, ceramics, printmaking, or digital arts, you'll develop the artistic foundation and technical expertise needed to transform ideas into meaningful works of art.

Our program emphasizes hands-on studio experiences where students learn by making. Through close faculty mentorship, creative exploration, and thoughtful critique, students build confidence while developing the skills to communicate visually, think critically, and solve creative problems. Working across multiple artistic disciplines encourages experimentation and helps students discover the medium that best supports their individual voice.

From your first sketch to your final portfolio, the Visual Arts program is designed to prepare you for successful transfer to a four-year university while fostering the curiosity, craftsmanship, and creative confidence that define lifelong artists.

Many careers require education beyond the associate degree. Students should work with their advisor to tailor course selections to align with their chosen transfer university. The transfer plan on this page outlines a general course plan, but it is essential for students to select courses that best fit their educational goals as they continue their education at a university.

What Will I Learn?

The Visual Arts curriculum provides students with a strong foundation in the principles, techniques, and creative practices shared across the visual arts. Through studio

courses, critiques, exhibitions, and collaborative projects, students develop technical proficiency while learning to think conceptually, communicate visually, and refine their own artistic voice.

Students explore a variety of traditional and contemporary media while strengthening skills in observation, composition, design, craftsmanship, and visual storytelling. Along the way, they gain experience presenting and discussing their work, building professional portfolios, and understanding the historical and cultural contexts that continue to shape contemporary artistic practice.

Whether working with graphite, clay, ink, cameras, or digital technology, students graduate with the confidence to continue their education, pursue creative careers, and contribute thoughtfully to the visual culture of their communities.

[View Program Learning Outcomes](#)

"What Can I Do With This Course of Study?"

A foundation in the visual arts opens career paths across the fine arts, design, education, and the broader creative industries. While many of these careers require continued study beyond the associate degree, the Visual Arts program prepares students to transfer into Bachelor of Fine Arts and related programs while building the portfolio, craftsmanship, and creative confidence that professional practice demands.

- Fine Art and Studio Practice
- Illustration and Concept Art
- Photography and Digital Imaging
- Graphic Design and Visual Communication
- Ceramics, Product Design, and Creative Entrepreneurship
- Printmaking and Publishing
- Animation and Game Art
- Arts Education
- Gallery and Museum Work
- Public Art and Mural Design

Associate of Arts Degree for Transfer in Visual Arts

Semester 1

- EDUC 1200 — Learning Frameworks
- ENGL 1301 — English Composition I
- HIST 1301 — History of the United States to 1877
- ARTS 1303 — Art History I (Prehistoric to 14th Century)
- ARTS 1316 — Drawing I

Semester 2

- ENGL 1302 — English Composition II
- HIST 1302 — History of the United States since 1877
- Mathematics Core Course
- ARTS 1304 — Art History II (14th Century to present)
- ARTS 1317 — Drawing II

Semester 3

- Language, Philosophy, and Culture Core Course
- Life and Physical Sciences Core Course
- GOVT 2305 — Federal Government
- Oral Communication Core Course
- Elective in Major

Semester 4

- Social/Behavioral Sciences Core Course
- Life and Physical Sciences Core Course
- GOVT 2306 — Texas Government
- Elective in Major
- Elective in Major

Visual Arts Specializations

Drawing and painting

Overview

- Drawing and Painting form the foundation of the visual arts, teaching students how to observe, interpret, and communicate through line, shape, value, color, and composition. Whether working from direct observation, the human figure, imagination, or personal experience, students develop the technical skills and creative confidence needed to express ideas visually.

Studio courses encourage exploration while emphasizing strong craftsmanship and thoughtful artistic decision-making. Through demonstrations, critiques, and hands-on studio practice, students learn to develop their own artistic voice while building a portfolio that prepares them for transfer and future creative opportunities.

What You Will Learn

- Drawing from Observation
- Perspective and Spatial Drawing
- Life Drawing
- Color Theory
- Painting Techniques
- Composition and Design
- Visual Storytelling
- Mixed Media Exploration
- Critical Analysis and Critique

Career Opportunities

- Drawing and Painting provide an excellent foundation for careers in fine art, illustration, concept art, gallery and museum work, arts education, mural design, public art, animation, game design, and numerous creative industries. Many students continue their education through Bachelor of Fine Arts programs, while

others combine these skills with photography, digital arts, graphic design, or other creative disciplines to build diverse professional careers.

Photography

Overview

- Photography is the art of seeing. More than simply capturing images, photography teaches students to observe the world with intention, communicate ideas visually, and tell compelling stories through light, composition, and timing. At Lee College, students explore both traditional and contemporary photographic practices while developing the technical knowledge and creative vision necessary to produce meaningful, professional-quality work.

Students gain hands-on experience with digital and film photography, studio lighting, black-and-white darkroom printing, and professional editing workflows using industry-standard software. Through critiques, exhibitions, and portfolio development, they learn to create images that are both technically accomplished and personally expressive while preparing for transfer into four-year photography or fine arts programs.

What You Will Learn

- Digital Photography
- Film Photography
- Camera Operation and Manual Exposure
- Studio Lighting
- Composition and Visual Storytelling
- Black-and-White Darkroom Printing
- Color Film Development and Darkroom Printing (RA4)
- Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom
- Alternative Photographic Processes
- Professional Workflow and Portfolio Development
- Critical Analysis and Critique

Career Opportunities

- Photography provides a strong foundation for careers in commercial photography, portrait photography, photojournalism, advertising, fashion, sports photography, documentary photography, fine art, digital imaging, visual communications, and arts education. The creative and technical skills developed through photography are also highly valued in graphic design, marketing, multimedia production, and other visual communication fields.

Ceramics

Overview

- Ceramics is the study of form, function, and craftsmanship through one of humanity's oldest artistic traditions. Working with clay challenges students to think three-dimensionally while developing patience, precision, and creative problem-solving skills. From functional pottery to expressive sculpture, students explore the limitless possibilities of ceramic art through hands-on studio practice.

At Lee College, students learn both traditional and contemporary ceramic techniques in a supportive studio environment where experimentation and craftsmanship go hand in hand. Through hand-building, wheel throwing, glazing, kiln firing, and critique, students develop the technical skills and artistic confidence needed to create original work while building a portfolio for transfer and future creative pursuits.

What You Will Learn

- Hand-Building Techniques
- Wheel Throwing
- Ceramic Sculpture
- Surface Decoration and Texture
- Glaze Mixing and Application
- Kiln Loading and Firing
- Functional Pottery Design
- Three-Dimensional Design Principles
- Studio Safety and Professional Practices
- Portfolio Development

Career Opportunities

- Ceramics provides a strong foundation for careers in fine art, studio pottery, sculpture, arts education, gallery and museum work, public art, ceramic design, product design, and creative entrepreneurship. Students also develop craftsmanship, design thinking, and problem-solving skills that translate into a wide variety of artistic and creative professions.

Printmaking

Overview

- Printmaking combines creativity, craftsmanship, and experimentation through the creation of original works of art using a variety of traditional and contemporary printing techniques. Unlike many artistic processes, printmaking invites students to think in multiples, exploring how a single image can evolve through variation, layering, color, and process. The result is a discipline that encourages both technical precision and creative discovery.

At Lee College, students learn the history, techniques, and expressive possibilities of printmaking while working with relief, intaglio, monotype, and other print processes. Through hands-on studio practice, critiques, and portfolio development, students develop strong design skills, an appreciation for craftsmanship, and the confidence to incorporate printmaking into their broader artistic practice.

What You Will Learn

- Relief Printing
- Intaglio Printing on an Etching Press
- Monotype
- Screen Printing
- Image Transfer Techniques

- Edition Printing
- Composition and Design
- Color Layering and Registration
- Studio Safety and Professional Practices

Career Opportunities

- Printmaking provides a strong foundation for careers in fine art, illustration, graphic design, publishing, arts education, gallery and museum work, print studios, and interdisciplinary creative practice. The technical, conceptual, and design skills developed through printmaking also support careers in advertising, visual communications, and other creative industries where originality and craftsmanship are valued.

Digital Arts

Overview

- Digital Arts combines traditional artistic principles with today's creative technologies, giving students the opportunity to explore new ways of making, communicating, and sharing visual ideas. Rooted in the same foundations of composition, color, design, and visual storytelling found throughout the visual arts, Digital Arts prepares students to work confidently across an ever-evolving creative landscape.

At Lee College, students develop technical proficiency using industry-standard software while creating original digital illustrations, graphic designs, digital paintings, and mixed-media projects. Through hands-on studio experiences, creative problem-solving, and portfolio development, students learn to combine artistic vision with technology, preparing them for transfer into four-year programs and careers in the creative industries.

What You Will Learn

- Digital Illustration
- Digital Painting
- Graphic Design Fundamentals
- Typography and Layout
- Digital Imaging and Photo Manipulation
- Visual Communication
- Creative Software Workflows
- Branding and Design Concepts
- Professional Portfolio Development
- Contemporary Digital Art Practices

Career Opportunities

- Digital Arts provides a strong foundation for careers in graphic design, digital illustration, concept art, advertising, branding, web design, user experience (UX) design, digital marketing, publishing, multimedia production, game art, animation, and other emerging creative industries. The combination of artistic creativity and

technical proficiency also prepares students for continued study in a wide variety of visual communication and design programs.

Transfer

Students pursuing the Associate of Arts (AA) degree are strongly encouraged to connect with the Transfer Department early and often to ensure a smooth transition to a four-year university.

The Transfer team can help you explore your options, understand admission requirements, and create a clear academic plan aligned with your goals.

- Visit the [Transfer Page](#) to access resources and connect with advisors.
- Explore guidance on [Transferring to a University](#), including an easy-to-follow checklist.
- Review detailed [University Partner Transfer Maps](#) to see how your Lee College courses merge seamlessly into bachelor's degree programs.

Taking advantage of these resources will help you stay on track and make informed decisions about your future.

[CAREERS IN
CREATIVE ARTS
My Next Move](#)

■

[Live Chat](#)

Contact Info

Ethan Acres
Division Chair, Visual & Performing Arts
cacres@lee.edu
281.425.6820

Diana Bumpus
Administrative Specialist, Visual & Performing Arts
dbumpus@lee.edu
281.425.6350

[Contact an Advisor](#)