PROPOSAL FOR AN AREA OF EMPHASIS

Date: September 18, 2026

School/College: Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

Department/Division: Lamar Dodd School of Art

Program (Major and Degree): Interdisciplinary Art (A.B.)

Area of Emphasis Title: Photography and Expanded Media

CIP: 500605

Which campus(es) will offer this program? Athens

Proposed Effective Term: Fall 2027

Area of Emphasis Description:

The Bachelor of Arts (A.B.) in Interdisciplinary Art with an Area of Emphasis in Photography and Expanded Media provides students with a rigorous introduction to lens-based, time-based, and emerging media practices within the context of a broad liberal arts education. The program is designed to develop students' understanding of photographic processes, digital imaging, video, installation, and interdisciplinary media practices while fostering visual literacy, conceptual thinking, and critical engagement with art, technology, and contemporary culture. Students are taught to use the tools and methods associated with image production and expanded media practices; to understand the nonverbal language of art through principles of design, composition, light, time, sequence, spatial relationships, and visual communication; and to organize visual elements both intuitively and analytically in response to artistic intent. Coursework also emphasizes familiarity with significant historical and contemporary developments in photography, moving-image media, and interdisciplinary art practices.

The program's intended contribution to the field lies in its interdisciplinary approach to photography and expanded media, positioning these practices not only as technical or commercial forms of image production but also as sites of artistic, cultural, and intellectual inquiry. By integrating studio practice with coursework across the humanities, sciences, and social sciences, the emphasis encourages students to consider photography and media arts in relation to history, identity, memory, technology, visual culture, environmental issues, and global communication. This approach supports emerging forms of creative practice that intersect with contemporary art, digital technologies, social engagement, archival research, and interdisciplinary modes of inquiry.

The target audience for the program includes students who seek focused study in photography and expanded media within a more academically flexible degree structure than that offered by the B.F.A. in Art with an Area of Emphasis in Photography and Expanded Media. This includes students pursuing photography as a second major, transfer students managing time-to-degree constraints, and students whose interests are best served by combining media-based studio practice with coursework in other disciplines. The A.B. framework allows these students to tailor their studies to individual academic and professional goals while maintaining a coherent and substantial studio experience.

The program includes 24 hours of studio coursework beyond the 22 hours of studio courses in the Studio Art core curriculum, for a total of 46 hours of studio instruction. This structure ensures sustained engagement with photographic and media-based processes while preserving the breadth and elective freedom characteristic of the Bachelor of Arts degree. Graduates of the program are prepared for a range

of post-graduate pathways, including interdisciplinary creative careers, roles in arts and cultural organizations, education, museums and archives, media production, nonprofit organizations, and graduate study in photography, media arts, fine arts, or related fields.

The program aspires to graduate students who demonstrate technical competence, visual sophistication, and conceptual clarity; who can think critically about photographs, media technologies, and contemporary image culture; and who can integrate photographic and media-based practices into broader intellectual, creative, and professional contexts. Through this area of emphasis, the School of Art expands access to photography and media arts education while supporting diverse models of student achievement, interdisciplinary exploration, and lifelong creative engagement.

Area of Emphasis Requirements:

A grade of "C" (2.0) or better in all Area VI and major courses is required for graduation.

Area VI
ARST 1040, Proseminar in Studio Art (1 hour)
ARST 1050, Drawing I: Observation and Visual Language (3 hours)
ARST 1060, Color/Composition (3 hours)
ARST 1080, Three-Dimensional Design (3 hours)
ARST 2020, Ideation and Methodologies (3 hours)
ARST 2000-level course (3 hours)

Choose 3 hours from the following:
ARST 2205 Introduction to Photography and Image Culture (1 hour)
and ARST 2205L Introduction to Photography and Image Culture Laboratory (2 hours)
ARST 2210 Introduction to Photography and Image Culture (3 hours)
ARST 2810 Play in Emerging Media Arts (3 hours)

Area of Emphasis in Photography and Expanded Media (12 hours)
Select 9 hours from the following:
ARST 2810, Play in Emerging Media Arts (3 hours)
ARST 3200, Black and White Photography (3 hours)
ARST 3205, Video Concepts and Practice (3 hours)
ARST 3210, Color Photography (3 hours)
ARST 3220, Advanced Film and Camera (3 hours)
ARST 3250, Constructed Image in Photography (3 hours)
ARST 3800, Transmedia (3 hours)
ARST 3805, Animation – 2D and Experimental Motion Graphics (3 hours)

Select 3 hours from the following:
ARST 4200 Advanced Workshop in Photography and Expanded Media (3 hours)
ARST 4900, Technical Problems (3 hours)

Total Hours for Area of Emphasis = 12 hours