Why art at Illinois Wesleyan?

We are a vibrant community of artists and designers committed to creative practice. Here, you will be inspired and trained to become the very best artist you can be. Our outstanding faculty will challenge and support you as you develop technically and conceptually. Your artistic endeavors will be fueled by a rich liberal arts education. The curriculum is designed to provide flexibility and foster the critical thinking and creativity that employers and graduate schools are seeking.

Individually designed experiential learning is incorporated into our curriculum through valuable internships, special individual projects and affordable study abroad programs. At IWU, every student will create their own student-directed portfolio of work with reflective advising from faculty in the School of Art.

Our faculty members are active professionals outside of the studio classrooms and share rich and varied experiences unique to artists, designers and scholars. Visiting artists and graphic designers give artist talks every semester and students have the opportunity to interact with them through studio workshops. Each semester, our new Shiro Oni Artist in Residency Program (begun during the fall of 2019) brings a professional artist to campus to work in residence at IWU, offering students the unique opportunity to actively engage with and learn from these artists from around the globe!

These are just some of reasons I hope you’ll consider Illinois Wesleyan’s School of Art.

I look forward to seeing you!

Julie Johnson
Interim Director and Associate Professor of Art (Graphic Design)
Push Beyond the Boundaries of YOUR CREATIVITY AT THE AMES SCHOOL OF ART

THE IWU ADVANTAGE
Receive attention from faculty who are working artists and designers. Be seen with seasonal student exhibits in the elegant Merwin & Wakeley Galleries located inside of the School of Art. Acquire skills to have your craft along with the freedom to develop your potential. Ultimately, prepare yourself for a diverse career from professional artist to creative director of a strategic design firm. 

MAKING IT REAL

- Students have the opportunity to exhibit their artwork each spring at the Annual Student Art Show. Prizes are awarded in many categories.
- Senior BFA students present an exhibition of their artwork each spring and have the opportunity to participate in IWU’s John Wesley Powell student research conference.
- A variety of internship opportunities are open to artists and designers.
- Students can sell their artwork at the annual School of Art sale.
- Under the supervision of the Gallery Director, students learn techniques to successfully present a professional art exhibition.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Talent Awards, Scholarships and Grants
Scholarships are renewable for four years and are awarded on the basis of portfolio evaluations and academic background. Awards range up to $20,000 per year. Institutional need-based aid is also available.

CHOOSE A PATH

Two-dimensional Studio Art
Explore the visual and conceptual problems of the picture plane. Students in 2D Art study in depth the traditional artistic tools and technical processes of painting, drawing, lithography, etching, color intaglio, film and digital photography, as well as a variety of special topics. Courses focus on problem solving skills in visual expression relevant for our contemporary culture.

Three-dimensional Studio Art
Investigate the challenges of working spatially using varied media to produce thought-provoking artistic objects and assemblages, site-specific work and installations. Students in 3D Art study and create sculptural artifacts with attention to the expressiveness of spatial context, depth, texture, mass, and volume. Courses focus on the tools and methods of fused, cast, and flame-worked glass, wheel-thrown and hand-built ceramics, and the dynamics of mixed media sculpture.

Graphic Design
Develop a broad understanding of visual communication theory and practice. Through the refinement of conceptual, aesthetic, and technical skills, students will create visual messages across a variety of media. Courses utilize design methodology, design principles, gestalt principles, color theory, typography, imagery, and manual and digital techniques.

Minor in Studio Art, Graphic Design, or Art History
Discover how a minor in the visual arts can complement your major and provide a unique advantage in the workplace and beyond. Creative thinking, strategic problem solving, critical observation and empathy are just a few of the skills developed through study in the visual arts.

In addition, IWU offers students the flexibility to customize their experience by constructing a contract minor. We will work with you to develop a meaningful experience and achieve your academic goals.

Portfolio Review
A portfolio review is required for admission into the BFA degree program and/or to qualify for art scholarships. For requirements, please visit www.iwu.edu/apply

APPLY ONLINE NOW: www.iwu.edu/apply

EMILY WILKES, CLASS OF 2019

IWU Major: Painting, Magnus Cam Lunde [Emily graduated in 4 years.]
Internship: McLane County Arts Center
Student Life: President, Kappa Pi International Honorary Art Fraternity
Currently: Pursuing curatorial studies in graduate school
Hometown: St. Charles, Missouri

HEU VU, CLASS OF 2019

IWU Major: Graphic Design
[Heu graduated in 4 years.]
Internship: 50 Degrees West, St. Louis
Currently: We Are Royals, Los Angeles (animation, video, graphic and digital design)
Hometown: Hanoi, Vietnam

DEGREE PROGRAMS

Bachelor of Arts in Art
- Graphic Design
- Studio Art

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art
- Graphic Design
- Three-Dimensional Art
- Two-Dimensional Art

Minors
- Art History
- Graphic Design
- Studio Art

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

EMILY CHAPMAN, CLASS OF 2019

IWU Major: Graphic Design [Emily graduated in 4 years.]
Internships: COUNTRY Financial, IWU Athletics Marketing Operations
Activities: Kappa Kappa Gamma, Volleyball, Love Your Melon Club
Hometown: East Peoria, Illinois

THE VALUE OF MY IWU EXPERIENCE

“As an art student, I am truly privileged to work with such genuine professors. Julie Johnson has been an outstanding addition to the School of Art. She truly cares about her students and the success of the program. Julie challenged me in the classroom and supports my dreams outside of it. I know that even after I graduate, I will have her as one of my biggest supporters.”