Intensive professional training is provided to ensure the development of highly motivated, self-disciplined M.F.A. graduates. Candidates can be assured their Winthrop degree meets the rigorous professional standards of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD), of which the university is an institutional accredited member.
The M.F.A. program at Winthrop is about developing and nurturing the artist. The program provides a supportive environment and community for highly-motivated students, who are intent on advanced, independent studies in their field. The program provides a critical dialogue from instructors who espouse a broad outlook and represent varied points of view. The program selects students for their creative and intellectual involvement, their creative promise, and their ability to share in the learning process with their peers and the faculty. The program expects M.F.A. candidates to have already begun to develop an independent and mature direction in their work before beginning the program. The program expects the M.F.A. graduate to exhibit professional studio competence; to organize, evaluate, and interpret knowledge; to possess the ability to address, explore, and resolve pertinent issues; and to continue a demonstrated commitment to the visual arts.

WHY WINTHROP’S M.F.A. PROGRAM
- The program is tailored to pushing students’ interests to their fullest.
- The program’s size allows for personalized attention.
- The program is about engaged faculty and students.
- The program supports an active community of artists.
- The program is about developing and nurturing the artist.
- The program is located in the region’s fastest growing professional arts community.

In the ever-changing global experience, Winthrop’s Department of Fine Arts acknowledges the importance of developing and nurturing the citizen artist who can navigate ideas of our time. The program is about more than being versed in only one discipline. Although a candidate might select from one of the areas of concentration including General Studio, Painting, Sculpture or Crafts, he or she will be expected to address a broad range of possibilities for communicating visually and conceptually within our contemporary environment on and off campus and beyond.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
For admission to the graduate program, the applicant must meet the general requirements. All materials must be submitted to the Graduate School.
- Have an overall undergraduate grade-point average of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale.
- Submit a written statement of purpose reflective of your creative goals in the intended major and minor areas of study. The statement should indicate how the applicant envisions his or her work developing and why it is important to pursue a graduate degree.
- Submit a resume.
- Have three original letters of recommendation submitted directly from art and design professionals who know the applicant.
- Submit a minimum of 20 digital images that represent the applicant’s work in the intended area of concentration or interest. Images should be labeled with the applicant’s name and a number that corresponds to the digital image inventory sheet (for example: Smith#1.jpeg). Images should be at least 8” x 6” with resolution of 300 dpi. Please make sure that your name is also on the CD.

FIND OUT MORE
To find out more about the M.F.A. program and the Department of Fine Arts at Winthrop University, you may want to schedule a tour in the department. You may also want to sit in on a graduate class, meet current M.F.A. candidates, talk to our teaching artists and scholars or see the work that students and faculty are currently producing at Winthrop. Please do not hesitate to find out more and make an informed decision about your future as an artist in the 21st century.