The Department of Visual and Dramatic Arts welcomes the full spectrum of Rice University students. Scientists, architects, historians, engineers and economists, among many others, augment the core of arts majors to create a diverse, lively forum of artists and thinkers. We believe this composite community is a vital asset to majors and nonmajors alike: art thrives in contact with new and varied perspectives, and the risk-taking and critical thinking necessary to making art are crucial in many other fields. Beyond a dynamic artistic practice, we aim to cultivate an artistic frame of mind.

Students may focus their education in one of three tracks: studio, theater, or film and photography. Courses draw on the resources of Rice’s active and accomplished faculty, extensive on-campus facilities and Houston’s vibrant artistic community. The department boasts a state-of-the-art cinema, as well as a 500-seat proscenium-style theater. Immediately next door, the Moody Center for the Arts hosts interdisciplinary arts courses and mounts exhibitions by internationally acclaimed artists. The Rice campus is within walking distance of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston and a short drive from the renowned Menil Collection. Distinguished speakers, visiting artists, film series, field trips, student exhibitions and performance opportunities all contribute to an immersive arts education that extends well beyond the classroom.

### Studio Art Concentration

**Single Majors**: 40 credit hours  
**Double Majors**: 37 credit hours  

**Director of Undergraduate Study in Studio Art:**  
 Associate Professor Christopher Sperandio  
sperandio@rice.edu

**Core Degree Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTS 165</td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
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<td>ARTS 311</td>
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</tr>
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**Electives:**

1. Select two (2) electives from HART courses at the 100-level or above
2. Select two (2) directed electives in visual arts, film, photography or theater

**Additional Information:**

- Double majors who drop their second major are required to meet the requirements listed for single majors.
- The pre-practicum trip (ARTS 294) is designed to help visual arts majors focus on the senior year of intensive studio work, and is a requirement of the studio arts major. The trip provides opportunities to explore contemporary art practices, see and meet with leading artists and writers in the field, and to focus on visual and creative landscapes.
- Double majors must complete at least one (100-level or above) studio arts or film offering at the 300-level or above.

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**VADA: Creative Scholars, Engaged Artists**

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**Electives:**

1. Select two (2) electives from HART courses at the 100-level or above
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- Double majors must complete at least one (100-level or above) studio arts or film offering at the 300-level or above.
Film and Photography Concentration

Single Majors: 36 credit hours
Double Majors: 30 credit hours

Director of Undergraduate Study in Film and Photography
Professor in the Practice of Film Christina Dove
Email: cdove@rice.edu

Core Degree Requirements
FILM 327/ANTH 324/ARTS 327 Documentary Production
FILM 328/ARTS 328 Filmmaking I
FILM 420 Film Studio
FILM 428/ARTS 428 Filmmaking II
FILM 444 Experimental Film
FOTO 205 Introduction to Photography
FOTO 210 Beginning Digital Photography
FOTO 310 Intermediate Digital Photography
FOTO 385 Photography Seminar
FOTO 410 Advanced Digital Photography
Select two (2) from the following list:
ARTS 388 Critical Studies for Studio Practice
FILM 323/ARTS 323 HART 320 History and Aesthetics of Film
FILM 284/HART 284 Nonfiction Film
FILM 381/HART 381 Global Cinema
FOTO 342 ARTS 342 Film Seminar, The Western
FOTO 426 ARTS 426 Film Seminar, Science Fiction
FOTO 435 ARTS 435 HART 480 Seminar on Film Authorship

Select one (1) from the following list:
ARTS 388 Critical Studies for Studio Practice
FILM 280/HART 280/ARTS 280 History and Aesthetics of Film
FILM 284/HART 284 Nonfiction Film
FILM 383/HART 383 Global Cinema
FILM 432/ARTS 432 Film Genre: The Western
FILM 433/ARTS 433 Film Genre: Science Fiction
FILM 435/ARTS 435 HART 480 Seminar on Film Authorship

Electives:
1) Select two (2) elective courses from studio arts (ARTS), film (FILM), photography (FOTO) or other courses in the humanities deemed equivalent by the instructor.
2) Select two (2) courses in the theory/criticism of studio arts (ARTS), theatre (THEA), or film/media studies offered in the departments of Anthropology, English, French Studies, History, etc.

Additional Information:
1) Double majors who drop their second major are required to meet the requirements listed for single majors.
2) Double majors must complete a total of two (2) additional courses (six-credit hours) from studio arts (ARTS), film (FILM), photography (FOTO), or other courses in the humanities.
3) Theory/criticism elective courses should be selected in consultation with a visual and dramatic arts faculty adviser. Double majors must complete one (1) course (three-credit hours) in theory/criticism of studio arts (ARTS), theatre (THEA), or film/media studies (offered in the departments of Anthropology, English, French Studies, History, etc.).

Theatre Concentration

Single Majors: 33 credit hours
Double Majors: 27 credit hours

Director of Undergraduate Study in Theatre
Professor in the Practice of Theatre Christina Keefe
Email: ck1@rice.edu

Core Degree Requirements
THEA 315 Theatre in Western Culture: A Historical Introduction
THEA 331 Theatre Production (Crew)
Select one (1) from the list:
THEA 100 Stagecraft
THEA 101 Theatre Technology: Costume Construction
THEA 103 Theatre Technology
Select one (1) from the list:
THEA 300 Introduction to Theatre Design
THEA 301 Acting

Select six (6) courses from:
Theatre (THEA), Studio Arts (ARTS), Photography (FOTO) or Film (FILM) course offerings
Select three (3) courses from:
Dramatic or film theory or criticism, dramatic literature or art history

Additional Information:
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2) Double majors who drop their second major are required to meet the requirements listed for single majors.
3) Double majors must complete a total of two (2) additional courses (six-credit hours) from theatre (THEA), studio arts (ARTS), photography (FOTO), or film (FILM) course offerings.
4) Double majors may include more than two (2) courses (six-credit hours) from theatre (THEA), studio arts (ARTS), photography (FOTO), or film (FILM) course offerings.
5) Double majors may include more than two (2) courses (six-credit hours) from theatre (THEA), studio arts (ARTS), photography (FOTO), or film (FILM) course offerings.
6) All courses for a double major must be approved by the theatre faculty advisor.
Faculty

Natasha Bowdoin, Assistant Professor, Painting and Drawing
Heather Breikjern, Lecturer, Theatre and Costume Shop Manager
Jost Berstein, Lecturer, Painting and Drawing
Karin Brooker, Professor, Praktikum and Drawing
Charles Dave, Professor in the Practice of Film, Rice Cinema Director
Will Fowler, Lecturer, Painting and Drawing
Paul Hester, Lecturer, Photography
Brian Huberman, Associate Professor, Filmmaking
Allison Hunter, Artist in Residence
Christina Keefe, Professor in the Practice of Theatre, Rice Theatre Director
Mark Krouskop, Lecturer and Theatre Production Manager
Lisa Lapinski, Assistant Professor
Katrina Moorehead, Lecturer, Sculpture and Drawing
John Sparagana, Professor of Painting and Drawing and Department Chairman
Christopher Sperandio, Associate Professor, Painting and Drawing
Tish Stringer, Lecturer and Film Program Manager
Geoff Winningham, Professor, Photography

Staff

Rachel Boyle, Administrator
Shannon Duncan, Photography Coordinator
Randall McCabe, Studio Manager and Lead Preparator
Maria Martinez, Events and Programs Coordinator

Awards, Fellowships and Opportunities

Department-sponsored Junior-Year Field Trip for third-year students:

ART5 294 Special Problems: Junior Year Field Trip is required for advanced planning in the senior major concentration, and recommended for students pursuing the major concentration in theatre and photography. This trip is designed to help visual arts majors focus on the upcoming senior year of intensive studio work, and to get to know the visual and dramatic arts faculty and staff. These are trips to cultural centers nationally and internationally, including visits to museums, galleries, artist studios, theaters, and meetings with creative professionals in the fields of film/photo, theater and studio arts.

Distinction in Research and Creative Works:

Distinction in Research and Creative Works is a university award for select undergraduates, granted at commencement, which appears on the transcript and diploma. Eligibility for the award extends widely to include a variety of research, design, and other creative projects, as well as persistent dedication to research.

Awards and Fellowships

(see application)

Mary Ellen Hale Lovett Traveling Fellowship
Mavis C. Pitman Exhibition Fellowship
Elaine & Frank Houtz Traveling Fellowship

(see faculty application)

Mavis C. Pitman Memorial Prize in Arts
Christine C. Sayres Memorial Scholarship
Jennie M. Tranders Scholarship
Kathleen Gamber Fellowship Award in Film and Photography
Samantha Worth Award
Barbara Long-Chilton Memorial Scholarship in Theatre
Jack F. Houston Memorial Award in Acting
Darma K. Nettles Award in Drawing
Chairman’s Choice Award in the Arts
Since its inception during fall 1969, Rice Cinema has worked in concert with the Department of Visual and Dramatic Arts’ academic mission to enrich our students’ undergraduate experience. Our state-of-the-art screening facilities examine and study the historical and methodological aspects of movies from around the world in celluloid and 4K digital cinema projection with Dolby Digital Sound. Film production students can showcase their work during the academic year on our silver screen in recently renovated projection facilities.

During the academic year, Rice Cinema screens films from around the world — foreign features, shorts, documentaries and animation — as part of our ongoing partnership with the diverse cultural communities of the City of Houston. Film at Rice reaches beyond the university’s hedges to create, engage and encourage scholarly thought and dialog on the many issues that impact our world. Among the internationally known filmmakers who have appeared on our campus over the years include Werner Herzog, Rakhshan Banietemad, Atom Egoyan, Shirin Neshat, Martin Scorsese, Andy Warhol, George Lucas and Dennis Hopper.