



PHOTOGRAPHY

The Photography Program at San José State University is the largest in the California State University system and one of the most comprehensive in the Western United States. With a long-standing reputation for excellence, our program provides a range of courses that foster technical mastery and conceptual strength along with a firm understanding of photographic history and theory. Our curriculum engages students in a diverse range of contemporary practices, from innovative approaches to digital imaging and traditional silver-based photography to historical alternative photographic processes and image-based installations. In addition to our emphasis in photography as a fine art, our program also includes a strong commercial component, offering beginning through advanced courses in Studio Lighting and Professional Practices. The blending of fine art and commercial photography is a feature that makes our undergraduate program unique.

Program Overview

The Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Photography is a 120-unit program focused on a full range of photography courses that will provide all that you need to begin an exciting career in the field. Admission involves application and acceptance to SJSU through the BA Art program. You will then apply to the BFA Photography program through a portfolio review of your photographic work. There are two opportunities to apply each year. Because we also offer a Master's Degree Program, undergraduate students enjoy the added advantage of working alongside graduate students who have committed to continuing their education in photography.

The Master of Fine Arts Degree in Photography is a 60-unit program completed in two and a half to three years. Studies are focused on further development of a strong, professional body of lens-based work. Please contact us to arrange a visit to our campus and a meeting with you before you apply.

You will find more information on our graduate program at: www.sjsu.edu/art/art_programs/graduate/mfa_photography/

Degrees Offered

BFA Art, Concentration in Photography
Minor in Photography
MFA Art, Concentration in Photography

Facilities

Our technical facilities are among the largest and best equipped in the West, with instructional complexes that include darkrooms, commercial lighting studios, and facilities for alternative photographic processes. Digital- and film-based cameras ranging from 35mm to 8x10 inches are complemented by a full range of digital support equipment, including an array of digital printing stations featuring professional quality Epson, Canon, and HP printers. Our lighting studios offer a professional-grade digital workflow. We recognize the future of most photographic practice to be digital, yet we respect the educational value and potential for self-expression offered by film and silver-based processes. We maintain our commitment to traditional darkrooms and an alternative processes lab as we regularly upgrade our digital equipment with advancing technology.



Faculty

Our Photography faculty consists of actively practicing image-makers and working professionals in the field with strong international, national, and regional reputations. Their work has garnered numerous awards and is included in the permanent collections of many national and international museums. Members of our faculty are fully engaged in the larger art community through involvement in regional and national projects and organizations. There is no pervasive aesthetic trend at SJSU; the faculty has been carefully selected to offer a wide range of aesthetic and technical possibilities to our students.

The Department of Art and Art History

The Department of Art and Art History at SJSU is dedicated to teaching the core skills demanded by 21st century industry and required for global citizenship. Conceptual creativity and creative problem solving; understanding and analysis of visual communication; complex critical thinking and writing; a firm scaffold of historical knowledge; the integration of new technologies with timeless methods of artistic practice; commitment to local and global community—all of these form the backbone of our curriculum. Founded in 1911, the Department offers BA, BFA, MA, and MFA degrees in Art Education, Art History and Visual Culture, Interdisciplinary Studio Practice, Digital Media Art, Photography, Pictorial Art, and Spatial Art.

Career Opportunities

Photo Studio Manager
Photographer's Assistant
Photo Editor
Lab Technician
Custom Printer
Photographic Salesperson
Certified Photographic Consultant
Director of Photography
Cinematographer
Post-production
Photo Retouching
Web Design
Social Media Marketing
Photojournalism
Exhibiting Artist
Gallery Director, Curator,
Curatorial Assistant

Types of Photographers

Food
Wedding
Lifestyle
Sporting Event
Wildlife
Catalog
Documenting artist's work,
events, and performances

Photographing and
touring with bands
Aerial
Product
Corporate
Event
Portrait
Real Estate
Architecture & Interiors
Vehicles
Documentary
Activism

Types of Teaching

K-12
Youth Instructor for
camps, non-profits, etc.
Workshop Facilitator
Museum Docent
Gallery Teachers
Higher Education



Dept. of Art and Art History

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