5-year, dual degree Bachelor of Fine Arts/Master of Arts in Teaching (BFA/MAT)

Eligible for certification in almost every state and many international locations, recent BFA/MAT graduates are teaching in:

Alabama       Georgia       Massachusetts       Oregon
Brazil         Germany       Michigan           Pennsylvania
California     Illinois       New Hampshire      Texas
Colorado       Japan         New Jersey         United Arab Emirates
Costa Rica     Louisiana     New York           Vermont
District of Columbia Maine       North Carolina     Virginia
Delaware       Maryland       Ohio
Florida

Success in Art Education

One hundred percent of our graduates receive certification with reciprocity in almost all 50 states. MA in Teaching (MAT) graduates teach in public and private elementary, middle, and secondary schools, as well as charter, progressive, alternative, and transformation schools in the U.S. and abroad. The MAT program has a nearly 100 percent job placement record overall.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Meghann Harris ’11 ’12

MICA’s reputation for producing leaders in art education is exemplified by Meghann Harris ’11 ’12 (graphic design, MAT), an award-winning teacher at the Baltimore Design School (BDS), a middle-high school offering specialized study in architecture, fashion, and graphic design. Harris, who is in her third year teaching design thinking at BDS, found success quickly. During her first year, the Maryland Art Education Association honored her with the New Teacher Award for Baltimore City. BDS has close ties to MICA alumni and faculty, such as Leah Brown ’07 ’08 (painting, MAT) and Molly Roberts ’12 ’13 (fiber, MAT), who also teach at the school. And Karen Carroll, dean of MICA’s Center for Art Education, is on the board of directors. For more stories of career success from MICA MAT grads, turn the page.
MICA’s BFA/MAT graduates are practicing artists and teachers who... 
...earn local awards and positions of distinction

Each year, the Maryland Association of Teacher Education (MATE) presents the Distinguished Teacher Award to one candidate from each institution of higher education in Maryland to recognize and honor those teacher candidates whose work in a clinical environment shows a commitment to student learning and practice of reflective, responsive teaching. The Distinguished Teacher Awardee for 2014 was Danielle Klim.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) established the Teachers of Promise Institute in 2007 to encourage the best and brightest college students in Maryland to teach locally and provide a transition from student to first-year teacher. Awardees are selected for their high academic achievement and teaching skills as evidenced by their grades and performance in student teaching. The Teachers of Promise awardees for 2014 were: Caitlin Engels, Diane Yu, Tom Doyle, Lisa Warren, and Niki Moyer.

The Manuel Barkan Memorial Award is a national award acknowledging a work of scholarship published in the highly esteemed, peer-reviewed Art Education and Studies in Art Education journals. Stacey Salazar ’00 was selected for this award in 2015.

The National Art Education Association (NAEA) recognizes an art educator each year for his/her outstanding achievement, contributions, and service in previous years to the field of art education by a National Art Honor Society Chapter. Windy Wooten Spiridigliozzi ’97 was the recipient of this award in 2015.

The National Research Commission for the National Art Education Association coordinates and communicates about research that relates to understanding critical questions of importance to the field and to providing the highest quality of art education possible in our schools and educational institutions. Shyla Rao ’97 was appointed as the Eastern Regional Representative for the Professional Learning Through Research group in the research commission.

MA in Teaching graduates presented in over twenty different sessions at the National Art Education Association conference in 2015. Presenters included: Molly Roberts ’13, Meghann Harris ’12, Julia McGigh ’11, Jaime Bennati ’11, Caro Appel ’10, Stephanie Cafaro ’08, Jillian Jenkins ’01, Juan Carlos Castro ’00, Amy Charleroy ’00, Shyla Rao ’97, Aileen Castro ’95, Grace Hulse ’81.

...spread out across the country

Niki Moyer ’14 is a k–8 visual arts teacher at Innovations Academy charter school in San Diego, California.

Jessica Davidson, ’14 teaches at Wando High School in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

Avrah Urecki ’14 teaches at Charleston Catholic High School in Charleston, West Virginia.

Tom Doyle ’14 is teaching at the Chataqua Institution in New York.

Taylor Reno ’13 teaches Art, Japanese, and Social Studies at the Westfield Day School in Rye, New York.

Alder Keene ’12 teaches at Northside Elementary School in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Alder is also a resident teaching-artist at the Art Center in Carrboro, North Carolina.

Chris Wills ’11 teaches graphic design at Padua Academy, an all-girls private high school, in Wilmington, Delaware.

Victoria Snell ’10 teaches grades 1–5 at Isidore Newman private school in New Orleans.

Jean Marie Holmes ’10 teaches art to grades 1–6 at the GREEN Charter School in Greenville, South Carolina.

Shawn Elyce Trice ’09 moved to Boston after graduation and teaches at Foxborough High School as the fine arts teacher.

Stephanie Moon ’08 taught in two Baltimore City public schools and a private school in Baltimore County before moving to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she’s currently teaching at Buckingham Browne & Nichols Middle School, a small co-ed private school.

Lauren Scherf Srivastava ’08 is a full-time art teacher and graphic designer at the Berkeley School (ECC) in Berkeley, California.

Dabney Smith ’05 teaches at Davenport A+ Elementary School, an arts integration school in Lenoir, North Carolina. In 2011, Dabney earned National Board Certification for teaching.

Christine Kane ’05 teaches high school in the Bellmore Merrick School District in Long Island, New York.

Laura Piszkiewich-Tauber ’03 teaches at the Johnsbury public junior high and high schools in rural McHenry County, Illinois.

Ruth Jatib O’Connor ’01 taught in Hawaii after graduation and recently moved to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where she is currently teaching in a Montessori School.
...maintain an active studio practice and exhibit their work

Hannah Cohen ‘13 has participated in two shows in Washington, D.C., since graduation, and has continued to work on commissioned pieces while teaching in Baltimore.

Taylor Reno ‘13 is creating children’s book illustrations for kids in the syndrome mix of ADHD, autism spectrum, anxiety, and more while teaching at the Westfield Day School in Rye, New York, a private school for students with special needs and emotional disabilities.

Mary Mullaj ‘12 teaches 1st and 3rd graders at the Bryn Mawr School, an independent, nonsectarian, college-preparatory school for girls in Baltimore. Mary is the recipient of the Alice C. Cole Alumnae fund from Wellesley College in Massachusetts where she will exhibit artwork she has created as an extension of her MAT Thesis.

Zac Lawhon ’12 has continued his artistic practice while teaching in Baltimore City and most recently performed in a circus, Newtonian Circonian, as part of an acrobatic yoga troupe.

Elicia Epperlein Frazier ‘05 had three solo art shows in Maryland and Virginia this past year and received a “People’s Choice Award” with the Howard County Arts Council Artists Exhibit and the Howard County Festival of Art in Maryland.

Jaime Bennati ’11 is an artist-in-residence with the Wexner Center for the Arts at Ohio State University Education Department and teaches at Columbus College of Art and Design in their Saturday Morning art program. Jaime partnered with professors at Universidade Federal de Goiás in Brazil to collaborate on art programs for young people. She was one of seven artists included in the Paper Shapers exhibition at Goucher College in 2012.

Sam Weinberg ’11 was selected to be a Young Artist-in-Residence at the Lobot Gallery in Oakland in summer 2011 before beginning his position as art teacher in a charter school in Oakland.

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Christine Kane ’05 showcased her work in a solo show at the Moira Fitzsimmons Gallery at the Hamden Hall Country Day School in Long Island in 2012 and received a Skidmore Fellowship in 2008.

Geoff Grace ’04 won the 2008 $25,000 Sondheim Prize, a competition that draws artists from throughout the region and is awarded during Baltimore’s annual city-wide arts festival, Artscape.

Will Walker ’03 received a Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant.

Ming Zaleski ’97, art teacher at Hunt Valley Elementary School in Virginia, has participated in group exhibits such as the Teachers Art Shows with FCPS at NoVA and at Greater Reston Arts Center.

...become young entrepreneurs

Bridget Bancroft ’09 founded the nonprofit Mid-Coast Free School in Chicago, which encourages non-teachers to share their skills/knowledge with others—from drawing to yoga to urban sustainability.

While teaching in Senegal, Megan Carpenter ’07 started a brand of home-wares and accessories called Six Bougies, using materials found locally.

High School Art Department Chair Jacob Cecil ’07 has started an artist book-making company called Almanac Bindery.

Michael Bracco ’02 has syndicated comics in national publications, published a graphic novel, Birth, has an ongoing comic series, ’Novo, with AlternaComics while teaching full-time at Ellicott Mills Middle School in Howard County, Maryland.

...go on to earn their doctorates in art education

Jason Cox ’06 is a doctoral candidate in the Arts Administration, Education, and Policy Department at The Ohio State University. He is the president of the graduate student association, Arts Priori, for the department.

Audra Price Pittman ’02 earned her doctorate in art education at Florida State University in arts administration and served as department chair in art education for the Savannah College of Art and Design for four years before starting her own art studio called Suite P Creative Studio in Tallahassee, Florida.

Stacey McKenna Salazar ’00 completed her doctorate in art education at Columbia University Teachers College and now serves as coordinator of the graduate internship program and faculty at MICA.

Juan Carlos Castro ’00 completed his doctorate at the University of British Columbia, and is now assistant professor of art education at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Shyla Rao ’97 completed her doctorate at Columbia University Teachers College and now serves as director of MICA’s MAT program and faculty at MICA.

Aimee Dixon Anthony ’96 is currently a full-time PhD student at George Mason University in cultural studies with an emphasis on film studies and critical race theory. After teaching middle school art in Silver Spring, Maryland, Aimee worked as a costume designer in Los Angeles, earned a second MA in film studies at Columbia University, and moved back home to Washington, D.C., to pursue her doctoral degree as well as direct and produce her first feature-length film.
“MICA graduates are very well prepared as art educators. That they have attended an art school and have a professional visual arts portfolio sets them apart from other candidates.”

– Mark Coates, Coordinator of Fine Arts, Howard County Public Schools, Maryland

...advance to leadership positions early in their careers

Right after graduation, Michelle Land ’13 published a paper titled, “Full STEAM Ahead: The Benefits of Integrating the Arts Into STEM” and presented her research at the Complex Adaptive Systems Conference in Baltimore this past November.

As a first-year visual arts teacher at Loch Raven Technical Academy, Caitlin Selzer ’13 is already serving as the advisor for National Junior Art Honor Society.

Julia McTighe ’11 teaches at Padonia Elementary School in Baltimore County and serves on the Instructional Leadership Team at her school. She also presented a workshop at MAEA fall 2013 and again at the NAEA Spring 2014 Conference called “Look Closely: Exploring Observational Techniques in the K/1 Classroom.”

Chris Wills ’11 teaches graphic design at Padua Academy, an all-girls private high school in Wilmington, Delaware. He also serves as Director of The Advocacy Program for Success (APS) at Padua, a school wide program that fosters a deeper understanding of the student and her community through curriculum-based experiential learning. Chris will be giving a presentation “On the Edge: Developing Habits of Success On the Edge of Your Comfort Zone” at the Canadian Positive Psychology Conference in Ottawa, Canada.

Sara Allred ’10 coordinates the Tisch College Scholars Program at Tufts University. As part of her responsibilities, she leads an annual service-learning program in rural Jamaica. She taught art at Sudbrook Magnet Middle School for three years and is currently at Dulaney High School in Baltimore County.

Alissandra Seelaus ’10 coordinated the high school Pre-College Studio Residency program at MICA. She has also continued working as a practicing illustrator by managing an Etsy site, selling her work locally, and maintaining a blog of daily drawings.

Danielle Scott Ford ’05 teaches at the Pennsauken Intermediate Public School in New Jersey. She has taken on a leadership role leading seminars at the state leadership conference on the PRIDE program she has led for the past seven years that develops community-school-parent involvement.

...teach abroad

Kelsey Schmitt ’12 taught secondary art in a public high school in Singapore for two years. Kelsey also created art workshops at a Girls Juvenile Home in Singapore.

Alexandra Arocho ’11 taught with the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program for two years before returning to the U.S. to teach elementary art in Tampa.

Megan Carpenter ’07 is currently teaching middle and high school students at the International School of Dakar, Senegal.

Valeska Populoh ’07 serves as chair of the fiber department at MICA. She is currently part of a cohort of Baltimore area artists and cultural workers participating in a Liz Lerman Critical Response Process Intensive Facilitator’s Training, sponsored by the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance. She maintains Community-Based Justice Work with a recent collaboration as part of United Diverse Artists, Inc, titled “Art-Part’heid: Bridging the Gap of Disparities in the Baltimore Arts Scene: A Panel Discussion and Community Dialogue on Race, Power, Privilege, Exclusion, and Shared Wealth.”

Jacob Cecil ’07 chairs the Visual Arts Department at River Hill High School in Howard County, Maryland.

Leslie Olson Argueta ’08 is an elementary visual arts teacher in Arlington public schools. Not long after graduation, Leslie was promoted to lead teacher in Visual Arts for Arlington public schools.

Bryan Bieniek ’05 chairs the arts department at Mount St. Joseph High School in Baltimore. Bryan also currently serves as adjunct faculty in the MAT program.

Stacy Gilinson ’04 serves as manager of special projects for the New York City Department of Education. Her job is a hybrid of family engagement, professional development, and operational planning. She is responsible for about 75 annual public facing events (largest has 35,000 visitors).

Eric Hooper ’01 is principal of the Pathways School–Edgewood, a school for children ages 15–21 with severe emotional and behavioral disabilities near Washington, D.C.

Gino Molfino ’01 is the resource teacher for the visual arts in Howard County, Maryland, a position that involves mentoring teachers and designing staff and curriculum development programs.

Lynn Palewicz Hedges ’00 is the chair of foundation and assistant professor at Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia. She also presented at the Foundations in Art Theory and Education conference in Indiana.

Kevin Meadows ’05 has taught in Namibia, at the Pan American School in Costa Rica, and is now teaching middle school students at the Xiamen International School in Xiamen, China. He has completed a second masters degree in Instructional Design and Learning Technology with Purdue University. Kevin has conducted IB Workshops in Jakarta and Hong Kong and developed online courses at Bath School of Art and Design in Bath, England.
“MICA helped me to build professional connections by bringing in guest artists and lecturers and by being equipped with a well-connected and innovative faculty. MICA has helped to shape who I now am as an artist and an educator.”
– Alder Keene ’12, art teacher at Northside Elementary School in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and resident teaching-artist at The Art Center in Carrboro, North Carolina.

...stay in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C., Region

Diane Yu ’14 is an upper school art teacher at Garrison Forrest School in Baltimore County.

Katie Atkinson ’14 is the Elementary Art Teacher at Thunder Hill Elementary School in Howard County Public Schools in Maryland. In her first year of teaching, she has taken on a leadership role in a STEAM day at her school and offered to mentor MAT students in teaching an arts-integrated lesson at the event.

Kelly Bissell ’14 is a Middle School Art Teacher at Pikesville Middle School in Baltimore County.

Caitlin Engels ’14 teaches art at Edgewood High School in Harford County Public Schools in Maryland.

Danielle Klim ’14 is an art teacher at Reservoir High School in Howard County Public Schools in Maryland.

Kara Peterson ’14 teaches at Bolton Hill Nursery in Baltimore.

Rachel Park ’14 is teaching middle school art at Gilman School, a private all-boys school in Baltimore City.

Evelyn Hoffmann ’14 teaches art at Chatsworth Elementary School in Baltimore County Public Schools in Maryland.

David Brown ’13 teaches middle school at Monarch Academy Public Charter School in Baltimore City.

Hannah Cohen ’13 teaches at City Neighbors Hamilton Charter School in Baltimore City.

Caitlin Kambic ’13 teaches at Sparrows Point Middle School in Baltimore County.

Hyung In Kim ’13 teaches at Hollin Meadows Elementary School in Fairfax, Virginia.

Michelle Land ’13 teaches at Stratford Landing Elementary School in Alexandria, Virginia.

Christina Riley ’13 serves as an arts integration coordinator in Prince George’s Public Schools, a suburb of Washington, D.C.

Molly Roberts ’13 teaches grades 6–8 at the Baltimore Design School.

Caitlin Selzer ’13 teaches at Loch Raven Academy in Baltimore County.

Shannon Townsend ’13 teaches 6–8th grades at Elkridge Landing Middle School in Howard County, Maryland.

Maria Frati ’12 teaches visual arts at the KAPPA International High School in Bronx, New York. She was also awarded the Acadia National Park artist-in-residence, April 2015. Before moving to New York, Maria earned a regional teaching award in Gainesville, Florida, for starting an after-school art club.

Stephanie Jones ’12 teaches at Dundalk Elementary School in Baltimore County and also teaches photography/media with a nonprofit arts organization in Baltimore City.

Marlena Murtagh ’12 teaches in Montgomery County at Paint Branch High School.

Mika Nakano ’12 teaches middle school at Mother Seton Academy, a tuition-free Catholic School in Baltimore.

Zac Lawhon ’12 teaches at Baltimore Lab School.

Jenn Raughley ’12 teaches at Quince Orchard High School in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Lillian Raab ’12 teaches art at Crofton Woods Elementary School in Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

Andrea Caplan ’12 teaches in Anne Arundel County at George Fox Middle School.

Sarah Molling ’12 teaches at Boys Latin School of Maryland.

Eric Allard ’11 teaches at Glyndon Elementary School in Baltimore County. Eric is starting an after-school and summer art program for low-income students in the area and also serves as concertmaster of the Hunt Valley symphony.

Elisabeth Willis ’11 is the studio manager and teacher at the Painting Workshop in Baltimore where she teaches kindergarten students through adults.
After graduating with her MAT degree, Erin Zelley ’08 immediately enrolled in an MFA program at City University of New York in Brooklyn. She now teaches K–3 art at Hyde Leadership Charter School in the Bronx. For the past five summers, Erin has also taught at the MICA Pre-College Studio Residency in Tuscany, Italy.

After several years of teaching high school, Evan Lalonde ’04 earned his MFA at Portland State University in 2012; his work has been exhibited in San Francisco, Portland, South Korea, Baltimore, and Cortona, Italy.

MICA’s MAT Faculty

Director – Shyla Rao  
EdD (Columbia University Teachers College), BFA/MAT (MICA)

Coordinator of Undergraduate Art Education, Faculty – Kate Morris  
MAT (MICA)

Student Teaching Coordinator, Faculty – Nan Park  
MS (Syracuse University)

Faculty – Donna Basik  
MAT (MICA)

Faculty – Adriane Pereira  
PhD (Florida State University)

Faculty – Vanessa Lopez  
MA (MICA)

Those MICA students and alumni who achieve the highest rate of career success are those who take full advantage of career services and of the education programs offered by MICA.