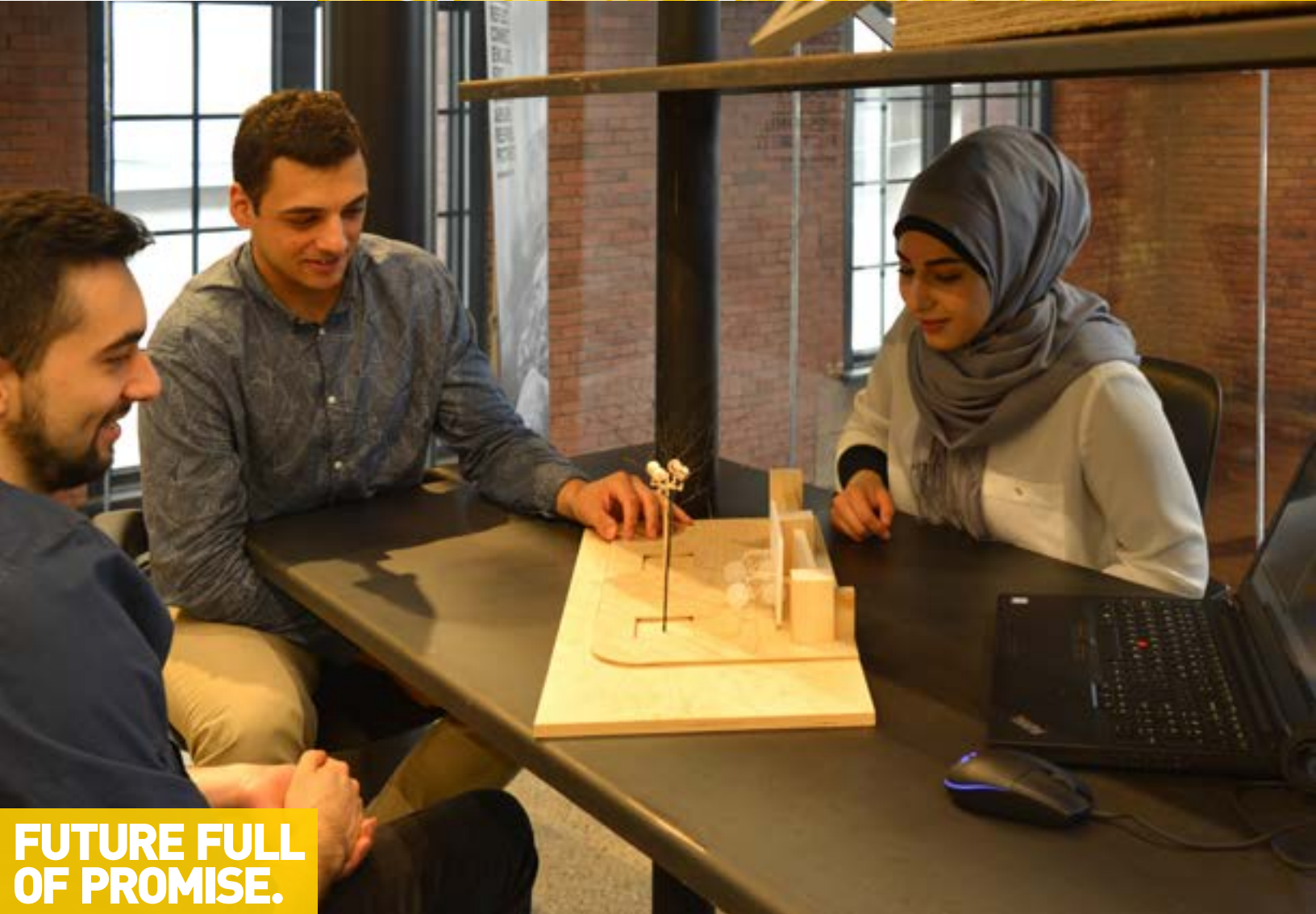




EXPERIENCE MAP

# VISUAL ARTS AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



**FUTURE FULL  
OF PROMISE.**



University  
of Windsor

**BFA in Visual Arts and Built Environment (VABE)**

**BSc in Architecture and General BA in Visual Arts**

[EXPERIENCE.UWINDSOR.CA](http://EXPERIENCE.UWINDSOR.CA)

# Skills and Knowledge of VABE Graduates

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**VABE** - Visual Arts and the Built Environment (VABE) is a unique program offered by the University of Windsor’s School of Creative Arts (SOCA) in collaboration with the University of Detroit Mercy’s (UDM) School of Architecture. This cross-border program combines the study of art and architecture and offers you the breadth of knowledge and experience in both disciplines. You will have the opportunity to take courses in Windsor and Detroit. If you are interested in pursuing architecture, and qualify in the third year, you can apply to the Architectural Program at UDM. This option leads either to a Bachelor of Science degree in architecture after fourth year from UDM or, after a fifth year of study, a professional degree at the master’s level from UDM (MArch)

## FUNCTIONAL KNOWLEDGE

- Focused iterative learning on architecture, design, and visual graphic communication using traditional media and digital industry standard software

- Understand the mean and methods used to create structures through construction and sustainable technologies
- Expressing oneself confidently, assertively, and purposefully through visual imagery
- Creating works of visual art using a variety of techniques, practices, and media
- Developing visual literacy: the ability to understand the powerful role of images in contemporary media contexts and to convey one’s own ideas and arguments thoughtfully through the creation of new images, works of art, film, or architecture
- Designing, staging, managing, and overseeing effective visual campaigns and productions
- Analyzing and assessing works of visual art for formal/technical quality of expression; grouping and curating disparate works logically and meaningfully
- Understanding and evaluating the rhetorical function of visual advertising materials

| Degree Title / Program | Minimum Average | Admission Requirements  |
|------------------------|-----------------|---|
| VABE                   | 75%             | ENG. PHYS. and ADV. FUNC required CALC. VEC. is recommended. The VABE program is open to Canadian citizens legally permitted to commute to the United States. Minimum average of 75%. |



- Courses of study specific to each program
- Activities and experiences that complement coursework (Outstanding Scholars, peer mentoring, VIP)
- Activities falling outside of the scope of set curriculum (Part-time job, clubs, volunteering, athletics)

## Build your Skills and Experience

Your UWindsor experience is more than attending classes. It is a combination of academics, co-curricular activities, and extracurricular involvement. By making the most of all three elements of your university experience, you will maximize your opportunities to build your skills, broaden your personal network, and clarify your long term academic and career goals.

## Career Planning Guide


Intentional career planning will help you prepare for your next step after graduation. It is a fluid, dynamic, and continuous process, meaning you can move on or return to an earlier stage at any time. You can even work through simultaneous cycles, like one for your long-term dream job and another for a summer job.



# Explore Opportunities Using This Guide

Explore a selection of opportunities recommended for students in your program. This chart shows some of your many options – you don’t have to do everything on it or limit yourself to it. Engage in opportunities from each of the three categories to set yourself up for success:

- **Academics**
  - Your coursework
- **Experience**
  - Ways to get involved
- **Career**
  - Plan ahead for what’s next

**High-Impact Practice (HIP)**

A HIP is an enriching educational experience that can be life-changing and often includes learning outside of the classroom while encouraging meaningful interaction and collaboration, such as:

- Co-op, internship or field experiences
- Research with faculty
- Culminating senior experience
- Capstone courses
- Service-learning
- Learning communities
- Study abroad

|            | First Year  | Middle Years   | Final Year  |
|------------|---|--|---|
| Academics  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take required courses including Architecture Design I and II, Introduction to Architecture (taken at UDM) and Contemporary Visual Culture</li><li>• Work with the <b>International Student Office (ISO)</b> at UDM and the <b>VABE Coordinator</b> in July and August as an incoming student to obtain your student Visa to commute as international students</li><li>• Participate in a <b>Welcome Day</b> prior to classes where everyone crosses the border and completes the Visa process, followed by a tour of <b>UDM Campus</b></li><li>• Review degree course requirements and become familiar with <b>MyUWindsor</b> and <b>TitanConnect</b> at UDM for course registration grades, and program fees</li><li>• Receive peer mentorship from other VABE students and from members of the <b>UWindsor Creative Arts Student Society (CASS)</b></li></ul>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Receive advising from the <b>VABE Coordinator</b> and <b>UDM Dean’s Office</b> to select required and elective courses that satisfy the requirements of both institutions</li><li>• Develop your career in the <b>Professional Development</b> class by building your portfolio and curriculum vitae </li><li>• Apply for entry into final year of <b>Architecture at University of Detroit Mercy</b></li><li>• Choose a degree path for pursuing an Honours BFA in VABE or continuing in the fourth year at UDM for the BSc Architecture and General BA in Visual Arts</li><li>• Begin looking into optional courses outside of Visual Arts/ SoCA (in FAHSS or Sciences) to complete before Year 3</li><li>• Consider taking courses in accordance with the <b>Certificate in Arts Management</b></li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meet with the <b>VABE Coordinator</b> to go over degree requirements</li><li>• Complete all required courses for your degree</li><li>• Submit your portfolio and letter of intent to UDM for entrance into the fourth year BSc Architecture</li><li>• Make sure all 400-level courses are completed in both Studio areas and Media Art History/Visual Culture if pursuing the 4th year BFA VABE</li><li>• Apply to graduate through <b>MyUWindsor Portal</b></li><li>• Take a <b>Visual Arts Independent Study</b> course</li><li>• Work with a faculty member on a research project or publication </li><li>• Complete required courses for <b>Arts Management Certificate</b></li></ul>  |
| Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Utilize the 24/7 dedicated studio space in the new, state of the art downtown <b>Armouries Building</b> with access to all equipment for creative design and fabrication</li><li>• Join a club like the <b>Creative Arts Student Society, 3D Print Club, American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS), and National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMAS)</b></li><li>• Explore free <b>SOCA Presents</b> events such as professional artist talks, film screenings, and music performances</li><li>• Investigate research opportunities as part of the <b>Outstanding Scholars</b> program </li><li>• Participate in the <b>Bystander Initiative</b> workshop to gain skills that will help you be an effective and supportive ally to prevent sexual assault on campus</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Start researching and interviewing for paid co-op placement which can occur anywhere in Canada or even the United States </li><li>• Attend the free <b>UDM School of Architecture</b> lecture series featuring renowned architects, landscape architects, and urbanists and designers</li><li>• Volunteer or work with the <b>Art Gallery of Windsor, Artcite, Arts Council Windsor and Region</b> or other cultural organizations</li><li>• Explore the cultural experience of the revitalized Detroit with VABE colleagues</li><li>• Participate in <b>AIA Michigan</b> events throughout the year</li><li>• Research international student exchange opportunities for middle years, especially <b>UDM’s Volterra</b> exchange opportunity </li><li>• Participate in the <b>UWill Discover</b> undergraduate research conference </li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Join a professional association in your field such as the <b>Ontario Association of Architects</b> (for VABE students)</li><li>• Follow events open to architecture students with the <b>Windsor Region Society of Architects (WRSA)</b></li><li>• Become a teaching assistant or research assistant </li><li>• Conduct field research with faculty member </li><li>• Complete a thesis and present work at thesis show (BFA students) </li><li>• Work with a campus department to help produce artistic ideas for marketing or promotional videos</li><li>• Consider applying for co-op placement in the <b>VABE Collaborative Studio</b> which works on professional architecture and design projects in-house in the <b>VABE Studio</b> over the summer </li></ul> |
| Career     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore the myriad of career paths available to architecture and visual artists</li><li>• Kick-start your career with the first gallery exhibition curated by the VABE Class in the second semester in the <b>SOCA Gallery</b></li><li>• Meet with a career advisor in <b>Career Development and Experiential Learning (CDEL)</b> for help developing a plan for your future years</li><li>• Consider a career assessment workshop or appointment to help you identify possible career paths</li><li>• Get involved with a part-time job, volunteer opportunity, campus group, or research assistantship</li><li>• Attend <b>CDEL</b> workshops to learn how to find a summer or part-time job and write a resumé and cover letter</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take part in your second gallery exhibition in the <b>SOCA Gallery</b> in Year 3</li><li>• Explore opportunities and meet employers through job fairs and employer networking events</li><li>• Explore further educational opportunities by attending the <b>Graduate and Professional Schools Fair</b> and researching admission requirements for programs you are interested in</li><li>• Attend <b>CDEL’s Using Social Media to Leverage Your Career</b> workshop</li><li>• Create a <b>LinkedIn</b> profile and have it critiqued</li><li>• Take part in informational interviews and use sources like <b>LinkedIn</b> and <b>Ten Thousand Coffees</b> to meet people in your targeted profession</li><li>• Attend <b>mySuccess</b> presentations to strengthen communication and interview skills</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finalize your portfolio for internship and consider developing a website with your work</li><li>• If you are considering applying to graduate or professional school, be aware of early application deadlines</li><li>• Meet with <b>CDEL</b> to prepare application documents like a resumé, cover letter, CV, or personal statement for jobs and education programs you are applying to</li><li>• Attend an <b>Interview Skills Workshop</b> and <b>Job Search Tips Workshop</b></li><li>• Use <b>InterviewStream</b> to practice your interview skills online</li><li>• Set up an in-person mock interview with a career advisor for professional school or job applications</li><li>• Meet employers at the annual job fair in January</li></ul>  |



# VABE

## Life After Graduation

# 92.5%

Employment rate of graduates 2 years following degree completion

*(OUGS Fine and Applied Arts, 2014)*



“VABE has been the best university experience I could ask for. The VABE program offers opportunities to learn in so many different ways, from tactile and experience-based learning to theory and calculus, and allows for students to work one-on-one with professors to develop their skills. Being able to use my passion for art as well as my love of math and problem solving to design for the future is something that could only happen in the VABE program.”

*Amanda Gatto – BFA in Visual Arts and the Built Environment*



### COMMON INDUSTRIES FOR VABE GRADUATES

- Academia and research
- Advertising and marketing
- Art/illustration
- Architecture and Design industry
- Education: Public and private stream, tutoring
- Government: Research and policy development
- Media and journalism: Criticism, visual production
- Urban Planning

### CAREER TRACKS\*

Architectural journalism  
Art/architectural history  
Building design  
Construction

Development  
Interior spatial design  
Project and facility management  
Real estate

Restoration  
Set production  
Urban planning and revitalization  
Visual Arts

\* Additional education and/or training required for some of the above careers.

### CAREER-READINESS COMPETENCIES



#### Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

Using strategic and creative thinking to make decisions and evaluate solutions



#### Teamwork and Collaboration

Working as a productive member of a group and collaborating with others to achieve set goals



#### Professionalism and Work Ethic

Demonstrating personal management practices and a high level of integrity and ethical behaviour



#### Communication

Appropriate and effective articulation of ideas and information to a range of audiences



## Campus Resources

- Research scholarships and bursaries through the **Student Awards and Financial Aid Office**
- Visit **Leddy Library** and the **Writing Support Desk** for help with academic assignments
- Explore mentorship opportunities through the **Connecting4Success (C4S)** and **Bounce Back** programs
- Improve study skills through the **Skills to Enhance Personal Success (STEPS)** program
- Get advice and support about your academic status by making an appointment with **Academic Advising**
- Seek out assistance with academic accommodation from **Student Accessibility Services**
- Discover ways to get involved on campus through the **Student Success and Leadership Centre**
- Look into the **Ignite: Work Study** program for on-campus employment opportunities
- Apply to **VIP** to get involved in a community service learning experience
- Get assistance developing your career plan and job search skills from **Career Development and Experiential Learning**
- Consult with the **EPICentre** if you are interested in starting your own business
- Broaden your cultural awareness through the **International Student Centre** and **Student Exchange Office**
- Find support for Indigenous learners and broaden your understanding of Indigenous culture by visiting **Turtle Island**
- Tend to your health and wellness with support from **Student Health Services** and **Lancer Recreation**
- Receive confidential mental health counselling delivered by trained professionals at the **Student Counselling Centre**
- Seek personal support or learn more about sexual violence education through the **Sexual Misconduct Response and Prevention Office**

### Student Recruitment

Phone: 519-973-7014  
Toll-Free: 1-800-864-2860  
Email: [info@uwindsor.ca](mailto:info@uwindsor.ca)

### School of Creative Arts – Visual Arts/VABE

Phone: 519-253-3000, Ext. 2829  
Email: [soca@uwindsor.ca](mailto:soca@uwindsor.ca)

### Career Development and Experiential Learning

Phone: 519-253-3000, Ext. 3895  
Email: [careerservices@uwindsor.ca](mailto:careerservices@uwindsor.ca)  
[experience.uwindsor.ca](http://experience.uwindsor.ca)



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