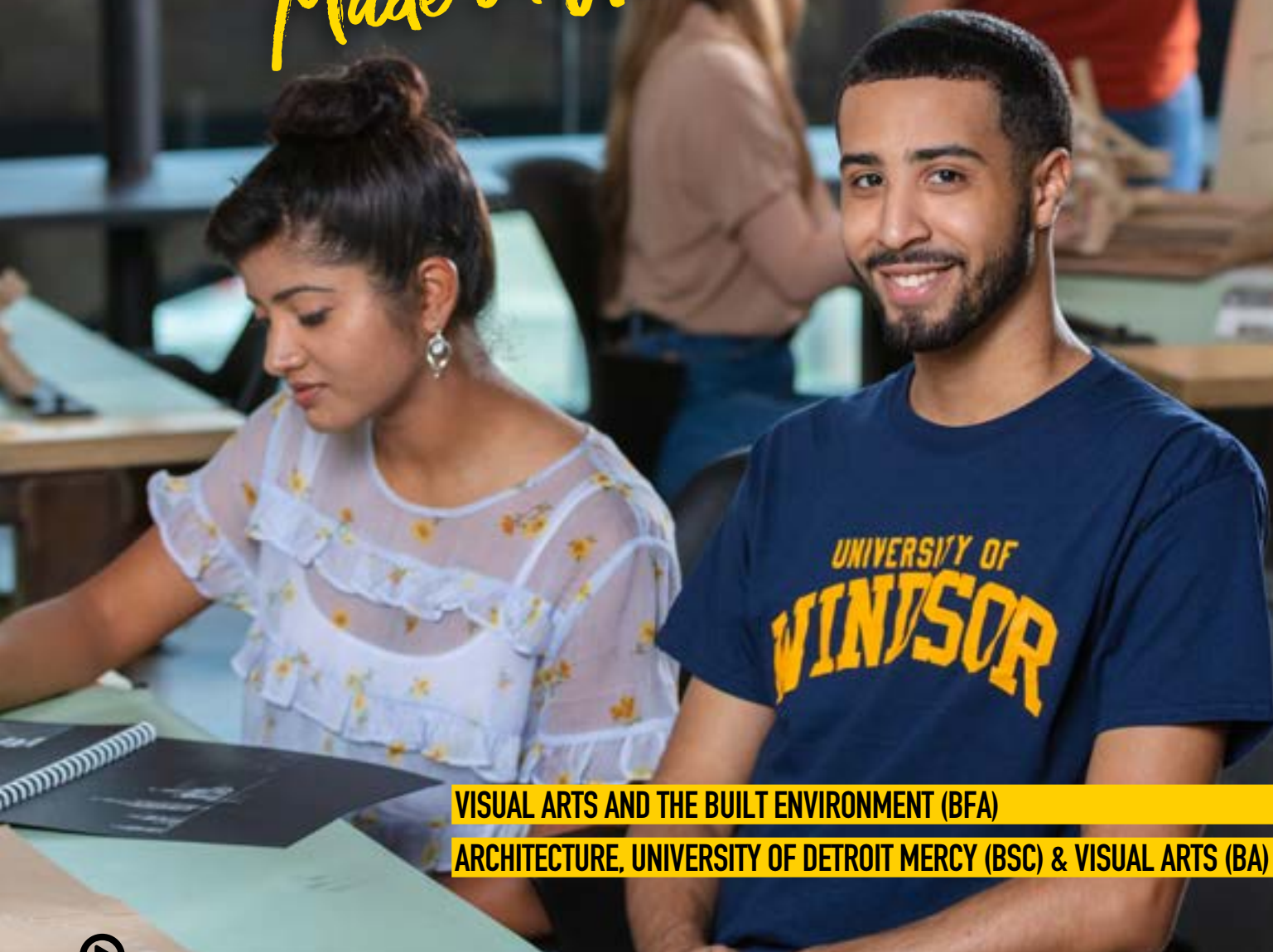


Visual Arts and the Built Environment

Made in Windsor.



VISUAL ARTS AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (BFA)

ARCHITECTURE, UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY (BSC) & VISUAL ARTS (BA)



uwindsor.ca/vabe



Visual Arts and the
Built Environment
Experience Map



University
of Windsor

UWindsor Life

Highlights and Skills

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Visual Arts and the Built Environment

Plant your feet in two cities in this joint program with the University of Detroit Mercy. You must be a Canadian citizen to take part in this program that includes a BA from UWindsor, a BSc from UDM, and the option to get your master's from UDM in just one additional year. Courses are taught by architects in this close-knit, niche program. You'll have lots of hands-on learning opportunities through co-op and internships and projects for nonprofit groups.

MIN. AVG.* 75% ONTARIO COURSE REQUIREMENTS ENG4U, SPH4U and MHF4U required, MCV4U is recommended. The VABE program is open to Canadian citizens legally permitted to commute to the United States. Minimum average of 75%

FUNCTIONAL KNOWLEDGE

- Focused interactive learning on architecture, design, and visual graphic communication using traditional media and digital industry standard software
- Understand the means 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

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.



CURRICULUM

Courses of study specific to each program



CO-CURRICULAR

Activities and experiences that complement coursework (Outstanding Scholars, peer mentoring, VIP)



EXTRACURRICULAR

Activities falling outside the scope of set curriculum (Part-time job, clubs, volunteering, athletics)

Career Planning Cycle

Intentional career planning will help you prepare for your next step after graduation and beyond. It is a fluid, dynamic, and lifelong process. You can move on or return to an earlier stage in the cycle at any time.



Explore Opportunities Using This Chart

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.

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

Academics

Your Coursework



Experience

Ways To Get Involved



Career

Plan Ahead For What's Next




First Year

- Take required courses including Architecture Design I and II, Introduction to Architecture (taken at UDM) and Contemporary Visual Culture
- Work with the **International Student Office (ISO)** at UDM and the **VABE Coordinator** in July and August as an incoming student to obtain your student Visa to commute an international student
- Participate in a **Welcome Day** prior to classes where everyone crosses the border and completes the Visa process, followed by a tour of **UDM Campus**
- Review degree course requirements and become familiar with **UWinsite** and **TitanConnect** at UDM for course registration grades, and program fees
- Receive peer mentorship from other VABE students and from members of the **UWindsor Creative Arts Student Society (CASS)**

- Utilize the 24/7 dedicated studio space in the new, state of the art downtown **Armouries Building** with access to all equipment for creative design and fabrication
- Join a club like the **Creative Arts Student Society**, **3D Print Club**, **American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS)**, and **National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMAS)**
- Explore free **SOCA Presents** events such as professional artist talks, film screenings, and music performances
- Investigate research opportunities as part of the **Outstanding Scholars** program 
- Participate in the **Bystander Initiative** workshop to gain skills that will help you be an effective and supportive ally to prevent sexual assault on campus

- Start by making a list of things that you enjoy and areas in which you excel
- Explore the myriad of career paths available to architecture and visual artists
- Kick-start your career with the first gallery exhibition curated by the VABE Class in the second semester in the **SOCA Gallery**
- Meet with a career advisor in **Career Development and Experiential Learning (CDEL)** for help developing a plan for your future years
- Consider a career assessment appointment to help you identify possible career paths
- Get involved with a part-time job, volunteer opportunity, campus group, or research assistantship
- Attend **CDEL** workshops to learn how to find a summer or parttime job and write a university-level resumé
- Chat with an advisor during **CDEL's Drop In** hours to get answers to your career and job search questions


Middle Years





- Receive advising from the **VABE Coordinator** and **UDM Dean's Office** to select required and elective courses that satisfy the requirements of both institutions
- Develop your career in the **Professional Development** class by building your portfolio and curriculum vitae 
- Apply for entry into final year of **Architecture at University of Detroit Mercy**
- 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
- Begin looking into optional courses outside of Visual Arts/SoCA (in FAHSS or Sciences) to complete before Year 3
- Consider taking courses in accordance with the **Certificate in Arts Management**

- Start researching and interviewing for paid co-op placement which can occur anywhere in Canada or even the United States 
- Attend the free **UDM School of Architecture** lecture series featuring renowned architects, landscape architects, and urbanists and designers
- Volunteer or work with the **Art Gallery of Windsor**, **Artcite**, **Arts Council Windsor and Region** or other cultural organizations
- Explore the cultural experience of the revitalized Detroit with VABE colleagues
- Participate in **AIA Michigan** events throughout the year
- Research international student exchange opportunities for middle years, especially **UDM's Volterra** exchange opportunity
- Participate in the **UWill Discover** undergraduate research conference 

- Take part in your second gallery exhibition in the **SOCA Gallery** in Year 3
- Explore opportunities and meet potential employers by participating in job fairs, industry networking events, or **CDEL's Job Shadow Experience**
- Create a **LinkedIn** profile and have it critiqued by **CDEL**
- Take part in informational interviews and join online communities like **LinkedIn** and **Ten Thousand Coffees** to connect with people in your targeted profession or industry
- Search job postings to learn what skills, knowledge, and credentials you will need for potential careers

Final Year

- Meet with the **VABE Coordinator** to go over degree requirements
- Complete all required courses for your degree
- Submit your portfolio and letter of intent to UDM for entrance into the fourth year BSc Architecture
- 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
- Apply to graduate through **UWinsite Student Portal**
- Take a **Visual Arts Independent Study** course
- Work with a faculty member on a research project or publication 
- Complete required courses for **Arts Management Certificate**

- Join a professional association in your field such as the **Ontario Association of Architects (for VABE students)**
- Follow events open to architecture students with the **Windsor Region Society of Architects (WRSA)**
- Become a teaching assistant or research assistant 
- Conduct field research with faculty member 
- Complete a thesis and present work at thesis show (BFA students) 
- Work with a campus department to help produce artistic ideas for marketing or promotional videos
- Consider applying for co-op placement in the **VABE Collaborative Studio** which works on professional architecture and design projects in-house in the **VABE Studio** over the summer 

- Finalize your portfolio for internship and consider developing a website with your work
- If you are considering applying to graduate or professional school, be aware of early application deadlines
- Meet with **CDEL** to prepare application documents like a resumé, cover letter, CV, or personal statement for jobs and education programs you are applying to
- Attend **CDEL's workshops** on interview skills and job search strategies
- Set up a mock interview with a career advisor for professional school or job applications
- Take part in recruitment events and job fairs, including those organized by **CDEL**

Life After Graduation



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

97% Employment Rate of Graduates

Employment rate of graduates 2 years following degree completion (OUGS Fine and Applied Arts, 2018)

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.*



Common Industries for 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-Readiness Competencies



Critical Thinking & Problem Solving



Professionalism & Work Ethic



Teamwork & Collaboration



Communication





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
- Check out the **Bounce Back** program designed to improve academic performance as well as decrease feelings of stress and anxiety through both effective learning strategies and life skills acquisition
- Build leadership skills and find leadership opportunities at the **Leadership Hub**
- 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
- 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**
- **Prevent.Resist.Support.** Seek personal support or learn more about sexual violence prevention and resistance education through the **Sexual Misconduct Response and Prevention Office**
- Explore professional development opportunities through **Continuing Education**



experience.uwindsor.ca

Student Recruitment

Phone: 519-973-7014

Toll-Free: 1-800-864-2860

Email: info@uwindsor.ca

School of Creative Arts - Visual Arts/Vabe

Phone: 519-253-3000, Ext. 2829

Email: soca@uwindsor.ca

Career Development and Experiential Learning

Phone: 519-253-3000, Ext. 3895

Email: careerservices@uwindsor.ca