Arts & Design Recommendations for First-year Students

At College of the Atlantic, study and engagement in the arts is integral to your overall educational experience, and is a key component in knowing and practicing human ecology. Therefore, as part of your degree requirements at COA, it is expected that you take at least two courses in the Art and Design area (AD) - at least one of which will need to be a studio course. Not all AD courses meet this degree requirement – check the course description; *AD* means an approved Art History/Theory course, *ADS* means an approved Studio course. These two AD courses should be from two different faculty members.

What are the different types of art courses that meet the AD requirement?
There are courses in art history and theory (*AD*) that may be used to satisfy one of your AD requirements. In addition there are a multitude of studio courses (*ADS*) that satisfy your AD requirements. At least one of the Arts and Design courses that you take during your academic career at COA must be a studio class, listed as *ADS*. In brief, a studio course is a “hands-on” course, whether it is in music, drawing, theater, video, architecture, or other form. Amongst academic disciplines, studio art is the making of art contrasted to the study of art history and theory.

A Studio Arts class (*ADS*) is designed for the student to:
- experience making art works and develop the self-discipline necessary to build skills through practice
- concentrate on the creative, technical, and practical aspects of an artistic discipline (such as painting, drawing, design, music, theater, video or sculpture) including: content, form and presentation
- develop a critical facility and language for their own art work and the work of others
- develop a knowledge and perspective of the particular art practice, various artists and genres, both contemporary and historic
- develop creative abilities and gain confidence in their individual artistic process(es)
- present assigned projects in class and participate in class exercises including productive peer critique.

An Art History and Theory class (*AD*) is designed for the student to:
- gain a basic understanding of an artwork from a range of art-historical investigations
- learn to identify and set in appropriate frameworks specific works from periods of historical and/or cultural tradition in the visual and performing arts and be able to meaningfully relate works within those traditions or outside of them
- acquire the ability to analyze an art-object or performance from a trans-disciplinary point of view in a productive way
- grasp the material and physical characteristics of an object of art; or, in the case of a non-physical art production, its ephemeral nature. This is in addition to gaining an awareness of its social, political, religious, and/or scientific relevance.
The art faculty developed several courses that serve as foundational gateways to intermediate and advanced classes in the arts. These are highly recommended for first and second year students. These are:

**ADS* Foundational Studio Courses** (at least one of your AD courses must be a studio course)
- Introduction to Arts and Design
- Drawing I
- Beginning Painting
- 3D Studio: Introduction to Three-Dimensional Art and Design
- Four-Dimensional Studio
- Graphic Design Studio I / Visual Communication
- Elements of Theater
- Acting I
- Movement Training Basics
- Digital Photography Studio
- Music Fundamentals: Intro to Reading/Hearing/Writing/Playing
- Introduction to Keyboard/Piano
- Introduction to Guitar
- Curiosity and Wonder: Design & Interpretation in the Museum

**AD* Foundational Art History and Theory**
- The Reality Effect: Art and Truth in the 19th Century
- Art Since 1900: Harmony and Conflict
- History of Western Music
- History of Filmmaking
- Jazz, Rock, and Blues: From Their Origins to the Present
- History of Rock
- Dramatic Mechanics
- The Science of Comedy
- Watching Globally: Intro to Contemporary Cinema of the World
- Film Theory

Please see the course catalog for intermediate and advanced courses in the arts! Course descriptions can be found online ([www.coa.edu/course-listings](http://www.coa.edu/course-listings)) and in the course catalog.