

Core Competencies for the Book Arts Concentration

It is the goal of the Book Arts Concentration that graduates demonstrate the following:

1. Knowledge of Materials and Processes and Core Study within the Concentration

Students acquire familiarity with the properties of paper: i.e., grain direction, weight, fiber length in regard to strength, difference types of paper and their manufacturing processes. Students are familiar with the properties and appropriate uses for different adhesives used in bookbinding. Students are able to wisely choose the right paper and cloth, both for the structure of the book and the content. Students acquire familiarity with large multiple run editions and books. Students acquire familiarity with less traditional letterpress techniques such as polymer plates, overprinting, ghost printing, etc. Students have mastery of basic bookbinding structures, and understand more complex bookbinding structures. Students gain mastery of setting wood and metal type. Students are competent in operating and cleaning platen presses and Vandercook proof presses. Students are familiar with working with variables in printing such as absorbency of paper, hardness of paper, ink consistency, ink coverage, pressure, etc.

2. Communications Proficiency

Students are fluent in the terminology, tools and materials used in bookbinding. Students acquire fluency in the terminology of the tools and equipment used in letterpress and other printing. Students are fluent in the concepts of typography and book design.

3. Historical and Contemporary Awareness of the Medium

Students acquire familiarity with books as an art form and communicator of information: i.e. the history of the book, contemporary and twentieth-century book artists and designers, the book as time-based media.

4. Contextual Awareness, Analytical Proficiency

Students are able to bring book editions from planning and mock-up stages to printing and binding. Students acquire understanding of contemporary practices and opportunities in printmaking beyond the college level.

5. Professional Business Practice

Students acquire familiarity with stocking and maintaining a letterpress shop. Students acquire familiarity with the resources involved with the making and distributing of books. Students acquire familiarity with the resources, artists, collections, and publishers involved with artist books.