Stella Moon ’20
Studio Art major
MFA student, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

“After graduation, I knew I wanted to go to grad school, but I wanted to make sure I had a strong application and portfolio. I spent a year outside of school making art to build my portfolio, and I also worked during that year as a director of arts education at a gallery. I got into my dream school, and am now pursuing my Master of Fine Arts degree in sculpture!

“I actually started out at Notre Dame as a biochemistry major, thinking I would be working in healthcare. I was also taking Studio Art classes as electives because art was something that I had always been interested in and enjoyed doing. During my first year, I noticed that I was spending way more time and energy on my art — this was when I realized that art was my true passion, so I had to switch to a BFA.

“The resources and comprehensiveness of the Studio Art program at Notre Dame have been immensely helpful for me as an artist. My foundations instructor and ultimately my thesis advisor thoroughly taught me everything from the basics of woodworking and laser-cutting to composing an artist statement and pricing works. My sculpture classes helped me learn about all sorts of resources for tools and materials that I am able to incorporate into my work today.

“I built so many other valuable skills through this major, especially public speaking and presentation skills. Because every art class had critiques for each project, I gained a lot of practice in speaking and presenting in front of others, and now my MFA critiques are a breeze. The program also allowed me to build connections with so many fellow artists, which is a great long-term professional and personal benefit.”

Curriculum requirements

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art (66 credit hours)
- Drawing I
- 2D Foundations
- 3D Foundations
- Photography I
- Figure Drawing
- 3 art history courses
- Senior Seminar
- 5 courses in area of concentration
- 5 electives
- 9-credit yearlong BFA thesis

Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art (36 credit hours)
- Drawing I
- 2D Foundations
- 3D Foundations
- 2 art history courses
- 4 studio electives
- 3 electives

of recent Notre Dame Studio Art majors found success within six months of graduation.

31% started full-time jobs
- Assistant, Rothman Brecher
- Erehrich Livingston
- Assistant, L’Arche
- Campus ministry program manager, Notre Dame Dublin Global Gateway
- Communications coordinator, SKOOG Productions
- English teacher, South Bend Community Schools
- Graphic designer, ECG Productions
- Management development program, Ford Motor Co.
- Leadership development associate, Advantage Solutions Group
- Photographer, Indianapolis Colts
- Sales associate, Follett
- Technology solutions engineer, Epic

37% enrolled in graduate or professional school
- Business administration: Notre Dame
- Gender studies: University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Geosciences: University of Texas
- Education: University of Oregon
- History: Colorado State University
- Law: Notre Dame
- Medicine: University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- Painting: Kendall College of Art and Design
- Non-profit administration: Notre Dame
- Sociology: Appalachian State University
- Studio art: Eastern Illinois University

8% pursued other opportunities
- Alliance for Catholic Education, Memphis, Tennessee
- AmeriCorps, Chicago, Illinois
- City Year, Little Rock, Arkansas

16% entered service programs
- Alliance for Catholic Education, Memphis, Tennessee
- AmeriCorps, Chicago, Illinois
- City Year, Little Rock, Arkansas
- (Completing an internship, joining the military, conducting research, taking a gap year, pursuing independent creative or freelance work, or volunteering)

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- Alliance for Catholic Education, Memphis, Tennessee
- AmeriCorps, Chicago, Illinois
- City Year, Little Rock, Arkansas

(Center for Career Development First Destination Reports, 2017–2021)