



## Department of Visualization College of Architecture

### Information for **Change of Major** applicants Seeking to enter the Bachelor of Science in Visualization

Students currently enrolled in another major at Texas A&M University with fewer than 60 hours and a minimum of a 3.0 GPR who desire to change their major field of study into the College of Architecture, majoring in Visualization, must fill out a Change of Major application. Deadlines for application and the change of major form are available at <http://www.arch.tamu.edu/academics/student-forms/change-major/>

Students will be notified of action on their applications within 45 days of the deadline date. The department will accept the best-qualified applicants based on the number of openings available in the program.

Students should submit a portfolio of artistic work for evaluation. It is suggested that a maximum of 20 pieces be submitted which reflect the best work of the applicant. A variety of media/subjects is encouraged, but not necessary. Traditional media is most helpful in the evaluation, especially works based on observation/imagination and not the replication of existing images/photographs. Quick, expressive sketches may be just as important to the committee as completed works. The portfolio can be submitted to Langford A219. Instead of a traditional portfolio, a link to an online portfolio is encouraged. Indicate the URL clearly within the application.

Regardless of when the student is accepted, The beginning studio, VIST 105, is only offered during the fall semester followed by VIST 106 in the spring. Subsequent studios are offered in the summer and most semesters so that the time in the program can be compressed from the normal 8 semesters.

Additional information regarding change of majors, please see the current catalog at [catalogs.tamu.edu](http://catalogs.tamu.edu).

#### ***Personal Computers***

All students entering the program are required to possess a portable, network-ready personal computer. Students desiring financial assistance with their computer purchase can apply through the Financial Aid Office by submitting a "Request for Change to Cost of Attendance" form. Additional information is online at [financialaid.tamu.edu/](http://financialaid.tamu.edu/). No student will be denied admission to Texas A&M University based on an inability to purchase a computer.

Additional details and information relating to computing requirements are available at [www.viz.tamu.edu/undergrad/admissions](http://www.viz.tamu.edu/undergrad/admissions).

### **Questions & Answers**

*Question:* What are my chances to be admitted into the BSV program?

*Answer:* The number of students admitted is limited by available space and resources. Typically, that number ranges from 10 to 20 per year. The number of change of major applicants varies each semester.

*Question:* What criteria will be used to evaluate my application?

*Answer:* A committee composed of Visualization Department faculty evaluate four criteria: overall GPR, courses taken and grades received in math and science courses, the written essay and the portfolio. Excessive hours, or Q-drops and low GPR may affect acceptance.

*Question:* Is a particular format required for the portfolio?

*Answer:* No. Works may be presented in any format. However, it is beneficial to indicate when the work was created, media(if not obvious), source or inspiration for the work. Do not submit original work as the Department cannot be responsible for return.

*Question:* If acceptance is denied, can I reapply next semester?

*Answer:* Yes. As the numbers of openings and applicants change each semester, you may reapply as often as you wish. An application that would be accepted in a given semester may not be accepted because of the number of available openings.

*Question:* Since I have taken a normal course load each semester, will I be able to graduate in four years?

*Answer:* The answer depends on the courses you have taken and the number of hours applicable toward the BS in Visualization degree. The sequence of studios generally dictates the length of time to complete the degree which required eight consecutive semesters of studios(beginning with catalog 141). However, upper level studios are offered during the summer which allow the student to compress that time frame from 8 semesters to 6 or 3 years by taking summer courses. Please see the program courses and organization to view the layout of the curriculum.

*Question:* The University classifies me as a Junior. Does that mean I should study away immediately?

*Answer:* No. Visualization refers to the student's 'class' based on the studio they are in. Therefore, you could have Junior or even Senior hours and still be referred to a member of the freshman class.