ART DEPARTMENT Updated Nov. 2026
SENIOR PROJECT GUIDELINES

ART/ID 600 & ART-ID 610: Senior Project in Studio Art or Industrial Design

Description of Project
The Senior Project offers majors an opportunity to create significant works of art/design, to write and speak meaningfully about ideas and processes that inform their practice, and to exhibit and document their projects in a professional manner. The Senior Project includes the following components:

- A project, body of work, or an ambitious single artwork/design project, which the student displays in the senior comp exhibition held in the Allegheny Art Galleries
- A brief artist statement
- A research paper contextualizing the student's project within a broader conceptual framework
- Installation and deinstallation of the work in the Allegheny Art Galleries
- An oral defense

The Senior Project is completed over two semesters: ART/ID 600 (two credits, typically fall semester) and ART/ID 610 (four credits, typically spring semester). ART/ID 600 has a prerequisite of ART 580 Junior Seminar, which is normally offered both in the fall and spring semesters.

Registration
ART 600/ ID 600: all majors register with your designated first reader. Prior to registration, an email will go out to all rising senior majors to clarify the registration process and confirm which faculty is Chair.

ART 610/ ID 610: majors register with their first readers.

Double majors completing a dual comp: to create a project that fulfills the requirements of both majors, register for DOUBL 600 (semester 1) and DOUBL 610 (semester 2). Consult with the Art Dept. Chair and the first reader(s) prior to registration; they will work with the Registrar's office to create the appropriate section on self-service.

Preparation for Senior Project & Registration Requirements
The Senior Project is intended to build on work that students have initiated in the junior seminar, advanced studio, and art history courses. The project is an extension of the student's broader art & design practice they have cultivated as a Studio and/or ID major, but likewise it should not

merely rework previous research. In order to register for ART/ID 600, students must submit the following to the Art Dept. Building Coordinator:

- **A statement of intent** which briefly outlines the project idea (300-500 words) and a bibliography with a minimum of five sources consulted. This is not a full proposal, and the department recognizes that the idea is subject to change.
- **A request for readers** in the department. The Art Department assigns first and second readers based on several factors, including the student's stated preferences, the subject/media area of the statement of intent, and faculty workload. The department chair will circulate an email prior to the statement/reader request deadline to confirm eligible readers for the upcoming year.

Components of ART/ID 600/610

The list below is meant to be an overview: it highlights important requirements and outcomes of ART/ID 600 and 610, along with approximately when deadlines fall within the fall and spring semesters. Please refer to the senior project calendar for specific dates. A detailed syllabus will be distributed for ART/ID 600, and several components have their own set of guidelines (the project proposal and the research paper, for example)

ART/ID 600: Senior Project 1 (two credits, fall semester)

Students register for ART/ID 600 with the Art Department Chair, but the course is co-taught by all full-time Art Department faculty. Students meet bi-weekly with the comp cohort and faculty to build research skills and material competencies. Students learn how to craft a project budget, and review best practices for professional documentation of artworks. Students also share updates on research, project development, and writing. Students are expected to attend all meetings and participate in periodically scheduled peer review workshops. Throughout the semester, students produce the following:

- A formal project proposal (includes written and verbal presentation components; see proposal guidelines for details)
- An annotated bibliography
- A project budget
- An artist statement
- A detailed plan for project installation & display

Following the proposal presentation to the Art Department faculty & staff November, students revise and submit a finalized proposal before the semester's end. Select components of the proposal may be integrated directly into the final research paper.

Students who do not earn a passing grade in ART/ID 600 will not be permitted to register for ART/ID 610, which could delay the student's graduation.

ART/ID 610: Senior Project 2 (four credits, spring semester)
Students register for ART/ID 610 with their first reader, with whom they schedule periodic meetings throughout the semester. Depending upon the comp cohort size, these may be group meetings with multiple students. Students implement their proposal to realize the project and complete the research paper. Throughout the semester, students attend at least one required meeting with the Gallery Director to plan for the exhibition, and students are responsible for reaching out early in the semester to schedule a meeting with the department technician to review material needs for the project installation. Students are expected to meet the deadlines on the senior project calendar to install their project in the Allegheny Art Galleries for the senior project exhibition, which typically opens during the final week of classes. Unless they have obtained special permission from the Gallery Director or Department Chair, students must de-install their work prior to Allegheny's commencement ceremony.

Evaluation of performance in ART-ID 610 is based on the following criteria:

- **Artwork(s) (35%**)
- **Research paper (25%)**
    - The paper should be approximately 15 typed, 12-point font, double-spaced pages of text, plus endnotes, a bibliography, and appropriately captioned illustrations of works discussed. Citations should be formatted according to the *Chicago Manual of Style* guidelines (Notes-Bibliography method).
- **Oral defense (10%)**
- **Self-Evaluation (5%)**
    - The self evaluation is drafted after the project is installed in the gallery exhibition. The evaluation is submitted to all committee members prior to the oral defense.
- **Artist statement and documentation (5%)**
    - Artist statement and photographic documentation of project installation (in its finalized state) should be appended to the research paper and submitted to the college's D space
- **Professionalism (20%)**
    - Professionalism constitutes responding to all outreach from the Gallery Director and/or technician concerning the senior comp exhibition, participation in all exhibition planning meetings, and adhering to all exhibition-related deadlines, including but not limited to installation, deinstallation, and submission of wall text or gallery guide materials
    - Returning assigned gallery exhibition space to its original state (removing artwork, repairing holes, cleaning debris, returning all equipment, etc)
    - Responsible use of appropriate tools, equipment, and studio areas

- Maintaining respect for peers while negotiating shared spaces (studio and gallery)
- Maintaining regular communication with all committee members, including first and second readers