Your UWindsor experience is more than attending classes. It is a combination of academics, co-curricular activities, and extracurricular involvement. By making the most of all three elements of your university experience, you will maximize your opportunities to build your skills, broaden your personal network, and clarify your long term academic and career goals.

**Intentional career planning** will help you prepare for your next step after graduation and beyond. It is a fluid, dynamic, and lifelong process. You can move on or return to an earlier stage in the cycle at any time.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

**Visual Arts and the Built Environment**

Plant your feet in two cities in this joint program with the University of Detroit Mercy. You must be a Canadian citizen to take part in this program that includes a BA from UWindsor, a BSc from UDM, and the option to get your master’s from UDM in just one additional year. Courses are taught by architects in this close-knit, niche program. You’ll have lots of hands-on learning opportunities through co-op and internships and projects for non-profit groups.

**MIN. AVG.** 75% **ONTARIO COURSE REQUIREMENTS** ENG4U, SPH4U and MHF4U required, MCV4U is recommended. The VABE program is open to Canadian citizens legally permitted to commute to the United States. Minimum average of 75%

**FUNCTIONAL KNOWLEDGE**

- Focused interactive learning on architecture, design, and visual graphic communication using traditional media and digital industry standard software
- Understand the mean and methods used to create structures through construction and sustainable technologies
- Expressing oneself confidently, assertively, and purposefully through visual imagery
- Creating works of visual art using a variety of techniques, practices, and media
- Developing visual literacy: the ability to understand the powerful role of images in contemporary media contexts and to convey one’s own ideas and arguments thoughtfully through the creation of new images, works of art, film, or architecture
- Designing, staging, managing, and overseeing effective visual campaigns and productions
- Analyzing and assessing works of visual art for formal/technical

**Build your Skills and Experience**

Your UWindsor experience is more than attending classes. It is a combination of academics, co-curricular activities, and extracurricular involvement. By making the most of all three elements of your university experience, you will maximize your opportunities to build your skills, broaden your personal network, and clarify your long term academic and career goals.

**CURRICULUM**
Courses of study specific to each program

**CO-CURRICULAR**
Activities and experiences that complement coursework (Outstanding Scholars, peer mentoring, VIP)

**EXTRACURRICULAR**
Activities falling outside the scope of set curriculum (Part-time job, clubs, volunteering, athletics)

**Career Planning Cycle**

Intentional career planning will help you prepare for your next step after graduation and beyond. It is a fluid, dynamic, and lifelong process. You can move on or return to an earlier stage in the cycle at any time.
Study abroad
- Learning communities
- Service-learning
- Capstone courses
- Research with faculty
- Co-op, internship or field collaboration, such as:
  - While encouraging

A HIP is an enriching

High-Impact Practice
- Ways To Get Involved
  - Explore free SOCA Presents events such as professional artist talks, film screenings, and music performances
  - Investigate research opportunities as part of the Outstanding Scholars program
  - Participate in the Bystander Initiative workshop to gain skills that will help you be an effective and supportive ally to prevent sexual assault on campus

Experience
- Utilize the 24/7 dedicated studio space in the new, state of the art downtown Armouries Building with access to all equipment for creative design and fabrication
- Join a club like the Creative Arts Student Society, 3D Print Club, American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS), and National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMAS)
- Consider a campus department to help produce artistic ideas for marketing or promotional videos

Career
- Start by making a list of things that you enjoy and areas in which you excel
- Explore the myriad of career paths available to architecture and visual artists
- Kick-start your career with the first gallery exhibition curated by the VABE Class in the second semester in the SOCA Gallery
- Meet with a career advisor in Career Development and Experiential Learning (CDEL) for help developing a plan for your future years
- Participate in informational interviews and join online communities like LinkedIn and Ten Thousand Coffees to connect with people in your targeted profession or industry

First Year
- Take required courses including Architecture Design I and II, Introduction to Architecture (taken at UDM) and Contemporary Visual Culture
- Work with the International Student Office (ISO) at UDM and the VABE Coordinator in July and August as an incoming student to obtain your student Visa to commute an international student
- Participate in a Welcome Day prior to classes where everyone crosses the border and completes the Visa process, followed by a tour of UDM Campus
- Review degree course requirements and become familiar with UWinsite and TitanConnect at UDM for course registration grades, and program fees
- Receive peer mentorship from other VABE students and from members of the UWinnder Creative Arts Student Society (CASS)

Middle Years
- Receive advising from the VABE Coordinator and UDM Dean's Office to select required and elective courses that satisfy the requirements of both institutions
- Develop your career in the Professional Development class by building your portfolio and curriculum vita
- Apply for entry into final year of Architecture at University of Detroit Mercy
- Choose a degree path for pursuing an Honours BFA in VABE or continuing in the fourth year at UDM for the BSc Architecture and General BA in Visual Arts
- Begin looking into optional courses outside of Visual Arts/SoCA (in FAHSS or Sciences) to complete before Year 3

Final Year
- Meet with the VABE Coordinator to go over degree requirements
- Complete all required courses for your degree
- Submit your portfolio and letter of intent to UDM for entrance into the fourth year BSc Architecture
- Make sure all 400-level courses are completed in both Studio areas and Media Art History/Visual Culture if pursuing the 4th year BFA VABE
- Apply to graduate through UWinnde Student Portal
- Take a Visual Arts Independent Study course
- Work with a faculty member on a research project or publication
- Complete required courses for Arts Management Certificate
- Join a professional association in your field such as the Ontario Association of Architects (for VABE students)
- Follow events open to architecture students with the Windsor Region Society of Architects (WRSAs)
- Become a teaching assistant or research assistant
- Conduct field research with faculty member
- Complete a thesis and present work at thesis show (BFA students)
- Work with a campus department to help produce artistic ideas for marketing or promotional videos
- Consider applying for co-op placement in the VABE Collaborative Studio which works on professional architecture and design projects in-house in the VABE Studio over the summer

Welcome Day
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- Participate in a workshop to learn how to find a summer or part-time job and write a university-level resumé
- Chat with an advisor during CDEL’s Drop In hours to get answers to your career and job search questions

Academics
- Your Coursework
- Using This Chart
- Explore a selection of opportunities recommended for students in your program.
- This chart shows some of your many options—you don’t have to do everything on it or limit yourself to it.
- Engage in opportunities from each of the three categories to set yourself up for success.

High-Impact Practice (HIP)
- A HIP is an enriching educational experience that can be life-changing and often includes learning outside of the classroom while encouraging meaningful interaction and collaboration, such as:
  - Co-op, internship or field experience
  - Research with faculty
  - Cultivating senior experience
  - Capstone courses
  - Service-learning
  - Learning communities
  - Study abroad

First Year
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VABE has been the best university experience I could ask for. The VABE program offers opportunities to learn in so many different ways, from tactile and experience-based learning to theory and calculus, and allows for students to work one-on-one with professors to develop their skills. Being able to use my passion for art as well as my love of math and problem solving to design for the future is something that could only happen in the VABE program.”

Amanda Gatto – BFA in Visual Arts and the Built Environment

87% Employment Rate of Graduates

Employment rate of graduates 2 years following degree completion (OUGS Fine and Applied Arts, 2019)

Career Tracks*

Architectural journalism  Development  Restoration
Art/architectural history  Interior spatial design  Set production
Building design  Project and facility management  Urban planning and revitalization
Construction  Real estate  Visual Arts

* Additional education and/or training required for some of the above careers.

Common Sectors for Graduates

- Academia and research
- Advertising and marketing
- Art/illustration
- Architecture and Design industry
- Education: Public and private stream, tutoring
- Government: Research and policy development
- Media and journalism: Criticism, visual production
- Urban Planning

Career-Readiness Competencies

Critical Thinking & Problem Solving  Professionalism & Work Ethic  Teamwork & Collaboration  Communication
Campus Resources

- Research undergraduate scholarships and bursaries through the Student Awards and Financial Aid Office
- Visit Leddy Library and the Writing Support Desk for help with academic assignments
- Check out the Bounce Back program designed to improve academic performance as well as decrease feelings of stress and anxiety through both effective learning strategies and life skills acquisition
- Build leadership skills and find leadership opportunities at the Leadership Hub
- Get advice and support about your academic status by making an appointment with Central Academic Advising
- Seek out assistance with academic accommodation from Student Accessibility Services
- Discover ways to get involved on campus through the Student Success and Leadership Centre
- Broaden your cultural awareness through the International Student Centre and Student Exchange Office
- Look into the Ignite: Work Study program for on-campus employment
- Get assistance developing your career plan and job search skills from Career Development and Experiential Learning
- Develop your entrepreneurial skills and learn how to start your own business at EPICentre
- Find support for Indigenous learners and broaden your understanding of Indigenous culture by visiting the Aboriginal Education Centre - Turtle Island
- Tend to your health and wellness with support from Student Health Services, the Wellness Outreach Office and Lancer Recreation
- Receive confidential mental health counselling delivered by trained professionals at the Student Counselling Centre
- Prevent.Resist.Support. Seek personal support or learn more about sexual violence prevention and resistance education through the Office of Sexual Violence Prevention, Resistance & Support
- Explore professional development opportunities through Continuing Education

experience.uwindsor.ca