

**EXCLUSIVE RANKINGS**

**#1  
BESTSELLER**

**U.S. News** & WORLD REPORT

**OVER 1,500  
PROGRAMS**

2009 EDITION

**America's Best**  
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**SCHOOLS**

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**Finding the Right School**

# Master of Fine Arts

## THE TOP SCHOOLS

Our ranking, completed in 2008, is based solely on a survey of art school deans and other top art school academics, two per school, at 220 master of fine arts programs in art and design.

Rank/School	Average assessment score (5.0=highest)
1. Rhode Island School of Design	4.6
2. Yale University (CT)	4.5
3. School of the Art Institute of Chicago	4.4
4. Cranbrook Academy of Art (MI)	4.2
Maryland Institute College of Art	4.2
Virginia Commonwealth University	4.2
7. California Institute of the Arts	4.1
Carnegie Mellon University (PA)	4.1
University of California—Los Angeles	4.1
10. Alfred Univ.—New York State College of Ceramics	4.0
11. Art Center College of Design (CA)	3.9
California College of the Arts	3.9
Columbia University (NY)	3.9
14. Temple University (PA)	3.8
15. Bard College (NY)	3.7
Pratt Institute (NY)	3.7
School of Visual Arts (NY)	3.7
University of California—San Diego	3.7
University of Texas—Austin	3.7
Washington University in St. Louis	3.7
21. CUNY—Hunter College	3.6
New School—Parsons School of Design (NY)	3.6
Ohio State University	3.6
Otis College of Art and Design (CA)	3.6
Rochester Institute of Technology (NY)	3.6
University of California—Davis	3.6
University of Illinois—Urbana-Champaign	3.6
University of Iowa	3.6
University of Wisconsin—Madison	3.6
30. Arizona State University	3.5
Indiana University—Bloomington	3.5
Massachusetts College of Art	3.5
New York University	3.5
Rutgers, the State U. of New Jersey—New Brunswick	3.5
San Francisco Art Institute	3.5
University of California—Berkeley	3.5
37. Minneapolis College of Art and Design	3.4
Tufts U./School of the Museum of Fine Arts—Boston	3.4
University of Georgia	3.4
University of Illinois—Chicago	3.4
University of Michigan	3.4
University of Southern California	3.4
University of the Arts (PA)	3.4
University of Washington	3.4
45. Herron School of Art & Design (IN)	3.3
Stanford University (CA)	3.3
University of Arizona	3.3
University of Cincinnati	3.3
University of Pennsylvania	3.3
50. Claremont Graduate University (CA)	3.2
Cleveland Institute of Art	3.2
Cornell University (NY)	3.2
Syracuse University (NY)	3.2
University of Minnesota—Twin Cities	3.2
University of New Mexico	3.2
University of Tennessee—Knoxville	3.2

## SPECIALTIES

The institutions below received the most nominations from survey respondents at peer institutions for their excellence in a given specialty.

### CERAMICS

1. Alfred Univ.—New York State College of Ceramics
2. Cranbrook Academy of Art (MI)
3. Rhode Island School of Design
4. California College of the Arts
5. University of Washington
6. Ohio State University

### FIBER ARTS

1. Cranbrook Academy of Art (MI)
2. School of the Art Inst. of Chicago
3. California College of the Arts
4. Virginia Commonwealth Univ.
5. Rhode Island School of Design
- University of Washington

### GLASS

1. Rhode Island School of Design
2. Alfred Univ.—New York State College of Ceramics
- Rochester Inst. of Tech. (NY)
4. California College of the Arts
5. Virginia Commonwealth Univ.
6. Ohio State University

### GRAPHIC DESIGN

1. Rhode Island School of Design
2. Cranbrook Academy of Art (MI)
- Yale University (CT)
4. Virginia Commonwealth Univ.
5. Carnegie Mellon University (PA)
6. Maryland Institute College of Art
- School of Visual Arts (NY)

### INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

1. Art Center Col. of Design (CA)
2. Rhode Island School of Design
3. Carnegie Mellon University (PA)
4. Pratt Institute (NY)
5. Ohio State University
6. University of Cincinnati

### INTERIOR DESIGN

1. Pratt Institute (NY)
- Rhode Island School of Design
3. University of Cincinnati
4. New York Sch. of Interior Design

### METALS/JEWELRY

1. SUNY College of Arts and Sciences—New Paltz
2. Rhode Island School of Design
3. California College of the Arts
- Univ. of Wisconsin—Madison
5. San Diego State University
6. Cranbrook Academy of Art (MI)

### MULTIMEDIA/VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. Carnegie Mellon University (PA)
2. California Institute of the Arts
3. Rhode Island School of Design
- School of the Art Inst. of Chicago
5. Univ. of California—Los Angeles
6. Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst. (NY)

### PAINTING/DRAWING

1. Yale University (CT)
2. School of the Art Inst. of Chicago
3. Rhode Island School of Design
4. Maryland Institute College of Art
5. Columbia University (NY)
- Univ. of California—Los Angeles

### PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Yale University (CT)
2. School of the Art Inst. of Chicago
3. Rhode Island School of Design
- Rochester Inst. of Tech. (NY)
5. University of New Mexico
6. California Institute of the Arts

### PRINTMAKING

1. Univ. of Wisconsin—Madison
2. Rhode Island School of Design
- University of Iowa
4. Univ. of Tennessee—Knoxville
5. Indiana University—Bloomington
6. Rutgers, the State U. of New Jersey—New Brunswick

### SCULPTURE

1. Virginia Commonwealth Univ.
2. Yale University (CT)
3. Rhode Island School of Design
4. School of the Art Inst. of Chicago
5. Cranbrook Academy of Art (MI)
6. Univ. of California—Los Angeles

Methodology: The master of fine arts program rankings are based solely on the results of a peer assessment survey. Respondents were asked to rate the academic quality of programs on a scale of 1 (marginal) to 5 (outstanding). Scores for each school were totaled and divided by the number of respondents who rated that school. The response rate was 39 percent. Surveys were conducted by Synovate.

Note: Lists of schools, individuals surveyed at each school, and specialty concentrations were developed in cooperation with the Department of Art and Visual Technology at the College of Visual and Performing Arts at George Mason University in Virginia.