TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

Art classes help every student develop a set of skills and attitudes that have broad applications beyond the studio. Skills in handicraft, analysis, and communication, a creative approach to problem-solving, and a self-motivated commitment to tasks are often overlooked as key components of the creative process. Marymount’s studio art classes ask students to reflect on the skills and attitudes as they create works of art, and begin to imagine where and how they might apply these skills.

While making art, students hone particular in-demand skills, such as how to:

- achieve finite solutions from open instructions, or to follow detailed instructions for complex, multi-step tasks
- make a detailed assessment of needs to achieve outcomes
- prioritize and organize a range of tasks
- assess and organize their workspace environment
- maintain focus and diligence through long-term projects
- understand the value of novel conclusions
- maintain an openness to experimentation and risk-taking, and the benefit of learning from miscalculations
- explain their ideas, what motivated different decisions, and the impact their decisions had on the outcomes
- receive objective criticism and defend their decisions
- set high standards and adhere to quality control

The process of making art also increases any student’s ability to analyze and work with visual materials, providing them with strong observational skills and an acute visual discrimination. Students hone valuable skills in pattern recognition, heighten their sensitivity to the effects of color, and establish an understanding of how the visual language has created and communicated meaning within particular social and historical contexts.

The art studio also requires students to present their work and their ideas in various contexts, using a range of media. This experience provides students with:

- basic computer skills (Word, PPT) and graphics software (Photoshop, Illustrator)
- skill in professionally presenting physical objects
- opportunities for portfolio preparation and presentation
- an understanding in the use of visual terminology, both verbally and in writing
- the ability to express aesthetic responses, both orally and in writing
- the ability to use visual forms to represent concrete and abstract ideas
- an understanding of the importance of quality control for effective presentations

Finally, art classes can build character in students that assure success in many different fields. Art students can be expected to have high levels of the following attitudes:

- self-discipline, personal initiative, and motivation
- competitiveness, commitment, and diligence
- networking and community
- entrepreneurial skills
- unique and creative approaches to problem-solving
- self-awareness & self-assurance

Fine Arts at Marymount: it’s more than just a job.