

**VERMONT COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS
ACADEMIC POLICIES**

**ACADEMIC PROGRESS and LENGTH OF PROGRAM
Approved: May 28, 2009**

POLICY:

While the self-designed nature of each student's curriculum assures that learning is relevant and meaningful, the maintenance of rigorous College and program standards for academic progress assures that each student's learning constitutes a graduate-level education accomplished in a timely manner and within the administrative and educational capabilities of the institution. Detailed narrative evaluations of student learning are completed both at midterm and the end of each term, and these and other program-specific reviews and requirements determine whether students are awarded credit, continue to the next semester, are placed on probation or leave-of-absence, or are dismissed.

PROCEDURE

Satisfactory academic progress is assessed on the following basis. Most MFA programs at Vermont College of Fine Arts are designed to be completed within four semesters of full-time study; in a few cases, the MFA can require five semesters. Each semester requires 15 or 16 credits of enrollment in one semester study (or in the Visual Art program, at least one semester project). Each semester study or semester project is assessed at the end of the semester, and a final credit assessment of "CR" (Credit), "NC" (No Credit) or "W" (Withdrawn) is recorded in the student's academic record. An assessment of "I" (Incomplete) is temporary and must be replaced by a final assessment of "CR" or "NC" by the end of the approved extension period. (Grade point averages are not calculated.)

Credits attempted include all credits a student is registered for each semester, regardless of final assessment. Students enrolled in the MFA programs will be considered to be making satisfactory progress if their progress allows for completion of the program at the following rate: total credits attempted must be satisfactorily completed within 150% of total credits required for completion of the program. For example, if the total credits required for program completion is 60, the maximum attempted credits allowed would be 90 (150% of 60). If the total credits required for program completion is 64 credits, the maximum attempted credits allowed would be 96. If the total credits required for program completion is 80, the total attempted credits allowed would be 120.

A final assessment of "CR" means the student has satisfactorily completed the semester study or semester project and full credit was awarded. For any semester study or semester

project for which a final assessment of “NC” or “W” is earned, no credits are awarded. The student must repeat the entire semester or project. A student may repeat any semester study or project only once, and only two semesters or projects can be repeated throughout a student’s enrollment in the program.

If a student receives a final assessment of "NC" for any enrolled credits, s/he will be placed on probation for the following term. Probation is not allowed for two consecutive terms, or for more than two terms total, during the student’s enrollment at VCFA.

Each student’s academic progress is reviewed at the conclusion of every semester.