

Academy of Art University  
Statement of Intent for MFA Application to the School of Visual Effects

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My passion for the arts led me to a significant career change ten years ago. I resigned as a database programmer, and decided to take art classes at my local community college. Computer character animation was on my mind, and I knew you needed a strong traditional arts training in order to succeed. I started with the basics, and then discovered that I enjoyed sculpture and figure work the most. One class led to another and pretty soon, I'd taken most of the sculpture classes and all of the figure classes, repeating some just for enjoyment. From there, I landed a job as a multimedia producer at Pierce College. My background in computer science and physics has been a benefit to me, because it has helped me to understand and organize information; learn to ask the right questions; merge my technical skills with my growing artistic skills in order to come up with creative ways to use technology; and think outside the box to solve complex problems.

My commitment to the arts has led me to seek more formal direction in order to develop my skills further and take my vision for design to the next level. I was very grateful to be accepted into the School of Graphic Design. I was only able to take one class per semester, so I am not that far along in the program as one would think. And while I am doing ok grade-wise in the program, I have come to realize that the amount of typography I am dealing with and know that I will deal with in the future is not something that will make me happy, or excited. I respect typography and graphic design in every way, and I have learned a lot taking those classes. But I need to make an attempt to succeed with my first love which is animation and visual effects. I do not want to wait maybe twenty more years and find out that I regretted not giving that field all my effort, and wondering if I would have ever made it in that area. I have already made too many compromises, mostly out of respect for my family's opinions. But I think I have grown a lot in the past two to three years, and I need to do what I think is best for myself.

I am confident that an MFA in Visual Effects will not only give me the skills I need in order to succeed in a very competitive world, but it will also give me the language I need to converse intelligently about art and design.

The online MFA Visual Effects program at the Academy of Art University is a good fit for me because I can enjoy the highest quality of online education while maintaining my house, my local job connections, and my local clientele. The flexibility of an online schedule is what made me decide to apply—that and the reputation of the Academy of Art University.

For the MFA Final Project, I have in mind to incorporate some of my connections with the stunt /stage-combat/martial arts industry. I would like to add visual effects and/or animate a fight/weapon tutorial.