We see art and design as related to everything we do—informing our perception of experiences, enriching our understanding of the world, and providing creative solutions to pressing problems. Here you will join an active community of artists, designers, composers, performers, scholars, and architects. Our programs inspire creativity, encourage expression, develop technical and artistic skills, and provide outlets for expression on personal, societal, and global topics. Whether you pursue the study of graphic design or sculpture, community planning or geography, jazz or classical performance, acting or stage design, you will be able to work closely with outstanding faculty, visiting artists, and real-world clients.

Your work here will be personal and exciting, thanks to small classes, the opportunity for cross-disciplinary study, a variety of internships in the field, and a world of museums, concerts, and performances in Rhode Island and nearby Boston and New York. If you want to combine two—or more—of your interests, you also can double-major, add minors, work across departments, and gain a competitive edge in the global marketplace. In the College of Arts and Sciences, you will be welcomed, supported, and challenged. We will prepare you to succeed in a way as unique as you are.

Art (B.A., B.F.A.)
Art History (B.A.)
Landscape Architecture (B.L.A.)
Music (B.A., B.M.)
Theatre (B.A., B.F.A.)
As a theatre major, I am often encouraged by my professors to take ownership of my own education and art, and seek to create the kind of theatre I want to see.

–Emily Carter ’19, theatre

URI Theatre graduates—where are they now?

Tony Estrella ’93   The Gamm Theatre founder
Kira Hawkridge ’12   OUT LOUD Theatre founder
Josh Short ’08   The Wilbury Theatre Group founder

Theatre
We’ve got a role for you.

Artistically vibrant, relevant, and rooted in teamwork, our unique production program at URI enriches all students’ lives while serving the educational and cultural needs of the University and the larger community. Here, theatre is a collaborative art requiring discipline, hard work, and high standards of performance and passion as we place an emphasis on the theoretical and practical understanding of theatre.

You can choose a concentration in acting, directing, design and theatre technology, or stage/theatre management (or combine two of these and still finish in four years). But whatever your focus, you’ll have training in all of these areas. You’ll learn to think on your feet, approach things creatively, communicate effectively, and be part of a team — all skills that will serve you well in any profession. Our small class sizes provide a personalized learning environment and a strong sense of community among faculty and students. Further, our core faculty is augmented by visiting professional artists from all disciplines and from all over the region so you can develop relationships with working professionals and make contacts in the industry.

Bachelor of Fine Arts with specializations in:
Acting
Design and Theatre Technology
Directing
Stage/Theatre Management

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre
For students who also are pursuing an Education degree
You are fascinated by the world of artistic expression and its many forms. So are we. That’s why we’re here. We offer a setting where you can develop your interests and expertise while working toward a career that honors your creative instincts. Whatever your preferred medium, you will have the opportunity to explore a range of media opportunities — painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, photography, video and multimedia, digital art, graphic design, and art history.

Whether you want to create art or delve into the richness that art history brings to our lives, here you will be part of a lively community of artists. You will get invaluable practical experience working closely with artists and instructors in intimate classroom settings and one-on-one interactions. Our faculty will help you explore your interests and can advise you on a range of diverse internship and career opportunities, as well as options for studying abroad, combining majors, and entering grad school.

“This is what I like about URI: It’s not an arts school. It is a larger university, and students bring perspectives and influences from a multitude of majors into the classroom.”

– Annu Palakunnathu Matthew, professor of photography
We believe musical expression is one of the most powerful tools for enriching our lives. Our programs blend historical, theoretical, and practical study to inspire your creative, artistic, and intellectual potential in a community of performers, composers, and scholars. Here you will get an intimate, small-school feel with plenty of big-school opportunities. You will work closely with distinguished faculty who have a wide range of experiences and accomplishments. You can join ensembles in band, orchestra, chamber music, voice, and jazz. Each semester, you will be able to attend or perform in a full schedule of student recitals, department concerts, weekly music convocations, festivals, and professional concert series.

You can major or minor in music, double-major, or prepare for a career in music education, performance, composition, conducting, and other music-related areas. Whether you are considering a career as a professional musician, a teacher of the music you love, or you’re interested in incorporating music into your studies and your life, we are here to help find the way that best expresses your talents and goals.

“URI’s music program … gives you the opportunity to play in multiple different ensembles, to take lessons learning different instruments, and to write your own music. (It has) helped me to be a more well-rounded musician.”

—Zachary Friedland ’13
Landscape Architecture
Design green solutions.

Our program is the only accredited B.L.A. program in the state of Rhode Island, and one of only a handful in New England. We are focused on building better communities by studying complex issues such as environmental sustainability, coastal resiliency, and the effects of urbanization, sea level rise, and climate change. Our program will prepare you to use art, science, and technology to determine the best use of our land and water resources through design, planning, preservation, and restoration of landscape.

Here you’ll have the opportunity to work with exceptional faculty and real-world clients as you learn to protect coastal areas; establish culturally and environmentally sensitive landscapes; restore degraded land; design sustainable residential, institutional, and commercial developments; and more. In addition to earning credits for internship work, you will gain valuable experience working on a project for a nonprofit, municipal, or state agency. When you graduate, you will be well-prepared to tackle some of the most pressing ecological, cultural, and contextual landscape improvement projects in the world today.

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (B.L.A.)

“Today’s students need to be knowledgeable in sustainable practices, resilience, and ecological communities. They must be effective communicators on multiple platforms. Our graduates meet these skills.”

– Angelo Simeoni Jr., professor of landscape architecture
The Fine Arts and Design Living and Learning Community (LLC) provides first-year students with an environment that promotes personal growth, academic success, and a smooth transition from high school to college. Incoming first-year students admitted with majors in Art and Art History, Landscape Architecture, Music, or Theatre who request on-campus housing are automatically eligible for assignment to the LLC residence hall, Hillside Hall. It received the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification and offers vibrant community life, top-notch amenities, and enthusiastic staff to help new students navigate their academic journey.