

**Western University**  
**Department of Visual Arts**

**GRADUATE GRADING STANDARDS**

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90 – 100    Work of **excellent** quality

(MA)    Approaching if not already at professional standards. Thoroughly and creatively engaged at high level of research, possibly with primary sources; very high standards in writing and evidence of sophistication in all aspects of the work

(MFA) Approaching if not already at professional standards. Thoroughly and creatively engaged at a high level of artistic and/or written production; very high standards and sophistication evidenced in all areas of production

86 – 89    Work of **very good** quality

(MA) Demonstrably better than expected with respect to research effort, mastery of critical and analytical tools, and involves polished presentation style

(MFA) Demonstrably evolved beyond expected standards of critical, theoretical and creative engagement in artistic and/or written production

80 – 85    Work of **good** quality

(MA)    Shows competence in research and writing but could be improved in one or more ways

(MFA) Shows competence in artistic and/or written production but could be improved in one or more ways

78 – 79    Work of **acceptable** quality

(MA)    Needs substantial improvement in one or more areas

(MFA) Needs substantial improvement in one or more areas

70 – 77    Work of **passable** quality (*a warning regarding removal of funding*)

(MA)    Shows sufficient ability and effort to allow the student to pass the course, but is seriously deficient with respect to research approach, or critical or analytical skills, or writing ability

(MFA) Shows sufficient ability and effort to allow the student to pass the course, but is seriously deficient with respect to critical, theoretical or practical engagement in artistic and/or written production

- 69    Work of **unacceptable** quality

(MA/MFA)    Removal from program