

METALS AND JEWELRY DESIGN

CAREER OVERVIEW FOR STUDENTS

As an internationally recognized school that merges art with craft, the mission of the School for American Crafts is to educate, inspire and motivate students while preparing them for professions in the creative and technical understanding of wood, metal, clay and glass. Through a balance of aesthetic and technical education, the School for American Crafts provides diverse experiences to promote the development of innovative self-expression and problem solving in the creation and application of sculpture and functional objects.



Course Descriptions for Metals and Jewelry Design:

http://www.rit.edu/~932www/ugrad_bulletin/courses/cias/metals.html

Degree(s) Awarded

Bachelor of Fine Arts
Master of Fine Arts

Enrollment

Approximately 40 students

Cooperative Education Component

Bachelor degree students have the option to complete two co-op assignments.

Salary Information - Avg/Range

Co-op: Insufficient Data
BFA/MFA: Insufficient Data

Equipment & Facilities

- The School for American Crafts has become famous for its devotion to the technical skills, impeccable craftsmanship, and artistic expression in the crafts.
- Three full days per week are spent in the student's major studio.
- Studios, labs, classrooms and equipment are among the finest in the nation. SAC boasts the latest equipment in all areas of design, arts, and crafts, and a wide variety of other resources which aid students in their technical development. Focus remains, however, on BOTH the technical and creative process.
- The studio comprises approximately 8500 sq. feet of working space divided into four major areas: a graduate studio, upper-class undergraduate studio, undergraduate studio, and a forge (housed in its own building)
- Specialty side room areas include polishing, machining, casting, aluminum anodizing, chemical processes, and large soldering and annealing areas.
- A student operated supply store is also located in the studio. Each student has his or her own secure workspace and torch.

Accreditation

RIT is chartered by the Legislature of the State of New York and accredited by the Commission of Higher Education of the Middle States Association for the Colleges and Schools.

Student Skills & Capabilities

- In order to achieve the desired occupational goals, the educational objectives seek to stimulate creative imagination & technical invention, develop knowledge of process & command of skills, & foster appreciation, of the crafts and the related arts. The programs strive to inspire the student to seek continual improvement through analysis & self-evaluation, the BFA program cooperates with the College of Liberal Arts in assisting students to develop personally & socially.
- Students in the Metals/Jewelry Program support the philosophy of the Craft School: a community of artists and crafts people learning and working together. This creates an environment of cooperation, responsibility and sharing that we encourage by such activities as group projects and critiques, peer mentoring and studio maintenance and pride. Self-discovery is at the heart of our assignments, projects, and group discussions.
- The program focuses on design, aesthetics, material and process mastery, and career-oriented topics such as resume building, portfolio compilation, job search lectures and assignments.
- Invited guest speakers from the field conduct discussions in topics ranging from design, studio management, gallery relations, professional practices and "special" technical and aesthetic issues. Field trips to museums, artists' studios, and art centers are also utilized.

Nature of Work

Jewelers and precious stone and metal workers use a variety of common and specialized handtools and equipment to design and manufacture new pieces of jewelry; cut, set, and polish gem stones; and repair or adjust rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and other jewelry. Jewelers usually specialize in one or more of these areas and may work for large jewelry-manufacturing firms, for small retail jewelry shops, or as owners of their own businesses. Regardless of the type of work done or the work setting, jewelers require a high degree of skill, precision, and attention to detail. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook)

Training/Qualifications

Jewelers usually learn their trade in vocational or technical schools, through distance-learning centers, or on the job. Colleges and art and design schools also offer programs that can lead to a Bachelor of Fine Arts or Master of Fine Arts degree in jewelry design. Formal training in the basic skills of the trade enhances one's employment and advancement opportunities. Many employers prefer jewelers with design, repair, and sales skills. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics O.O.H.)

Job Outlook

Employment of jewelers and precious stone and metal workers is expected to [grow more slowly than the average](#) through 2018. Employment opportunities, however, should be excellent, because jewelry sales are increasing. New jewelers also will be needed to replace those who retire or who leave the occupation for other reasons. When master jewelers retire, they take with them years of experience that require substantial time and financial resources to replace. Many employers have difficulty finding and retaining jewelers with the right skills and the necessary knowledge. Some technological advances have made jewelerymaking more efficient; however, many tasks cannot be fully automated. Jewelry work is a labor-intensive process that requires excellent handiwork. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics O.O.H.)

Job Titles

Craft Artist, Jeweler, Designer

Significant Points

- About one-fourth of all jewelers were self-employed.
- Jewelers usually learn their trade in vocational or technical schools, through distance-learning centers, or on the job.
- Prospects for new jewelers should be excellent; many employers have difficulty finding and retaining workers with the right skills to replace those who retire or who leave the occupation for other reasons.

(Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics O.O.H.)

Employment

Jewelers and precious stone and metal workers held about 52,100 jobs in 2008. About 54 percent of these workers were self-employed; many operated their own store or repair shop, and some specialized in designing and creating custom jewelry. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics O.O.H.)

Employers of Metals and Jewelry Design Co-op and Graduating Students:

Oneida Silver, Knoll Associates, Tiffany & Co., Bucks Rock Performing & Creative Arts Camp, Interlochen Center for the Arts, Barbara Heinrich Studio, Cornell's Jewelers, JK Jewelry, Earl of Pearls, Ltd, Richards & West Inc., Mann's Jewelers

Contact Us:

We appreciate your interest in your career and we will make every effort to help you succeed. Feel free to contact Shauna Newcomb, the program coordinator who works with the Metals and Jewelry Design program. You can access information about services through our web site at <http://www.rit.edu/co-op/careers>.

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Unless otherwise noted, information is based upon data collected by RIT Office of Cooperative Education and Career Services.