

Greetings!

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the MFA in Photography and Related Media program at RIT. We are delighted that you will be joining our graduate program in the College of Art and Design. As a graduate student, you are an important part of RIT's university community. We are confident that you will find this a truly exciting place to pursue your graduate studies.

For more information on the area, please refer to Rochester and Campus resources on [this website](#) to help you acquaint yourself to the region and campus services.

### Orientation

In preparation for the academic year, orientation meetings have been scheduled for all new graduate students. Your attendance at these meetings is required as you will learn about facilities, meet members of the RIT graduate community, receive an academic planning sheet, learn about graduate assistantships, and review specific details about your graduate program.

Your graduate orientation session in the College of Art and Design (CAD) is:

Graduate Events	Date	Time	Location
Photography and Related Media Orientation & Facilities Overview	Wednesday, August 18	9am-1:30pm	Gannett (Room TBD)
First Day of Classes	Monday, August 23 <sup>rd</sup>		
Graduate Student Work Share	Tuesday, August 24	2pm-4:50pm	Integrated Practices/Thesis co-meeting, location TBD

During the above Tuesday, August 24th class meeting, all of the first-and-second-year graduate students in this program will come together to do introductions and share their artwork. Please prepare a 10-minute presentation of your current work to share with the group. There will be a computer available during this session to show your website or digital presentation, or you can bring prints if you prefer.

In addition to our college orientation, the RIT Graduate School has orientation events planned for the week. For a complete list of RIT Graduate Orientation Events, please visit <https://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/graduateeducation/online-graduate-student-orientation>.

If you are an international student, the International Student Services Office also has mandatory (virtual) orientation event. Please visit <https://www.rit.edu/orientation/international> for more information.

### Fall Course Schedules

Your fall schedule will consist of three (3) required studio courses and one (1) open elective course. You will automatically be registered for:

- Histories and Aesthetics of Photography I
- Studio Core I
- Integrated Practices I

For the open elective, your academic advisor, Kristie Gross, will email you to discuss the registration process, explain your elective options, and find out your preferences. Please watch for her email to ensure timely registration and course selection.

### Graduate Student Resources – insideCAD website

The College of Art and Design has an internal page devoted to Graduate Student Information. Please visit <https://inside.cad.rit.edu/current-students/academic-information/graduate-student-info/> for the new student checklist, academic calendar, and informational handouts to be used throughout your studies at RIT.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at [jjtpph@rit.edu](mailto:jjtpph@rit.edu). I look forward to seeing you in August.  
Enjoy the remainder of your summer!

Sincerely,

Joshua Thorson  
Graduate Director