

Master of Fine Arts, Fashion Design Midpoint Review Handbook


This handbook contains the Fashion Design Midpoint Review requirements, planning guides, and resources. Please read through all of this information carefully before preparing your materials for Midpoint Review. If you have any questions or need clarification on any aspect of your upcoming Midpoint Review, you will find information about who to contact on page 17 of this handbook.

It is your responsibility to use the latest version of the Midpoint Review Handbook. If you are uncertain if this is the latest version, please refer to the Fashion Design page on the Graduate Showcase:

<http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/>

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 ONLINE ICON: The online icon will mark items that are specific to online students only.

On campus students can skip these items.

1. ELIGIBILITY FOR MIDPOINT REVIEW

A. Eligibility

Prior to scheduling your Midpoint Review, you must have done the following:

- Completed 24-36 Units
- Completed or be in progress of completing all core requirements (listed below)
- Be enrolled in your level three classes (FSH 605, FSH 612, or FSH 622, depending on your track)
- Completed 6 units of Liberal Arts

These core courses must be taken by all Fashion Design students *

Fashion Design	Fashion Knitwear	Fashion Textiles
<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 600: Fashion Design 1	<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 600: Fashion Design 1	<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 600: Fashion Design 1
<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 601: 3D Design 1	<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 620: Knitwear Design & Construction 1	<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 610: Applied Textiles 1
<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 602: Fashion Design 2	<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 602: Fashion Design 2	<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 602: Fashion Design 2
<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 603: 3D Design 2	<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 621: Knitwear Design & Construction 2	<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 611: Applied Textiles 2
<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 604: Fashion Design 3 (taken concurrent with Midpoint Review)	<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 604: Fashion Design 3 (taken concurrent with Midpoint Review)	<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 604: Fashion Design 3 (taken concurrent with Midpoint Review)
<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 605: 3D Design 3 (taken concurrent with Midpoint Review)	<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 609: Digital Design for Fashion	<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 609: Digital Design for Fashion
<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 609: Digital Design for Fashion	<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 622: Knitwear Design & Construction 3(taken concurrent with Midpoint Review)	<input type="checkbox"/> FSH 612: Applied Textiles 3(taken concurrent with Midpoint Review)

* Core courses may be waived with academic director approval only

Note: International students who are tested into or choose to take EAP 605S or 605W: English for Art Purposes should do so immediately after taking EAP 604: MS: English for Art Purposes and before they plan to do their Midpoint Review.

Plan ahead and be prepared to present your proposal by the beginning of the semester.

2. SCHEDULING YOUR MIDPOINT REVIEW

A. Review Date

Midpoint Reviews are conducted in the spring, summer and fall semesters. Presentations typically start in the third or fourth week of the fall or spring Semester and in the second week of the summer semester. You can find the signup dates in the Graduate School Calendar:

<http://www.academyart.edu/students/my-academy/academic-resources/graduate-student-academic-resources>

NOTE: Please communicate with your Graduate Advisor about when would be the most appropriate time to schedule your Midpoint Review. It is important to know the final cut-off date for scheduling your review.

You should receive an email from the Midpoint Review Coordinator approximately one week prior to the start of the semester you will be presenting your Midpoint with details on how to sign-up. The email will direct you to the Graduate Midpoint and Final Review Showcase <http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/>.

B. Review Orientation

You are required to watch the online Midpoint Review Orientation prior to completing the Midpoint Review sign-up form online. You have the option of presenting your Midpoint or Final Review online or on campus. If you will be doing your Midpoint Review online please review the [online presentation specifications](#). Please [contact](#) the Midpoint Review Coordinator if you have any questions.

C. Attendance & Cancellations

Midpoint Review is a required component of your Master's level program and must be completed before commencing the directed study or final portfolio portion of your program. Cancellations or postponements must be organized through the Midpoint Review Coordinator at least 5 working days prior to the scheduled review date. Late cancellations or postponements will be considered "No Show" and fail the Midpoint Review.

3. DELIVERABLE DETAILS & DUE DATES

Your Midpoint Review will consist of the following three components: portfolio, thesis book, and oral presentation. [Link to tutorial on uploading work to LMS](#)

IMPORTANT: If your Thesis Book and Portfolio are not received in time, your Midpoint Review will be cancelled and you will need to present the following semester.

Portfolio: Class work to date. Both 2D and 3D projects.

[Link to more detailed portfolio checklist](#)

Upload/Deliver To:	Upload to the Portfolio Icon in LMS
Due Date:	One (1) week prior to review date
Format:	Online students are required to submit a PDF portfolio presentation

Thesis Book: Your Thesis proposal must be clear and concise. The proposal should include the area of market you will be focused in and whether you plan to pursue the Portfolio and Skill Building track or the Portfolio and Collection track. You should also describe why you have chosen it, and how you plan on implementing it. Describe your proposal in detail and ensure that it is not too narrow or overly broad in scope. You do not need to have fully planned outline or research and design ideas for a final thesis collection.

Professional Editing: The proposal must be professionally executed, grammatically correct and free of spelling errors and typos.

[Link to more detailed thesis book checklist](#)

Upload/Deliver To:	Upload to the Thesis Proposal Icon in LMS
Due Date:	One (1) week prior to review date
Format:	PDF uploaded to LMS

Oral Presentation: Academy of Art University’s Online Midpoint Review provides a means for online/offsite Academy students to present their thesis proposals via the Academy’s online meeting environment. You have the option of presenting your Midpoint Review ONLINE or ON-CAMPUS.

[Link to more detailed oral presentation checklist](#)

Upload/Deliver To:	At the Midpoint Review
Due Date:	At the scheduled day/time of your review
Format:	Online students will have PDF to hand for reference
Practice and Prepare:	Be prepared to answer questions when you are finished.
Notes:	You may use notes in relation to your work to help you remember the information during your Q & A.

[Link to online presentation details for online students](#)

4. MIDPOINT REVIEW PROCESS

A. Review Expectations and Structure

Midpoint Reviews are 20 minutes in duration.

The Midpoint Review meeting will follow this structure:

Introduction and Welcome	5 minutes
Question and Answer on goals	5 minutes
Committee Decision & Feedback	10 minutes

Review Committee: The Midpoint Review Committee is comprised of faculty and/or industry professionals approved by the Graduate School and the Department Directors.

Committee Question & Answer Session: Questions will be asked by the Committee for clarification on your project and goals moving forward.

Committee Discussion, Decision, & Feedback: After the question and answer session, the committee will recess in private to discuss the merits of your proposal.

B. Results

Upon reconvening, the committee will present you with one of the following outcomes:



Approved: You have passed, and can now proceed with Directed Study for the following semester.

Not Approved: You have NOT passed, and are NOT allowed to proceed with Directed Study until one of the following has been completed and the Midpoint Proposal is approved by the Midpoint Review Committee:

Resubmit: Following specific Midpoint Review Committee requirements, your project requires small changes that must be corrected and re-submitted within 3 weeks. If the re-submission meets the requirements, then the Midpoint Proposal is approved and you can proceed with Directed Study the following semester.

OR

Represent: Following specific Midpoint Review Committee requirements, you must complete additional studio work, rethink Final Project, and/or sign up for a new Midpoint Review next semester.

Please follow directions outlined in the link below to view your results and written feedback after your Midpoint Review.

http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/content/dam/Grad%20Showcase/home_page/pdf/ReviewResults.pdf

C. EVALUATION QUESTIONS

The work you submit will be assessed using the Graduate School of Fashion Design program learning outcomes. At the Midpoint Review the review committee is looking at your progress towards achieving the stated outcomes.

<http://www.academyart.edu/academics/fashion/graduate-degrees>

5. CHECKLISTS

PORTFOLIO CHECKLIST

- Portfolio Contents:** To assess your development to date and help us formulate a plan for your post Midpoint Review studies. To determine if you are on a **Portfolio and Skill Building** or a **Portfolio and Collection** track.
- Content: You will need to include portfolio or collection samples created during your classes at Academy of Art University in chronological order.
 - Design work: Four projects from FSH 600, 602, 604*, and 609*. Include: Moodboard, Fabric and Color board, Illustrations with flats and the collection lineup. It is good to include sketchbook pages from the research and development process of your collections.
 - 3-D work: Four complete garments from: FSH 601, 603, and 605*.

* Since you'll be taking FSH 604, 605 and 609 concurrent with your Midpoint review, include any available and most current course work in your presentation. It is understood that you might not have your latest project completed.

Online students will upload the above work in a PDF Portfolio bundle. Details follow below.

THESIS BOOK CHECKLIST

- Thesis Book Contents:** In your thesis book, you must include the following sections, in this order and with a separate heading for each:
- Autobiography
 - Resume
 - Proposal
 - Timeline

- Autobiography:** For your autobiography, you will briefly address the following in no more than a single page:
- Explain who you are
 - Explain how you became involved with fashion design
 - Discuss what led you to enroll at the Academy of Art University
 - You may also include other information that seems appropriate or relevant to your work as an artist, such as:
 - Relevant work experiences
 - Relevant educational experiences
 - Relevant personal experiences
 - Career goals

You want to be sure to write your autobiography in a concise and succinct manner that is as engaging as possible.

Resume : You will need to include a formal resume in your thesis book. This is a one-page professional document that lists your work experience, skills and education. In addition, your resume provides the reader with your contact information and a list of past experience, including:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Name | <input type="checkbox"/> Recent or pertinent employment history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Address | <input type="checkbox"/> Other recent information relevant to your career including teaching or volunteer experiences, professional memberships, relevant skills, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone number | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail and website (optional) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dates should be listed chronologically, most recent at the top of the list. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional contact information | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recent exhibitions (if applicable) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational background (beyond High School) | |

Abstract/ Proposal: The Abstract is a short but detailed summary of your proposed Thesis Proposal. It should clearly state your intention to either pursue a Portfolio and Skill Building track or Portfolio and Collection track.

Portfolio and Skill Building track: Students focus on special skill building in a market and area of their choice. A final portfolio of 5 to 7 projects will be completed for Final Review and will be focused in the chosen area of the market. (For example, Contemporary Sportswear, Active Sportswear, Special Occasion, etc.)

Portfolio and Collection track: Design Driven focus. Students develop a portfolio of 5 to 7 design projects with design driven emphasis. In addition, students develop one of these projects in 3D for juried selection and possible inclusion in New York Fashion Week.

The Project Abstract should be approximately 150 words. In your abstract you should clearly identify the area of the market you will focus, price point and competitors.

Timeline: The timeline must include the following:

- List by semester the courses that you have taken to date, including the course number, title, and instructor.
- List your anticipated courses by title and semester.
- Identify your anticipated graduation date (semester/year).
- Be sure your total units add up to 63 units.

NOTE: Make sure your classes are appropriate for your track (don't use electives for things like website development) and are spaced appropriately (don't try to take all directed study units in two semesters).

ORAL PRESENTATION CHECKLIST

General Oral Presentation Guidelines:

Academy of Art University's Online Midpoint Review provides a means for online/offsite Academy students to present their thesis proposals via the Academy's online meeting environment. You have the option of presenting your Midpoint Review ONLINE or ONCAMPUS. Either way after your work has been viewed the panel may have some questions for you:

- ANSWER QUESTIONS:** Answer the following questions in your presentation:
 - What brought you to Academy Art University?
 - Tell us about your time here.
 - Where do you see yourself in the world of fashion (luxury, ready to wear, sportswear etc.), what market & price point?
 - What are your strongest areas?
 - What areas need improvement?
 - Where do you see yourself after graduation?
- PRACTICE and PREPARE:** Practice these answers in response to the questions in advance of your review to ensure your comfort level.

MIDPOINT REVIEW PDF GUIDELINES

PDF Development Guidelines:

If you are presenting online, you will upload the course work to completed date in the form of a PDF portfolio presentation which will be uploaded one week prior to your review date. After you have scheduled your review the Online Graduate Department will contact you to show you how the online Review process works and how to upload your PDF. Online students must also upload their PDF portfolio to the Midpoint Review presentation room 1 week in advance of their review. Though there is a degree of freedom in how you develop your presentation layout, there are some important development guidelines you must follow:

Before bundling your PDF portfolio, ensure that all files are in great quality and arrange the pages and projects in chronological order.

- **Design work:** Include four design projects with supporting development pages from FHS 600, FSH 602, FSH 604 and FSH 609. Place one presentation board per page when the project is landscape format and two boards side-by-side per page if the project was created in a portrait format.
- **3D work:** Include front, back, and side and detail views of four garments completed in FSH 601, FSH 603 and FSH 605. Assure that each piece is photographed on a clear, neutral background and that your images are high quality. Indicate class and instructor information. You can arrange all views/photos of one garment on one to two pages.
- Font:** Use the standard fonts: Arial, Times New Roman or Garamond.
- Size:** Use a font size that is large enough to read but does not overwhelm the project page.
- Color:** Use a font color that is easy to read- black or white depending on the



background.

- Thesis Proposal (second-to-last page):** Use bullet points instead of written paragraphs.

Maximum File Size: 50 MB. Files greater than 50 MB will not be accepted.

MIDPOINT REVIEW PDF CHECKLIST

PDF Checklist: Your PDF should include the following slides:

- Introduction Page
- Class Project Slides
- Sketch Book/Process Slides
- Thesis Project Slides
- Closing Slide

Introduction Slide: The introduction/title slide must include the following items:

- Your name
- Your student ID
- Department name
- Project title
- Date of the presentation
- Area of emphasis

Portfolio Slides: The portfolio pages must include the following items:

- Presentation boards of design projects and photographs of 3D projects
- Pages must be presented in chronological order and sorted by topic (you can start with Design work and then 3D work both arranged in chronological order).
- Class number and instructor information

Sketch Book & Pages: The sketchbook and process slides must include the following items:

- Research and Design Development (Scans or quality photographs of sketchbook or process pages, which include visual research, color, fabric and design development)

Thesis Proposal Slide: Include the following in your PowerPoint Presentation:

- Bullet points describing the important aspects of the project as pulled from your abstract page.

Conclusion Slide: This slide should clearly indicate that you are finished with your presentation. You may choose to include the following:

- Your Name
- Thank you

6. PREPARATION TIMELINE

3 to 4 months before your review	<p>Read Fashion Design specific Midpoint Review Handbook</p> <p>Watch the Midpoint Review Orientation</p> <p>Attend the Fashion Design Midpoint Review Workshops</p>
2 to 3 months before your review	<p>Check graduate website for Midpoint Review sign-up schedule</p> <p>Solidify your Thesis Project Concept</p>
6 weeks before your review	<p>Prepare your thesis book</p> <p>Work with an editor or contact ARC to make sure your thesis book is grammatically correct and typo-free.</p>
1 month before your review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create your PowerPoint/PDF slide show Organize and create notes for your oral presentation Work with a friend, colleague or ARC on your oral presentation
3 weeks before your review	<p>Practice your oral presentation out loud and with a timer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review the online-specific requirements and test all of your equipment ● Email your PDF presentation to Online Graduate School
2 weeks before your review	<p>On-campus students verify your equipment works prior to your actual presentation date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meet online with your Online Graduate Department Learning Coordinator to review your presentation room setup and use
1 week before your review	<p>Upload your PDF to your portfolio and thesis book to your Student Homepage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Send your PDF presentation to Online Graduate School via email <p>Plan your attire, dress professionally</p> <p>Practice your questions and answers in front of a live audience</p>
Tips for the day of your review	<p>Get plenty of rest the night before</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If you will be using a cellphone, make sure the battery is charged <p>Have a glass of water available during your presentation</p> <p>Arrive at your Midpoint Review on time and ready to go</p> <p>Greet your committee members prior to beginning your presentation</p> <p>Listen to the committee's advice and take notes</p> <p>Maintain professionalism during the entire review</p>
Following your review	<p>View your Midpoint Review results here</p>

Directed Study	Once you have passed your Midpoint Review with an Approved result you will be able to start your Directed Studies. Please review Directed Study information here: http://www.academyart.edu/students/my-academy/academic-resources/graduate-student-academic-resources
Directed Study Documentation	Throughout all units of Directed Study coursework you will be keeping progress notes for each course through a Directed Study Journal, or online Thesis Progress Tracking. This documentation will record the progress you have made with your project between your Midpoint and Final Review. Be sure to keep drawings, diagrams and other documents pertaining to the progress of your Final Project. For details on format requirements for your department please refer to the Directed Study Guidelines found here: http://www.academyart.edu/content/dam/assets/pdf/gradstudents/directed_study_guidelines.pdf

7. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When can I schedule my Midpoint Review?	Once you have completed your eligibility requirements, you can sign up online when the sign up is available. Check the Graduate School calendar for dates and the Graduate School's Midpoint Review Page for the sign up link.
How many pages should the thesis book be?	There is no specified length for the completed written proposal. There are some sections that have limitation of length, but the main part of your proposal does not have a limit. The written proposal should be thorough in describing all aspects of your project, but you also want to think about how you can be concise and avoid redundancy of information in the content.
If I'm an online student, do I need to send in physical samples of my class work?	No. You will have to take high-quality pictures on a white or neutral background of your clothing hung neatly on a dress form. The pictures should be crisp and clear. Photograph from the front, back, profile, and detail views.
Can we include work we've done outside of the Academy?	No. All work included must be created exclusively within your classes here at Academy of Art University.
Am I supposed to have a fully developed thesis or portfolio prepared for the Midpoint?	No. That will be developed through your group directed studies after you pass your Midpoint Review.
Can I use fancy text, borders and custom backgrounds for my PowerPoint presentation?	We would recommend against it. Simple, easy to read and easy to see content is best.

Do I need to mail two (2) copies of my Final Thesis Book to the department?	No. Onsite and online students just need to upload the four page Thesis Book and Portfolio to the icon on the LMS. See Deliverables and Due Dates .
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8. IMPORTANT LINKS

Graduate Student Homepage	http://www.academyart.edu/students/my-academy/academic-resources/graduate-student-academic-resources
Library Resources	http://library.academyart.edu/ Research tools and database to prepare for your Midpoint Review
Formatting Resources	http://elmo.academyart.edu/reference-help/mla_citation_guide.html/ http://arc.academyart.edu/writing/mla_examples.html MLA Citation guidelines
Academy Resource Center (ARC)	http://www.academyart.edu/students/my-academy/academy-resource-center Your resource for proofreading, ESL assistance, Midpoint Review, Writing Lab.
Accessing Your Review Results	http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/content/dam/Grad%20Showcase/home_page/pdf/ReviewResults.pdf
Online Chat Schedules & Recordings	Chat Schedule: http://online.academyart.edu/innovative-learning/chats.html Graduate Chats: http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/graduate-chats.html Twitter: @aachats
Department Specific Websites	https://www.academyart.edu/academics/fashion http://online.academyart.edu/schools/fashion
Graduate School Calendar	http://www.academyart.edu/students/my-academy/academic-resources/graduate-student-academic-resources
Graduate Review Showcase	http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/ Here you will find a link to the Midpoint Review Orientation, and links to the Midpoint Review Guidelines and Handbooks.
Fashion Design Review Showcase Page	http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/schools/fashion-design.html

Online Connection Through Mobile Devices	<p>http://www.adobe.com/products/adobeconnect/feature-details/adobe-connectmobile.html</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application required for using the Adobe Connect Meetings from your mobile device.
Online Presentation Do's & Don'ts	<p>http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look under Additional Presentation Tools
Online Technical Requirements	<p>http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/ Look under Resources → Technical Resources → Online technical requirements</p>
Technology Trouble Shooting	<p>To participate in the web conference, you need to make sure that your computer has the latest versions of the Flash and Shockwave plugins and can run the web-casting software. To check this, please click on this link:</p> <p>http://arcps.adobeconnect.com/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm</p>
Uploading Review Content	<p>http://gradshowcase.academyart.edu/content/dam/Grad%20Showcase/home_page/pdf/Uploading_Review_Content_WI15.pdf</p>
Photographing & Submitting Artwork	<p>http://media.academyart.edu/howto/index.html</p> <p>http://howto.academyart.edu/submitting-artwork</p>

9. ONLINE PRESENTATION DETAILS

A. Scheduling a Meeting with an Online Graduate Review Coordinator

Academy of Art University's Online Graduate Review process provides a means for Academy students to present their project proposals via the Academy's online meeting environment. An Online Graduate Review Coordinator will contact you after your review has been scheduled to test your computer, internet connection, web-camera, and telephone. The Online Graduate Review Coordinator will also show you how the online review process works and how to upload your PDF for the review committee. Students presenting online are required to have their equipment and any required presentation materials ready to upload and test at least two weeks prior to the presentation date (1 week for the Summer Semester).

B. Online Presentation Guidelines

You are required to provide a PDF presentation with visual and written information that will go along with your presentation. Be sure to follow your department guidelines, as some departments have different requirements. You can also find a checklist below with details on what to include in your presentation.

- Font:** If you do use font, ensure it is an easily readable font. Use a font size and color that is clear to read.
- Images:** Images need to be in JPEG format and optimized for web viewing. Review your department requirements for labeling and titling your images.
- Credit:** When including art made by other artists, credit the artist.
- Content:** It is best to keep the text in bullet point format or very short clear sentences instead of written paragraphs. References, copyright information, and technical notes may be included at the end of the presentation.

Please refer to the links below for technical requirements:

[Online Technical Requirements](#)
[Adobe Connect Diagnostic Test](#)

Online Graduate Review Contact Information

Email: onlinegradreview@academyart.edu

Phone: (415) 618-3614



10. CONTACT INFORMATION

Midpoint Review Coordinator: midpointreview@academyart.edu
(415) 618-6390

Contact for Online Students: onlinegradreview@academyart.edu
(415) 618-3614

Department Contact(s):
Kristin Argue
Fashion Design Administrator
Tel: (415) 618-3826
Email: KArgue@academyart.edu

Send Materials To: Academy of Art University

School of Fashion Design
Midpoint Review

79 New Montgomery
San Francisco, CA 94105

NOTE: Please obtain a tracking number or return receipt of delivery for your shipments.