



INSTITUTE FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES IN THE VISUAL ARTS

## Consumer Information Guide

Published April 2026

This page provides important information about institutional policies, student rights and responsibilities, and federal financial aid disclosures, as required by the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

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### **1. Institutional Information**

#### **Institutional Accreditation**

IDSVA is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). Information about accreditation status may be obtained from:

New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE)  
301 Edgewater Place, Suite 210, Wakefield, MA 01880 USA  
781 425 7785  
<https://www.neche.org>

#### **State Authorization**

IDSVA is authorized by the State of Maine to confer the PhD degree.

#### **Programs Offered**

IDSVA offers a PhD in Visual Arts: Philosophy, Aesthetics, and Art Theory.

The program description and course listings are published on the IDSVA website [Course of Study](#). Degree requirements are detailed in the Student Handbook, available for download on the IDSVA website [Policies and Procedures](#).

#### **Faculty Information**

A list of faculty members, credentials, and academic qualifications are published on the IDSVA website: [Core Faculty](#) and [Visiting Faculty](#).

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## **2. Cost of Attendance (COA)**

The Cost of Attendance (COA) is an estimate of educational expenses for a specific academic period and includes:

### **Direct Costs (Billed by the Institution)**

- Tuition

### **Indirect Costs (Not Billed by the Institution)**

- Books and supplies
- Transportation
- Loan origination fees
- Miscellaneous personal expenses

Estimated annual costs for residency travel and meals, and books are posted on the IDSVA website: [Scholarships & Tuition](#) > Tuition & Costs. A detailed breakdown including living expenses is available from the Financial Aid Office.

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## **3. Financial Aid Information**

### **Available Financial Aid Programs**

Eligible students may qualify for:

- Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans
- Institutional Scholarships (if applicable)

IDSVA does not participate in Federal Pell Grants or subsidized loan programs for graduate students.

### **How to Apply for Financial Aid**

1. Fill out the [IDSVA Scholarship Application](#)
2. Complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** at Federal Student Aid website ([studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov)).

3. IDSVVA School Code: G41888
  4. Complete loan entrance counseling and Master Promissory Note (MPN) at U.S. Department of Education website.
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#### **4. Student Loan Information**

##### **Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans**

- Not based on financial need
- Interest accrues while in school
- Annual and aggregate limits apply

##### **Loan Origination Fees**

Federal loans are subject to origination fees deducted prior to disbursement.

##### **Repayment Information**

Repayment typically begins:

- 6 months after enrollment drops below half-time (Unsubsidized)
- Immediately after full disbursement (PLUS), though in-school deferment is available

Repayment plans include:

- Standard
- Repayment Assistance Plan (Income-Driven Repayment)

Loan repayment information is available through Federal Student Aid.

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#### **5. Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)**

Students receiving federal financial aid must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward degree completion.

SAP is measured by:

- **Qualitative Standard:** Minimum GPA requirement
- **Quantitative Standard:** Pace of completion
- **Maximum Timeframe:** 150% of published program length

Students who fail to meet SAP standards may lose eligibility for federal financial aid. An appeal process is available.

Full SAP policy is published in the [Financial Aid Handbook](#).

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## **6. Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4)**

If a student withdraws before completing 60% of the payment period, IDSVAs are required to calculate the amount of federal aid earned under the **Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4)** formula.

Unearned funds must be returned to the appropriate federal programs in the following order:

1. Direct Unsubsidized Loans
2. Direct PLUS Loans

Students may owe a balance to IDSVAs if funds are returned.

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## **7. Withdrawal and Refund Policy**

IDSVA maintains a published institutional refund policy separate from federal R2T4 requirements. Students should review the [Student Handbook](#) for detailed information.

Official withdrawal procedures must be followed to avoid unintended financial liability.

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## **8. Code of Conduct for Educational Loans**

IDSVA complies with the federal student loan Code of Conduct requirements and:

- Does not participate in revenue-sharing arrangements
  - Does not receive gifts from lenders
  - Does not assign borrowers to specific lenders
  - Does not accept compensation for loan processing
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## **9. Student Rights and Responsibilities**

### **Student Rights**

Students have the right to:

- Know what financial aid programs are available
- Understand eligibility requirements
- Receive an explanation of loan terms and conditions
- Know how financial need is determined
- Request reconsideration of aid due to special circumstances

### **Student Responsibilities**

Students are responsible for:

- Providing accurate information on FAFSA
  - Completing required documentation
  - Maintaining SAP
  - Repaying loans according to agreed terms
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## **10. Constitution Day Information**

IDSVA observes Constitution Day on September 17 each year and provides educational programming regarding the United States Constitution.

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## **11. Voter Registration Information**

Voter registration forms and information are available at:

[U.S. Election Assistance Commission](#)

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## **12. Student Complaint Process**

Students with complaints should follow the internal grievance procedure outlined in the [Student Handbook](#).

Unresolved complaints may be directed to:

- [Maine Department of Education](#)
  - [New England Commission of Higher Education](#)
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## **13. FERPA – Student Privacy**

IDSVA complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Students have the right to:

- Inspect and review education records
- Request correction of inaccurate records
- Provide consent before disclosure (with certain exceptions)

Full FERPA policy is available in the [Student Handbook](#).

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## **14. Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention**

IDSVA maintains a Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program (DAAPP), including:

- Standards of conduct
- Legal Sanctions
- Health risks
- Available counseling and treatment resources

Annual notification is distributed to students.

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## **15. Campus Safety and Security**

As a primarily distance-learning institution, IDSVa provides relevant safety disclosures applicable to its operations.

The Annual Security Report is published on the IDSVa website: [Policies & Procedures](#)

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## **16. Contact Information**

Financial Aid Office

IDSVa

63 Federal Street, Portland, ME 04101

901 209 9128

oalva@idsva.edu

Students may request paper copies of any consumer information disclosures.