

WordPress Custom Themes

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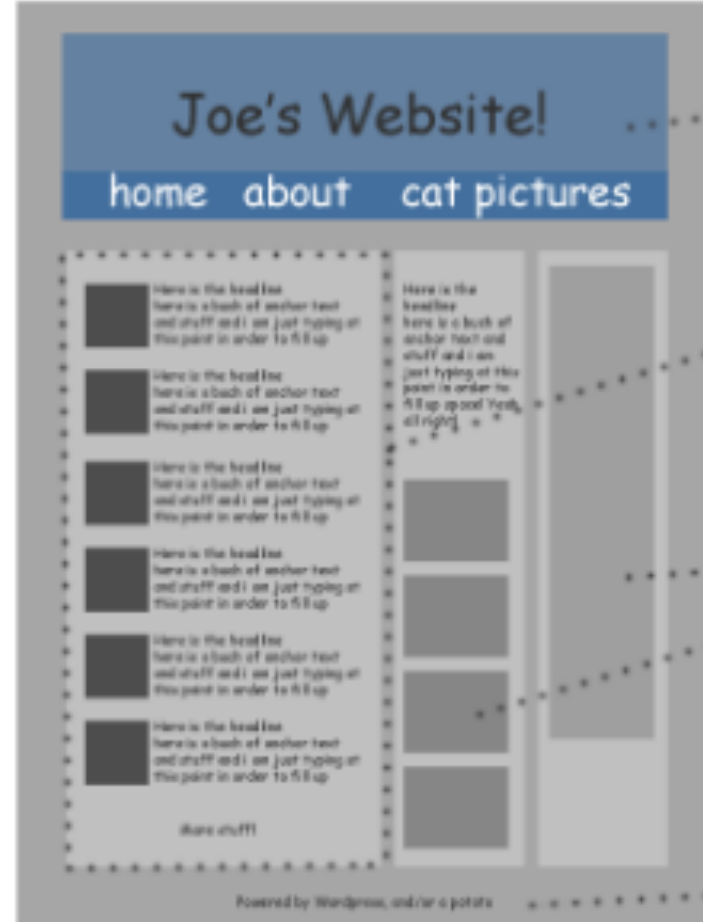


Themes

- Contain CSS files and PHP template files that are used to generate requested pages, output to the viewer as HTML.
- Template files are made up of:
 - HTML, PHP, WordPress Template Tags, the Loop
- The parts of a page (structure and content) that remain static no matter what page you're on can be hardcoded into the template files.
- Dynamic content appears through the loop.
- The complete list of template files recognized by WordPress can be found at codex.wordpress.org.

Anatomy Of A WordPress Theme

The cheat sheet for how your blog works



The diagram illustrates the structure of a WordPress theme. It shows a header section with the site title 'Joe's Website!' and navigation links 'home about cat pictures'. Below the header is the main content area, which is divided into a central column and a right sidebar. The main content area contains several placeholder blocks for posts, each with a title, content, and a 'Read more' link. The sidebar contains placeholder blocks for widgets. At the bottom is the footer section, which includes a 'Powered by WordPress' notice and a copyright notice.

header.php
Global file that displays headers and navigation. Also contains HTML head code.

The Loop
The display of contents of the main area of your site are controlled by individual template files using what's called "the loop."

sidebar.php
Sidebar display is controlled in this file. Multiple sidebars can be set up in functions.php, and contents of sidebar widgets are set up from the WordPress wp-admin panel.

footer.php
Contains instructions for global footer and closes HTML tags.

WordPress themes are made up of a folder of template files, each of which controls a specific piece of your theme. Parts of your site that remain static no matter what page you're on are controlled by header, sidebar, and footer files. You can hack these files so they detect what page you are on and serve different content accordingly, such as displaying different navigation on posts than on pages; however, it is most common for these sections to look the same throughout the site.

Static vs Changeable Content

The screenshot shows a web page for the University at Buffalo Department of Art. The header includes the university logo and name, the college name 'The College of Arts and Sciences', and the department name 'Department of ART' with sub-categories 'ART AND DESIGN', 'ART HISTORY', and 'VISUAL STUDIES'. A navigation menu is present with 'Undergraduate' highlighted. A search bar is located on the right. The main content area features a section titled 'Studio Art B.A. and Fine Art B.F.A. Admissions Requirements' with sub-sections for 'Entering Freshmen', 'Currently Enrolled UB Students', 'Transfer Students', and 'Advanced Placement'. A right-hand sidebar lists various programs and resources. The footer contains contact information, a map, and social media icons.

University at Buffalo The State University of New York
The College of Arts and Sciences

University at Buffalo
Department of **ART** ART AND DESIGN
ART HISTORY
VISUAL STUDIES

Home About News **Undergraduate** Graduate Programs Apply Now Faculty & Staff Alumni Contact Us

Search ... Search

Studio Art B.A. and Fine Art B.F.A. Admissions Requirements

Entering Freshmen

Students accepted to the University that indicate "Fine Art" (B.F.A.) or "Studio Art" (B.A.) as their intended major on their UB application will be block registered into fall semester Art Foundation Art Program courses on a first-come, first-serve basis. For information on how to apply to UB, contact [UB Undergraduate Admissions](#). At the beginning of the spring semester of the freshman year, students who have earned a GPA of 2.5 or above in their Fall foundations courses will automatically be accepted into the Department of Art. Students that have a GPA in foundations courses of less than 2.5 will have to pass a portfolio review/interview during the spring semester of the freshman year to be accepted as an Art major. Contact the Academic Advisor, [Lisa Hewitt](#), for more information on the review process.

Currently Enrolled UB Students

Currently enrolled UB students with a minimum 2.5 GPA are eligible to apply to the Department of Art's B.A. or B.F.A. degree programs. Freshman Foundation courses are required for all Art B.A./B.F.A. degrees. Students are encouraged to take Foundations courses before taking upper-level courses.

Transfer Students

Students accepted to UB must apply to and be accepted by the Department of Art, and must have a minimum 2.5 GPA to be eligible to apply. Transfer courses will be evaluated for application to the major.

All **Art History** transfer courses must be evaluated and approved by the department. Generally, the following transfer courses will be accepted: the equivalent of AHI 101 and AHI 102 covering the history of art from ancient to modern, and any two of the area courses. Transcripts are required for all courses, and course descriptions are required for any of the area courses.

Currently Enrolled UB Students

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Advanced Placement

The Department of Art gives studio art or open elective credit for AP, depending on the score, but this does not waive any departmental requirements.

UB DEPARTMENT OF ART
202 Center for the Arts, North Campus
Buffalo, New York 14260-6010

(716) 645-6878
(716) 645-6970 fax
art-info@buffalo.edu

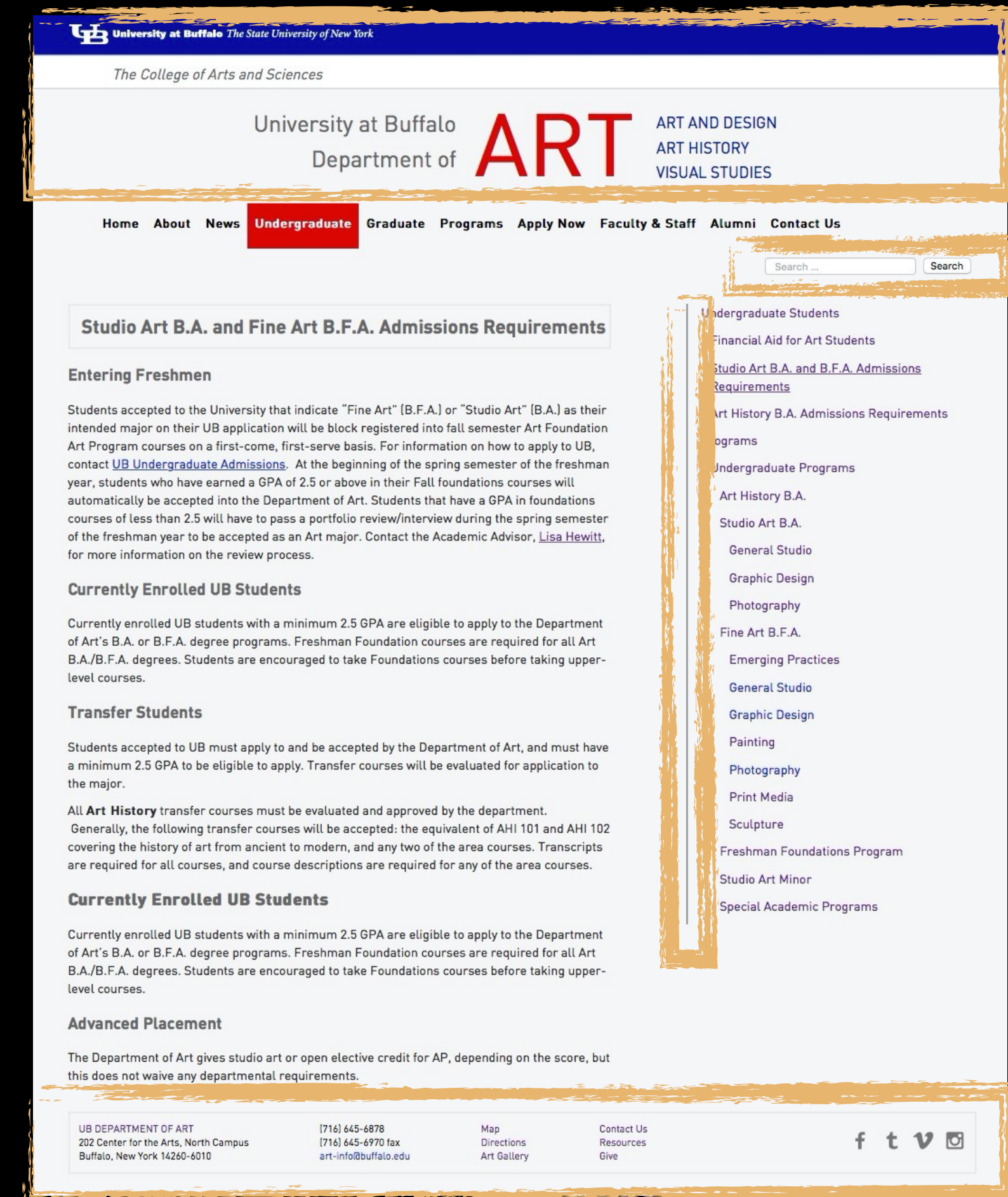
Map
Directions
Art Gallery

Contact Us
Resources
Give

f t v i

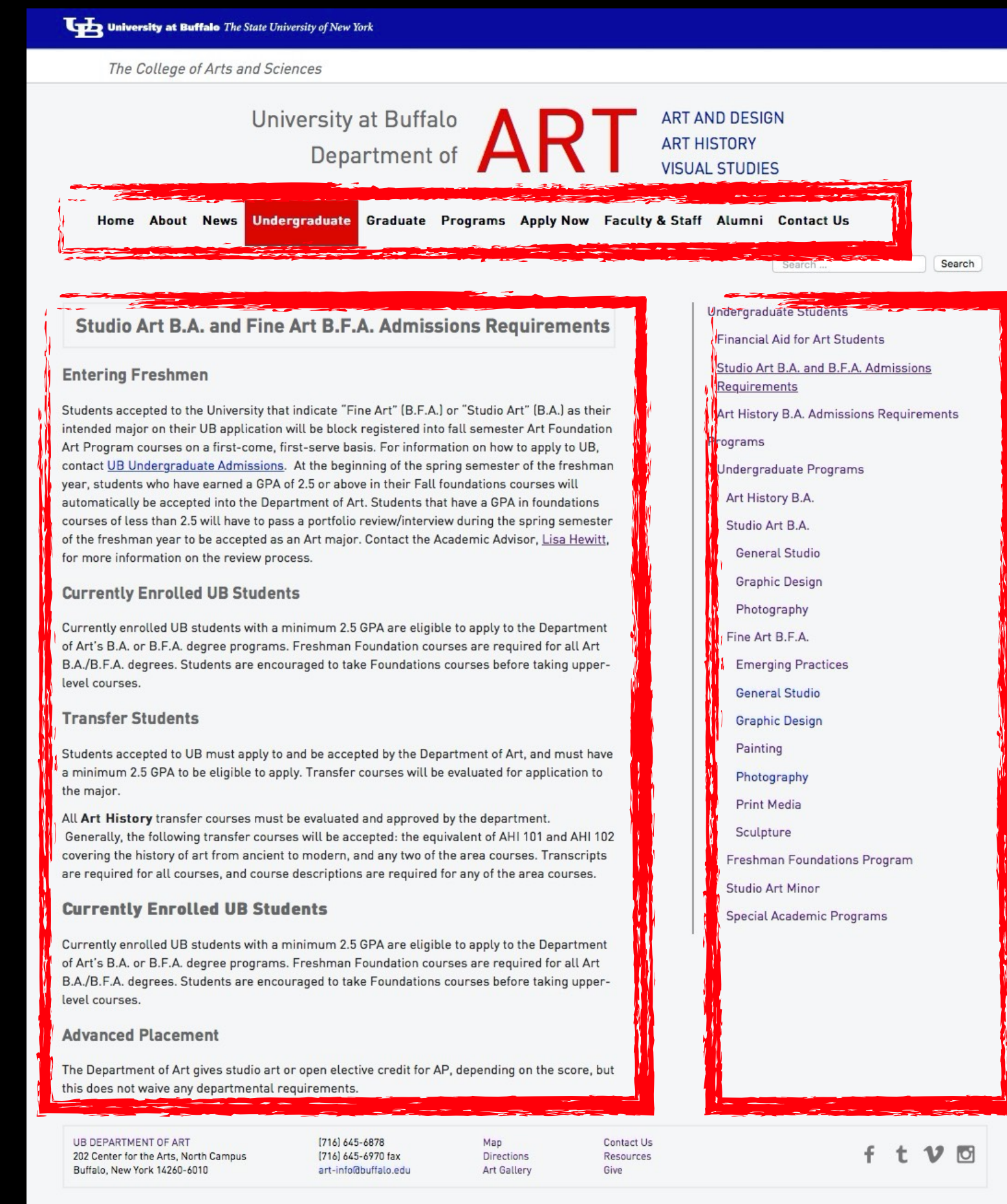
Static vs Changeable Content

- Content that stays the same from page to page is “hard-coded” into the site theme templates.



Static vs Changeable Content

- Content that stays the same from page to page is “hard-coded” into the site theme templates.
- Content that changes from page to page is stored in a MySQL database and loaded into the page templates using a php “Loop”.



The Loop

- The Loop is PHP code used by WordPress to display posts (titles and content.) Note that pages behave like posts as far as retrieving content through the loop.
- A PHP if/else statement: WordPress asks the database if there are any posts. If and while there are if, display some information about each one; otherwise display an error message (or show nothing at all.)

The screenshot shows the website for the University at Buffalo, Department of Art. The page title is "Studio Art B.A. and Fine Art B.F.A. Admissions Requirements". The main content area contains several sections: "Entering Freshmen", "Currently Enrolled UB Students", "Transfer Students", and "Advanced Placement". The PHP code is overlaid on the text, showing the following structure:

```
<?php
if (have_posts()) {
while (have_posts() ) {
the_title();
the_content();
} // end while
} // end if
```

The footer of the page includes contact information for the UB Department of Art, phone numbers (716) 645-6878 and (716) 645-6970, a map/directions link, and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram.

The Loop

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- A PHP if/else statement: WordPress asks the database if there are any posts. If and while there are if, display some information about each one; otherwise display an error message (or show nothing at all.)



The screenshot shows the website for the University at Buffalo Department of ART. The page features a blue header with the university logo and name, and a white navigation bar with links for Home, About, News, Undergraduate, Graduate, Programs, Apply Now, Faculty & Staff, Alumni, and Contact Us. The main content area is divided into two columns, both outlined in red. The left column contains the following PHP code:

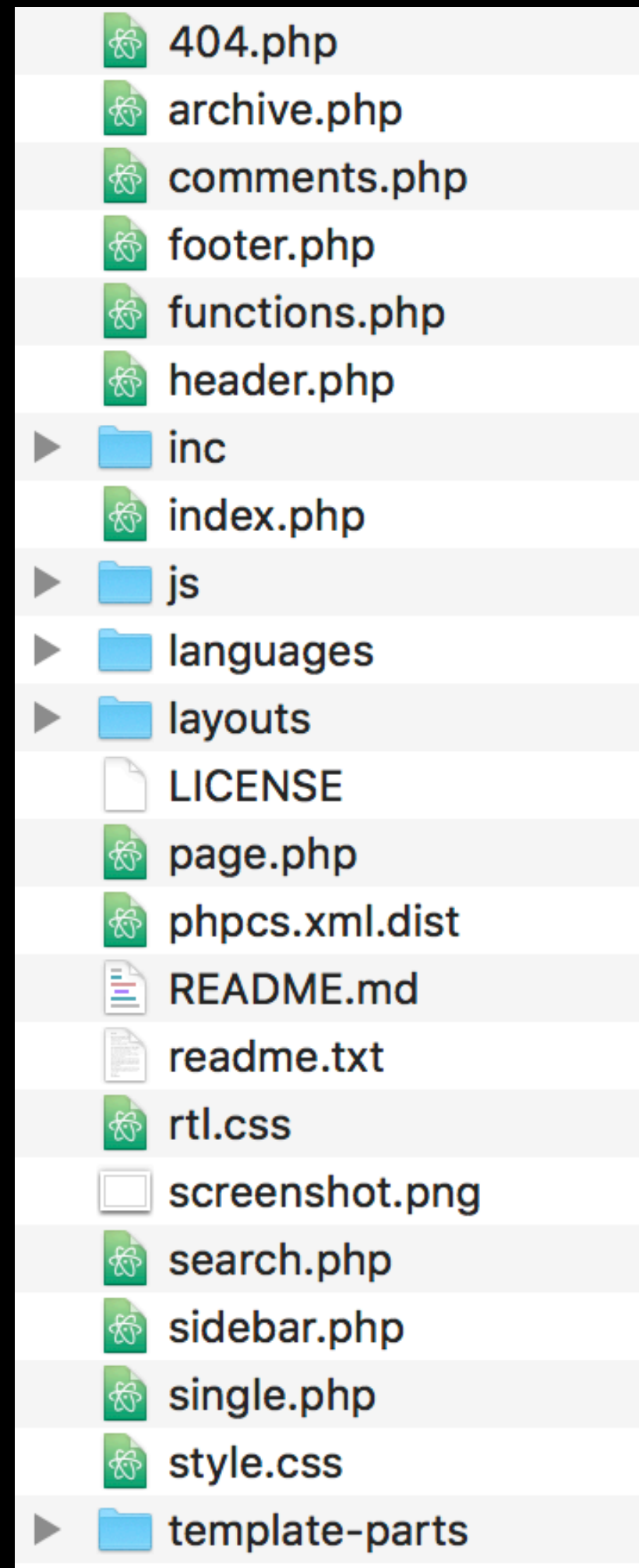
```
<?php
if ( have_posts() ) {
    while have_posts() ) {
        the_post();
        the_title();
        the_content();
    } // end while
} // end if
?>
```

The right column is empty. The footer contains contact information for the UB Department of ART, including the address (202 Center for the Arts, North Campus, Buffalo, New York 14260-6010), phone numbers (716) 645-6878 and (716) 645-6970 fax, and email (art-info@buffalo.edu). It also includes links for Map, Directions, Art Gallery, and Contact Us Resources Give, along with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram.

The Loop

- The Loop can be limited to displaying only certain posts, for example those files in specific categories or with certain tags.

Common Theme Files



- **style.css**—**Required**. Contains special code so the theme can be chosen in the Dashboard.
- **index.php**—**Required**. Contains the loop which shows a list of recent blog posts. This is the default home page setting of a new WordPress installation.
- header.php—global file that displays headers and navigation, and usually the HTML head code and opening #wrapper and body tags.
- footer.php—global file that displays footers and also closing #wrapper, body and html tags
- sidebar.php—global file that displays secondary content or nav. If no file is present but the call is made, WordPress will insert a default template.
- home.php—By default, used to render the Blog Posts Index.
- front-page.php—used for the landing page, if the it uses a different layout from inside pages.
- page.php—If present, controls what static pages look like. If wp is set to display a static home page instead of posts, page.php is used for home, and index.php is used for the posts page.
- single.php—Controls the display of individual posts.

Custom Template Pages

```
<?php
```

```
/*
```

```
* Template Name: [Name]
```

```
* Description: [Description]
```

```
*/
```

```
get_header(); ?>
```

- **If you require a template that has a design structure unique from other pages, you can create your own, and assign it to any page you create in the dashboard.**
- **Custom Template pages must begin with this code.**

Template Calls

- Template calls are special PHP code embedded along with the HTML in your template pages, that instruct Wordpress to bring in other template pages, or to perform special functions.

Required Template Calls

These calls are used (usually in index.php) to join two or more template files:

- `<?php get_header(); ?>`
 - Placed at the very top of a template page, contains opening HTML elements `<head>` and `<body>` through `<header>`
- `<?php get_sidebar(); ?>`
 - if a sidebar is needed
- `<?php get_footer(); ?>`
 - Contains footer elements and closing `<body>` and `<html>` tags

Required Template Calls, cont.

These two calls import WordPress code necessary to run plugins and javascript:

- `<?php wp_head(); ?>`
 - Placed before the closing `</head>` tag.
- `<?php wp_footer(); ?>`
 - Placed before the closing `</body>` tag.

PHP for Dynamic Elements

Use Dynamic PHP Instead of Static Links When Possible

Dynamic Link to Embedded Images

```

```

becomes

```

```

Dynamic PHP instead of static URIs

Dynamic Link to CSS

```
<link href="style.css" rel="stylesheet">
```

becomes

```
<link href="<?php bloginfo('stylesheet_url');?>" rel="stylesheet" /
```


Dynamic Page Titles in Browser

Dynamic Page Titles (for browser windows and bookmarks)

```
<title>Title of Page</title>
```

becomes

```
<title><?php global $page, $paged; wp_title( '|', true, 'right' );  
bloginfo( 'name' ); ?></title>
```

Required CSS

```
/*  
  
Theme Name: theme_name_here  
  
Author: your_name  
  
Author URI: website_where_to_find_you  
  
Description: This is a theme ...  
  
Version: 1.0  
  
*/
```

The Loop

- Displays contents of the main area of a site
- Multiple loops can appear on one page
- Starts with a query (which posts or pages to display), and ends with a PHP “endwhile” statement. In between, all or selected contents of a post are displayed.

```
<?php
    if ( have_posts() )
    {
        while
( have_posts() ) {
            the_post();
            the_title();

the_content();
        } // end while
    } // end if
?>
```

The Loop

- Query post or page
 - Start Loop
 - `the_title` (outputs the title of the post)
 - `the_excerpt` (outputs the post excerpt)
 - `the_content` (outputs the full post content)
 - `the_category` (outputs the post categories)
 - `the_author` (outputs the post author)
 - `the_date` (outputs the post date)
 - other tags (there is a variety of other tags you can use in the loop)
 - `endwhile`;
- Exit the loop

Custom Loop Queries

- Template tags can call title of the post/page `the_title()`; the content of the post `the_content()`; categories or tags associated with the post `the_category()`; and `the_tags()`; and so on.
- The Loop can be limited to displaying only certain posts, for example those files in specific categories or with certain tags. The Query is added to the second line of the loop.
- For example, this query would only show posts filed in the "Spotlight" category:
 - `$query = new WP_Query('category_name=spotlight');`

functions.php

- You can change the behavior and add dynamic features to a site by adding a functions.php file to your theme. You can call functions that WordPress has built-in, or write your own.
- Two common uses of functions are to add custom navigation **Menus** and **Widgets** (small applications) areas to your theme.

Menu

- Custom nav menus can be easily controlled and modified in the Dashboard under Appearance>Menus. As new pages and child pages are added, menus can be updated dynamically without having to edit HTML.

Widgets

- Widgets are small applications that add content and features to Sidebars, most commonly, or to any widgetized area of your theme. Many widgets come with WordPress: for post categories, tag clouds, navigation, search, etc. Plugins can also add their own widgets.

Advanced Custom Fields

- If you require more than one container on a single page that will be filled with dynamic content, you can create a custom field for each of those areas, then add content to those fields from within the Dashboard. For example, you might have boxes in two or more different locations on a page, each with its own content.
- Install and activate the `Advanced Custom Fields` plugin.
- Within the “Custom Fields” section of your WordPress Dashboard, create the fields that you need, organized into “Field Groups”, and adjust the appropriate Field Settings.
- On the pages that will contain the fields, add content into the field through the Dashboard.
- Within your Theme template files, determine where the field content should appear. Place php code into your template, and add the necessary CSS to your style sheet. Example: `<div id="CustomFieldName"><?php the_field('field_name'); ?></div>`

CSS Conditionals

```
<?php
if ( is_page( 'Home' ) ) {
    echo '';
}
elseif ( is_page( 'Dancer' ) ) {
    echo '';
}

elseif ( is_page( 'Photographer' ) ) {
    echo '';
}
elseif ( is_page( 'Graphic Designer' ) ) {
    echo '';
}
elseif ( is_page( 'Contact' ) ) {
    echo '';
}
?>
```

- You can automatically load dynamic content based on the page that is being viewed.