



The Master's Certificate

The Master's Certificate is a professional certificate awarded by The Professional School of Practical Stereotomy upon completion of a masterpiece demonstrating mastery and a high-order overview of professional practice in stereotomy. People who have been awarded the master's certificate have shown to possess advanced knowledge of stereotomy both theoretical and practical; high order skills in analysis, critical evaluation, and professional application; and the ability to solve complex problems rigorously and independently. The masterpiece is considered the greatest work of a person's career with outstanding creativity, skill, profundity, and workmanship. The masterpiece is a work of a very high standard produced to obtain membership onto the Board of Overseers of the Professional School of Practical Stereotomy.

Similar to a graduate level degree, the Master's Certificate typically takes two years to complete, but the timeframe can vary from person to person. Depending on your previous experiences and whether you're studying full-time or part-time, it could take you less time to get your master's certificate – or more.

The journey of obtaining our Master's Certificate provides the opportunity of an ultimate personal voyage of satisfaction for those committed to personal growth and character building, and who have an outstanding and enduring devotion to learning, craftsmanship, teaching, and mastery. The masterpiece (chef-d'oeuvre) is a work of outstanding artistry, skill, and workmanship exemplifying the utmost quality and finest work.

The study of the history of architecture clearly shows that it was recognized throughout history that mastery involved more than just perfecting physical skills; it involved a transformation of character and mindset such that a masterpiece involved not only the application of a superior degree of skill and ability, but also a profound personal commitment to the construction of creations of enduring structural and aesthetic quality; this in turn entailed a personal striving for excellence and a willingness of the master to share their own journey and the experience and knowledge it provided. In this way, the quest for mastery was not only personally transformative but contributed to the ongoing continuance and growth of the craft itself. Our Master's Certificate is deeply rooted in this tradition.

The masterpiece itself must encompass straight and linear pieces as well as single and double curved work, and normally requires a minimum of 650 hours of work. The pre-requisites are to have obtained either the Professional Certificate or the Advanced Professional Certificate and to have received a suitable number of teaching credits. Once the masterpiece is completed it will be highly scrutinized through a detailed evaluation period where the board must unanimously accept or deny the work. If successful, the Fellow will go through a ritual ceremony celebrating the personal transformation from Fellow (journeyman) to acknowledged Master, at which point the newly accepted master will have the privileged honor to become a member and sit on the Board of Overseers with their peers, and can now teach on their own if they wish.