



AMERICAN ACADEMY
of **BOOKBINDING**
A School of Excellence in Bookbinding Education

Founded in 1993

Diploma Program Guidelines
INTEGRATED STUDY

The American Academy of Bookbinding

is an internationally known degree-oriented bookbinding and book conservation school that offers book enthusiasts of all levels the opportunity to initiate and improve their skills in a generous and supportive learning environment.

Founded in 1993, the American Academy of Bookbinding offers a program that gives serious bookbinding students an opportunity to initiate and improve their skills in a fertile and supportive setting. The Academy holds intensive courses in the fine art of bookbinding, preservation and related subjects. The goal of the Academy is to graduate professional level binders who have the knowledge and skills to produce the highest quality work and the ability to pass on these skills to the next generation. The Academy is unique in the United States in its ability to offer a comprehensive diploma granting program in the study of bookbinding, taught by some of the most experienced and highly regarded book artists and conservators in the world.

Founders of the Academy are Tini Miura, Einen Miura and Daniel Tucker. The Director of Fine Binding is Don Glaister and the Director of Integrated Studies is Peter Geraty. The Director of Summerfield Conservation is Don Etherington. Current and past faculty members include Monique Lallier, Don Etherington, Tini Miura, Einen Miura, Louise Genest, John Franklin Mowery, Eleanore Edwards Ramsey, Hans–Peter Frölich, Hélène Jolis, Brenda Parsons, Suzanne Moore, Tim Ely, Don Glaister, Peter Geraty, Gabrielle Fox, Pamela Smith, Daniel Kelm, and Renate Mesmer.

The American Academy of Bookbinding has designed diploma programs in both Fine Binding and Integrated Studies. This document will outline the requirements for a **Diploma in Integrated Studies**.

OVERVIEW

The Integrated Studies Program (ISP) is a program offered through the American Academy of Bookbinding (AAB), which provides participating students the opportunity to earn an AAB diploma through a comprehensive study of bookbinding. The focus of the program is to help students create a firm base of knowledge and skill in the traditional methods of bookbinding. In the ISP, the courses are geared to build upon each other, solidifying that base and giving the students confidence in their skills as they progress through the program. The classes revolve around traditional techniques, but include innovative methods, materials and points of view. The program consists of coursework and independent study designed to immerse the students in the craft. The students have access to some of the top teachers in the field; their teaching not only informs the students about techniques and materials but helps them develop the broad understanding needed to face challenges as they continue on in their careers.

COURSEWORK

Coursework for the Integrated Study Program is structured in four progressive levels. Successful completion of each level provides preparation for and advancement to the next level of courses. Students are expected to complete all coursework and homework in Levels 1 and 2 before they may continue to Levels 3 and 4. After the completion of Level 2 course work, students' goals and work to date will be reviewed with the Director. An intermediary certificate of completion may then be granted and further coursework may proceed.

LEVELS 1 & 2 provide the foundation of the bookbinding craft. Students learn to use the techniques and materials that are central to clean and precise work in bookbinding.

LEVEL ONE

INTRODUCTION TO BOOKBINDING – 1 Week

This class is an introduction to the binding of books into cloth and paper covers. It is the basis for all future classes in the Integrated Studies and Fine Binding Programs. Students learn to sew books using several different methods, shape and line the spines, make covers and “case-in.”

Homework includes two full cloth and two full paper bindings, plus two bindings with cloth spines and paper over boards. Neatness and squareness of the finished products is important.

BOX MAKING – 1 Week

Boxes are used to house treasured bindings and are a staple in fine bookbinding as well as conservation. Students learn to construct a

clamshell box and a four-flap portfolio. Other box styles such as clamshells with rounded spines and slipcases are discussed and/or demonstrated. Homework is to build two clamshell boxes and one portfolio with flaps. Meticulous execution of the box structure is the goal.

FUNDAMENTALS OF LEATHER BINDING – 2 Weeks

The pinnacle of bookbinding is often thought to be the leather-bound book. Here, students find out what is involved. Students sew several books, lace on the boards, sew headbands, learn to pare and apply leather to make both a half-leather and full-leather binding. Homework consists of two leather bindings, one in full-leather and one in half-leather, demonstrating sewing on raised cords and confidence in handling materials.

LEVEL TWO

INTERMEDIATE LEATHER BINDING – 2 Weeks

In this class students continue on from the Fundamentals of Leather Binding and produce two full leather bindings. Based upon the Fundamentals course, students bring in sewn textblocks so more time can be devoted to expanding upon the leather work and design. The emphasis is upon the refinement of technique and skills. For homework students create two full bindings. They should demonstrate confidence in the handling of materials and improvement over the homework from the Fundamentals of Leather Binding.

PAPER REPAIR: BASICS – 1 Week

Here, students learn basic paper repair techniques. They also learn to create a condition and treatment report, and the ethics of conservation. The history of paper and papermaking is covered and the properties of

various materials used in conservation are also discussed. The hands-on part of this course includes the preparation of various adhesives, mending tears, and infilling losses. Homework requires the treatment of 3-5 documents, book-related or not, along with treatment reports.

BINDING TREATMENT; CLOTH & PAPER – 1 Week

Students learn to repair damaged cloth and paper bindings, rebuild the book's structure, dye and tone materials to affect sympathetic repairs and enhance the books usability. Homework involves the repair of three cloth or paper case bindings demonstrating harmony between the new and original materials as well as integrity of the structure.

MIDTERM REVIEW

After completion of the second level in the Integrated Studies Program, the director reviews each student's work and holds one-on-one meetings to discuss the student's strengths and areas where more concentration is needed. This is also a time in which the students may choose to focus their efforts in a particular direction in bookbinding, that is, continuing in the ISP and studying leather binding, restoration of bindings, editions, etc., or shift into the Fine Binding Program, where concentration is focused on the making and designing of fine leather bindings.

LEVELS 3 & 4 gives the students a more in-depth understanding of the craft and builds upon the first two levels. At this time the students also begin to consider what aspects of bookbinding especially interest them and how to concentrate their efforts towards those areas.

LEVEL THREE

HISTORICAL MODELS – 1 Week

One way to learn the history of bookbinding is by recreating historical book forms, structures and designs. This gives students an understanding of what earlier binders were trying to do, given the materials and tools available coupled with how the books might have been used by readers. Pictures of books alone do not explain this. Students make several models from periods spanning the 1800 years of the codex form. As homework, students research and recreate at least two historical models to be determined during the class review.

PAPER REPAIR: ADVANCED – 1 Week

Drawing upon the experience gained in basic paper repair, students go on to further develop their skills with more challenging repairs. This includes mending tattered edges and difficult tears as well as filling losses. Students learn to make their own repair paper (cast pulp paper) and prepare and apply remoistenable tissue. Through paper chemistry they also learn about the effects of washing, humidification, deacidification and drying of paper, as well as the risks involved. Homework requires the treatment of one to two textblocks and corresponding treatment reports, based upon consultation with the instructor.

STAMPING & TOOL MAINTENANCE – 1 Week

This course begins with three days of stamping combining the use of foils, leaf, blind stamping, jigs, over-stamping, multiple colors and more in the decoration of bindings. This is followed up by two days detailing the appropriate maintenance and sharpening of tools. Students learn to adjust board cutters, presses and guillotines, and to sharpen their knives and shape their own tools. Due to the nature of this course, there is no

homework, but one is expected to prepare their own tools for future courses at the AAB.

HISTORY – Webinar

Taught by a historian of the book, students will learn how the binding, both structurally and decoratively, evolved to be what you see today. Homework will be a written report on an aspect of bookbinding history chosen by the student and approved by the director.

LEVEL FOUR

TOOLING – 2 Weeks

The ISP teaches a form of tooling known as “production” tooling. This method allows the binder to tool books in the least amount of time necessary. It uses minimal guides, mostly relying upon the eye for tool placement. The precision in the finished product depends upon the skill of the binder. The area being worked is sized overall, the leaf is laid on, and then the book is tooled directly. This is the most efficient way of tooling common leather work. Homework for this class is to tool two books demonstrating accurate and confident tooling: the leaf should be bright and clear, and the spines should be full-gilt, showing 19TH c mitered panels on one and a more typical 18TH c design called a “run-up” spine on the other.

BINDING TREATMENT; LEATHER – 1 Week

This class is devoted to the restoration of leather bindings – a staple of the binder’s trade. It involves rebacking, corner repair, rebuilding of end sections and minor paper repair. The course emphasizes the stabilization of the binding structure and sympathetic repair to bring the book to a state where it can be safely handled. Homework consists of two rebacks and corner repairs, one on an 18th century leather binding and the other

on a late 19th century leather binding demonstrating a reasoned approach, harmony with the original binding and craftsmanship.

BUSINESS – Webinar

The purpose of this class is to support the student who wishes to work independently in the bookbinding profession by providing them with basic information related to setting up their own business. Topics include insurance, studio location, employees, legal issues, taxes, marketing, pricing, purchasing materials, finding and communicating with clients.

ELECTIVES

1 Week each in levels three and four

By definition, any program needs structure to ensure that students reach the intended learning outcomes. Students, however, need the opportunity to choose courses that take them in a more personal direction as they start to become professionals in the field. The Academy offers a variety of courses that students are encouraged to take. These courses are meant to enhance training, giving the students a stronger and broader background in bookbinding. The ISP requires a minimum of two electives, but students may, and are encouraged to take as many as they feel is necessary and beneficial to their education.

Options for elective courses include: Edition Binding, Vellum over Boards, Edge Decoration, Leather Decoration, Paper Decoration, Limp Structures, Miniature Bindings, and others approved by the ISP director.

COURSEWORK CONSULTATIONS

To assist a diploma student in understanding his or her skills, a review is held at the end of each required course taken. During this review, the student receives a numerical grade from 1 – 5, with 5 being excellent. The instructor bases a student's grade on the understanding of technique, quality of the work, ability to handle the materials, and skill development.

During this review process, a student's strengths and areas needing improvement are discussed. The focal point of the homework assignment is determined by this discussion. These assignments are detailed in the Certificate of Course Completion. This is a document that verifies the student's participation in an AAB course and lists the student's grade, as well as any other instructor comments. It is sent to the student after the completion of a course. It also serves as the yearly diploma guide for both the student and the administration of the Academy. Copies of all certificates are kept on file at the Academy for later review during the diploma evaluation period. The student is expected to maintain his or her own records as well.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Fulfillment of the homework requirements is a critical factor in students' growth throughout the program and is required for its successful completion. The courses introduce students to the materials and techniques while the homework serves to reinforce that knowledge. This necessitates the acquisition of tools and small pieces of equipment to enable students to perform the tasks independently. This equipment is needed for the duration of the student's career in bookbinding.

Students complete their homework assignments before the next class they attend. Work completed at home should be sent to the instructor for review following each class or brought to the next class as arranged with the instructor. Documentation of homework assignments is the responsibility of the student.

Students are expected to complete a report twice a year outlining their progress and goals.

FINAL REVIEW

After required course work is completed, the Director and candidate meet to discuss the student's readiness to be a Candidate for Diploma. If it is determined that the candidate is ready to begin work on the Diploma Project, the project and possible topics for the Research Paper are discussed, and a date for the jury process proposed. This enables the candidate as well as the Director and staff of the Academy to prepare for this process. Note: a final meeting of similar nature must occur a year in advance of expected graduation, confirming the jurying date.

GRADUATION PROCESS FOR A DIPLOMA

The Diploma Requirements for Integrated Studies are accomplished through Required Course Work, Independent Study, and by study in elective courses offered by the Academy. The Director of Integrated Studies elects the student as a Candidate for Diploma only when the student demonstrates the level of skill and proficiency that will ensure success before the jury. The candidate then has one year to produce the Diploma Project. The project is presented before the jury for evaluation. There will be a filing fee of \$200 required for the jurying process.

FINAL DIPLOMA GUIDELINES

Satisfactory completion of all requirements is needed for a diploma from the Integrated Studies Program. The quality of the work is then judged by the Director of the Program to determine readiness for the graduation review.

Project

This project should demonstrate the student's facility in an agreed-upon area of bookbinding. The project should reflect the knowledge and skills that the candidate acquired from the Academy's instruction and independent study.

Research Paper

The Candidate for Diploma must also write a Research Paper on a topic approved by the Director. The Director and Academy instructors are available to discuss and offer suggestions for the topic of the Research Paper. The paper should demonstrate the candidate's ability to do independent study and write effectively on the subject of bookbinding. It must demonstrate a thorough understanding of the subject matter. The paper should be a minimum of ten pages in length, double-spaced.

Supportive Materials

The candidate is given the opportunity to discuss with the director the option of including additional supportive materials for his or her presentation to the jury. Though these materials are not judged, they may be offered as further demonstration of the candidate's skill and understanding.

Jurying Process

The Integrated Studies Director selects a panel of three or four qualified evaluators. The jury convenes as needed in the autumn, during the annual Guild of BookWorkers 'Standards of Excellence' Conference. The Director of Integrated Studies is not a member of the jury but is be on hand to introduce the candidate, give direction and answer the jury members' questions.

The candidate is required to send his/her Diploma Project and Research Paper to the Director for review at least eight weeks prior to jurying. After the Director has reviewed all of the candidate's materials and determined them to be of high quality and complete, the work is returned to the candidate. Copies of the research paper are forwarded to all jurors. A copy of the paper is given to the AAB library in Telluride as reference for other students. Graduates are encouraged to provide a simple, elegant binding for the paper.

The candidate is responsible for bringing his or her final project/s to the jurying. The jurors meet both privately and with the candidate in attendance. The candidate may be asked to provide additional information or insight about their work at this time.

After reviewing and discussing the candidate's project/s, portfolio and research paper, the panel arrives at a decision to either grant the candidate a diploma, or it provides specific guidelines for further work necessary to meet the required standards. The successful candidate is be presented at the banquet at the end of the GBW Standards of Excellence Seminar.

Receipt of Diploma

The signed Integrated Studies Diploma is sent to the candidate within three months of the jurying process.

DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS : INTEGRATED STUDY PROGRAM

STUDENT NAME: _____

Coursework			
Course	Review Date	Instructor	Grade
LEVEL I			
Introduction to Bookbinding			
Fundamentals of Leather Binding			
Box Making			
LEVEL II			
Intermediate Leather Binding			
Basics in Paper Conservation			
Binding Treatment: Cloth and Paper			
LEVEL III			
Historical Models			
Paper Conservation II			
Stamping and Tool Maintenance			
History webinar			
Elective			
LEVEL IV			
Tooling			
Business webinar			
Elective			
Binding Treatment: Leather			
Work Completed in Class	Review Date	Instructor	Grade
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
Work Completed at Home	Review Date	Instructor	Grade
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS : INTEGRATED STUDY PROGRAM

STUDENT NAME: _____

6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
Additional Courses	Review Date	Instructor	Grade
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
Additional Work	Review Date	Instructor	Grade
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
Annual Advisory Meetings	Date	Instructor	Administrator
1			
2			
Midterm Review			
4			
5			
Final Review			
Final Project	Preview Date	Instructor	Grade
1			
2			
Research Paper	Preview Date	Instructor	Grade
Jurying			
Location	Date	Comments	Diploma