

Report on Major Field Assessment.
Bachelor of Art in Visual Art.
2010-2011 Academic year.

Goal 1.

To develop students' individual art practice within an educational environment that teaches visual, technical and analytical skills through personal exploration and discovery.

In 2006 the department revamped its foundation review process from a Junior review to a Sophomore review. A rubric was established which evaluates student competencies in 2D Design, Color Theory, 3D Design, Painting and Drawing. Students are given detailed instruction on portfolio selection and professional presentation in order to prepare for the review. Teams of two to three faculty meet individually with students reviewing their foundation level work and evaluating their progress through the Bachelor of Art in Visual Art degree program.

In Fall 2008 the pass rate for sophomore review was 80%. After adjustments to instruction of foundation level courses (Art 151, Art 152, Art 153, Art 281 and Art 231) the pass rate rose to 93% in Fall 2009 and has remained at 93% through 2010.

Goal 2

To graduate students with a balanced historical perspective that reflects diverse cultural perspectives and contemporary ideas.

Students demonstrated adequate knowledge of significant artists, major monuments, cultures and movements through final artist statements that were submitted as part of their Senior Thesis Proposals. The Seminar in Art course has a substantial writing component by which students had an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of historical perspective through Art History.

Students take the Exit Exam as part of the Art History capstone class Art 443 Contemporary Art (History, Theory and Criticism). In this course students are required to demonstrate an understanding of the history of Contemporary Art practice, historical techniques, terminology and artists and movements. Students' success in understanding these concepts were measured in the Exit Exam. From 2008 to 2011 the average score for the Exit Exam was 80%.

The pass rate for Art History Exit Exam from 2008 to Fall 2010 were:

Year	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
# Students	45	69	53
Passing (70% or higher)	40	49	42
Passing Percentage	89%	71%	79%

Goal 3.

To develop students' skills to solve aesthetic problems and to engage in critical dialogues that extend beyond the classroom. To prepare students by example and instruction to be educated viewers, to function as artists and scholars in contemporary society, to pursue advanced study in the visual arts.

Since 2005, all students in the BA in Art Degree program are required to take Art 499, Thesis Exhibition. Students enrolled in this course submit their work to a faculty committee of seven-to-ten faculty members for evaluation. From 2007 to 2009 the pass rate for students taking Art 499 Senior Exhibition was 100%.

In 2010 the department raised the standards for Art 499 Thesis Exhibition and acceptance into the senior exhibition. Previously the threshold was five artworks accepted into the exhibition. The criterion was changed to "an ambitious body of work" in order to make the evaluation more rigorous and allow room for equivalencies in differences types of artistic media.

The pass rate for Art 499 from 2008 to Fall 2010 were:

Date	Fall 2008	Spr. 2009	Fall 2009	Spr. 2010	Fall 2010	Spr. 2011
Passing	100%	100%	100%	95%	93%	N/A

Goal 4: Prepare students for graduate school in a visual arts field.

One of the departmental objectives for the goals listed above states that "students completing the BA in Art degree will be well-prepared to continue their studies at the graduate level if they so chose." The assessment criteria that pertain to this survey states that "85% of graduates will respond with "satisfied" or "very satisfied." In the 2003 - 2006 exit surveys only 31% of students graduating from the Department of Visual Arts responded "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" to the statement "I feel my undergraduate studies have prepared me well for possible study at the graduate level, if so choose." To address this issue the department created a new course titled Senior Seminar in the Visual Arts which is now required of Senior students in the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Visual Arts and students in the Ceramics, Drawing, New Media and Animation, Painting, Photography, Printmaking and Sculpture concentrations. The class is devoted to presenting students with detailed information on professional portfolios, resumes, grant writing, professional practices, grad applications, marketing and exhibiting artwork. After the establishment of the course the number of students responding "satisfied" or "very satisfied" jumped to 84% to the question "Help you received from faculty in your department with regard to further educational opportunities."

Exit Survey Response Question 18. Help you received from faculty in your department with regard to further educational opportunities

Year	Respondents	Very Dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
2009-2010	48	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	29.2%	54.2%
2008-2009	38	0.0%	2.6%	23.7%	36.8%	36.8%
2007-2008	41	0.0%	2.4%	9.8%	36.6%	51.2%
2006-2007	24	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%	37.5%	54.2%
Average	37.75	0.0%	1.3%	14.6%	35.0%	49.1%

The second assessment states that 85% of those students who apply to a Master's degree program in art will be accepted to Graduate School. In the past three years the department has seen seven students attempt acceptance into graduate programs. Of those six students four were successful in gaining acceptance to the graduate program of their choice while two others were unsuccessful (see chart below).

Bachelor of Art in Visual Art seeking acceptance to graduate studies

Date	Fall 2008	Spr. 2008	Fall 2008	Spr. 2009	Fall 2009	Spr. 2010	Fall 2010
Applied	1	2	0	1	3	0	0
Accepted	100%	100%	N/A	0%	67%	N/A	N/A

Since Fall 2008, 71% of the students who applied to graduate school were accepted to the graduate program of their choice.