

Report on Major Field Assessment.  
Department of Visual Arts  
Bachelor of Art in Visual Art.  
2004-2005 Academic year.  
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Rec'd  
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Goal 1: To provide students with knowledge in the field of Art History.

In the 2004-2005 academic year the department reviewed all of the curricula leading to the degree Bachelor of Arts, Visual Art and identified areas that we are deficient in and where we exceed the requirements of Department's accrediting body, the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). The department compared its requirement for art history with NASAD Standards for Bachelor of Arts programs. The department requirement was 5 classes in Art History which comprised 12.5% of the total credit hours in the major. NASAD requires only 10% for a BA program. The department changed the requirement for BA majors in Visual Art to 12 credits with an option for students to take either an addition Art History or Art Studio class. This make the Art History requirement 10% to 12.5% of total credit hours which meets or exceeds the NASAD requirement while giving students more flexibility in their art studies.

In addition to adjusting the credit distributions in Art History the department added a course special topics in Art History. The first semester that this special topics course taught was in Fall 2005 with a focus on Women in Art. This class will be followed in the Spring 2006 semester by another Special Topics course in Art History focusing on Architecture.

Goal 2: To develop artistic ability in the chosen area of concentration.

Students graduating with a degree in Visual Arts are required to have an area of artistic focus that is comprised of 4 classes in an artistic area defined by a Basic, Intermediate, Advanced and Senior Projects classes. Prior to Fall 2005 the only four areas of artistic focus Graphic Design, Digital Art, Painting and Sculpture had classes that reached the senior projects level.

Due to scheduling idiosyncrasies caused by the length of art studio classes (2 hours and 45 minutes) and the failure of the department to offer required classes each semester, caused the numbers of students taking upper level painting and sculpture to be artificially low and the numbers of students taking upper level Digital Art and Digital Design classes to be artificially high. These issues were evidenced by the comment in the 2003-2004 Department of Visual art exit survey which stated "make prereq's offered more than once a year. I had to wait a few semesters at a time to get into one course so that I could take the two required courses following it." The low score received in the same exit survey on the question "Availability of required courses" in which 29 students responded 34% Very Dissatisfied (1), 17% Moderately Dissatisfied (2), 31% Neutral and only 17% responded Satisfied. No respondents gave the department a Very Satisfied (5) score.

In 2005 the department added courses at the 300 and 400 level in the areas of Drawing, Photography, Ceramics and Printmaking. These additions have given students greater choices in the areas of concentration. The Department also instituted a policy of offering multiple sections of foundations, drawing, sculpture and painting classes which are required of all art students and that are popular with students outside of the department wishing to fulfill their arts requirement.

Student in fall 2005 have graduated in the areas of Ceramics, Printmaking, and Drawing in addition to the Department's traditional areas of focus Painting, Sculpture, Digital Art and Digital Design. The department hopes that the addition of these classes will also improve the department score in the 2003 - 2004 exit survey question "Availability of elective courses you wanted to take in your major" in which students responded 10.3% Very Dissatisfied (1), 24.1% Moderately Dissatisfied (2), 27.6% Neutral, 27.6% responded Satisfied and only 10% responded Very Satisfied (5).

In addition adding courses at the upper level the department hired two new faculty members to teach in the areas of Drawing and Foundations. These faculty members will provide continuity in their areas and be revising the curriculums in their area in future semesters.

### Goal 3: Prepare students for Graduate School in a Visual Arts Field.

In preparing this document the faculty again reviewed the exit survey and paid special attention to the question asking: "Help you received from faculty in your department with further educational opportunities." Of the 29 respondents students answered 27.6% Very Dissatisfied (1), 10.3% Somewhat dissatisfied (2), 31.0% Neutral (3), 20.7% Satisfied (4) and 10.3% Very Satisfied (5). The Department's Major field assessment called for 85% of the students to respond agree or strongly agree to the statement "I feel my undergraduate studies have prepared me well for possible study at the graduate level, if I so choose." The department only scored 31%.

To address this issue the department created a new course titled Senior Seminar in the Visual Arts which is now required of all students entering in 2005. The class is devoted to present students with detailed information on professional portfolios, resumes, grants professional practices, grad applications, marketing and exhibiting artwork. The class was held for the first time in Fall 2005 and had an enrollment of 18 out of a possible 20 students.