

## **BA Art History and BA Studio Arts Programs Assessment Plans**

The Department of Art and Art History provides a progressive educational environment for visual studies through courses and programming. As a department integrating history, theory and practice, we explore historic and contemporary concepts using a wide range of interpretative methodologies and media.

### **BA Art History Program**

#### **Program Learning Objectives:**

The Art History program teaches students to

1. Develop familiarity with central elements and concepts in visual culture, and gain facility in the methods of understanding and discussing them. Students will develop abilities in:
  - a. stylistic, comparative and historical analysis of visual forms through written and oral communication.
  - b. advanced writing skills: synthesizing organizing and presenting large amounts of material from various sources and disciplines.
  - c. research and methodology relevant to art history (use of the library, image indexes and databases).
2. Develop an awareness of the power of images to influence their audience in various social and historical contexts, other cultures and historical eras.

#### **Curriculum Structure:**

Students construct their curriculum under the advisement of a faculty member, focusing on one of three areas of concentration:

- Studio Theory and Practice
- History and Theories of Art
- Visual and Cultural Studies

These areas respond to the various ways student wish to explore art and visual culture. Students are provided with guidelines that allow a combination of courses from different programs into an individualized major within the Department of Art and Art History.

The Senior Seminar AH398 is the program's capstone experience. Each year, a major theme is explored by faculty and students in readings, discussions, presentations, and research papers.

#### **Assessment Plan:**

The **measurement of program learning objectives** is assessed using both direct and indirect methods.

- Core and concentration courses in the BA Art History curriculum contain embedded assignments, research papers, and exams for measurement of pertinent program learning objectives. (every term)
- Senior Seminar AH398 – assessment of senior research papers and presentations in the course permit the measurement of all program learning objectives.
- Program retention and graduation rates are reviewed to ensure students are making academic progress through the program. (annual)
- Post-graduation placement in graduate school, medical school, or employment as reported in senior survey (number accepted, quality of the programs). (annual)
- Success in professional schools and ultimate job placement as reported in alumni. (every 5 years)
- Awards and Scholarships received by students. (annual)

*Indirect methods*

- High level of satisfaction with overall program, advising, and teaching quality ratings in senior survey (annual)
- High level of ability self-assessment for program learning outcomes in senior survey (annual) and alumni surveys (every 5 years)
- Senior focus group review of program quality and learning processes (every other year)

**Assessment Data Review**

Assessment data will be reviewed annually by the undergraduate curriculum committee.

**Recent Curriculum Changes based on Data Review**

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**BA Studio Art Program**

**Program Learning Objectives:**

The Studio Art program supports a learning environment and implements a course of study using contemporary artistic practice as the vehicle of presentation and analysis. It seeks to create a context for understanding how contemporary visual

art-making reflects and expresses the complex social and cultural issues underlying a changing world.

The program prepares students to:

1. Develop a technical foundation built on more prevalent art media such as photography, painting, sculpture, video, collage, and drawing.
2. Develop facility in the experimental and interdisciplinary approaches often utilized in contemporary art production.
3. Develop an understanding of art's place in contemporary culture.

### **Curriculum Structure:**

Our program is focused on contemporary approaches to art production; it strives to produce technically adept students with an understanding of art's place in culture. Introductory level courses enable students to develop a technical foundation built on more prevalent art media such as photography, painting, sculpture, video, collage, and drawing, and intermediate level courses enable students to develop facility in the experimental and interdisciplinary approaches often utilized in contemporary art production.

Students design a curriculum with their faculty adviser. Students must also create a clear and coherent artist statement, and present an exhibition of works in their senior year and a thoughtful, cohesive defense of it.

### **Assessment Plan:**

The **measurement of learning objectives** can be assessed as follows:

- Faculty review of student work in core courses.
- Faculty review of student's senior thesis exhibition.
- Faculty review of student's professional artist business practice portfolio (develop an artist's resume and biography, document and label artwork, shipping and handling of artwork, installing artwork for exhibition purposes, creating a website, pursuance of grants and/or residencies).

### **Assessment Data Review**

Assessment data will be reviewed annually by the undergraduate curriculum committee.

### **Recent Curriculum Changes based on Data Review**

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