Mission / Purpose

The mission of the Studio Art MFA Program within the School of Art and Design is to provide a rigorous, comprehensive and accessible graduate education in the visual arts and art history to a diverse urban constituency. This mission extends to the University at large, to the community and beyond, with the recognition that visual literacy is essential to imagination, creativity and the articulation of ideas in all fields.

Goals

G 1: Goals

We address our overall mission in the following ways: •Provide students with sophisticated critical thinking and visual literacy skills •Expand students understanding as practitioners, scholars and advocates of the visual arts •Prepare students to be competitive in an increasingly technological, interdisciplinary and theoretical art world •Engage and collaborate with local state, regional, national and global institutions and communities to provide enhanced visual arts opportunities to students and the community.

G 2: Delineated Goals

•Provide students with sophisticated critical thinking and visual literacy skills •Expand students understanding as practitioners, scholars and advocates of the visual arts •Prepare students to be competitive in an increasingly technological, interdisciplinary and theoretical art world •Engage and collaborate with local state, regional, national and global institutions and communities to provide enhanced visual arts opportunities to students and the community.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

SLO 1: Theoretical and critical thinking (M: 1, 3)

Knowledge of art criticism and theory and facility in applying theory and critical thinking to visual analysis. In accordance with our goals, this outcome works to measure students' sophisticated critical thinking and visual literacy skills

SLO 2: Contemporary contextual knowledge (M: 1, 3)

Informed of contemporary art and its relationship to the history of the discipline. In accordance with our goals, we use this measure to understand students' understanding as practitioners, scholars and advocates of the visual arts.

SLO 3: Advanced research skills (M: 1, 3)

Ability to thoroughly investigate and critically analyze research results
SLO 4: Professional practice (M: 1, 3)
Professional presentation of studio work, polished representation of self on paper, fluency in discussing own work, demonstration of self-assessment skills. In concert with our stated goals, we use this outcome to judge how prepared students are to be competitive in an increasingly technological, interdisciplinary and theoretical art world and how prepared students are to engage and collaborate with local state, regional, national and global institutions and communities.

Strategic Plan Associations
2.3 Other efforts in support of Goal 2 (Graduate and Professional Programs).

Measures, Targets, and Findings

M 1: Thesis Paper (O: 1, 2, 3, 4)
Written paper detailing multiple aspects of studio practice.
Source of Evidence: Portfolio, showing skill development or best work

Target for O1: Theoretical and critical thinking
With possible scores of 1 = beginning, 2 = developing, 3 = accomplished, and 4 = exemplary, the achievement target is 3.5.

Findings 2012-2013 - Target: Met
Assessments were available for five students. Two were rated as exemplary (4/4), 3 were rated as accomplished (3/4). On average, the student data available shows that the goal of 3.5 for this outcome was met.

Target for O2: Contemporary contextual knowledge
With possible scores of 1 = beginning, 2 = developing, 3 = accomplished, and 4 = exemplary, the achievement target is 3.5.

Findings 2012-2013 - Target: Met
Assessments were available for five students. Two were rated as exemplary (4/4); three were rated as accomplished (3/4). On average, the goal of 3.5 for this outcome was met.

Target for O3: Advanced research skills
With possible scores of 1 = beginning, 2 = developing, 3 = accomplished, and 4 = exemplary, the achievement target is 3.5.

Findings 2012-2013 - Target: Partially Met
Five records were available for assessment. Two students were rated exemplary (4.4), two were rated accomplished (3/4), and one was rated developing (2/4). On average, the goal of 3.5 for this outcome was only partially met. The weakness of the student rated developing skewed the overall number lower. Given the small sample size for this reporting period, it is difficult to draw strong conclusions about larger outcome patterns.

Target for O4: Professional practice
With possible scores of 1 = beginning, 2 = developing, 3 = accomplished, and 4 = exemplary,
the achievement target is 3.5.

**Findings 2012-2013 - Target: Partially Met**

Five records were available for analysis this period. Two students achieved a rank of exemplary (4/4), two achieved a rank of accomplished (3/4), one was rated as developing (2/4). On average, the desired score of 3.5 for this outcome was partially met. The ranking of one student as developing prevented the full execution of this outcome goal. Given the small sample size for this reporting period, however, it is difficult to draw meaningful conclusions from this data.

**M 3: MFA Solo Exhibition with Statement and Resume (O: 1, 2, 3, 4)**

A solo exhibition of work done in last two semesters of graduate study accompanied by an artist statement and resume.

Source of Evidence: Portfolio, showing skill development or best work

**Target for O1: Theoretical and critical thinking**

With possible scores of 1 = beginning, 2 = developing, 3 = accomplished, and 4 = exemplary, the achievement target is 3.5.

**Target for O2: Contemporary contextual knowledge**

With possible scores of 1 = beginning, 2 = developing, 3 = accomplished, and 4 = exemplary, the achievement target is 3.5.

**Target for O3: Advanced research skills**

With possible scores of 1 = beginning, 2 = developing, 3 = accomplished, and 4 = exemplary, the achievement target is 3.5.

**Target for O4: Professional practice**

With possible scores of 1 = beginning, 2 = developing, 3 = accomplished, and 4 = exemplary, the achievement target is 3.5.

**Details of Action Plans for This Cycle (by Established cycle, then alpha)**

**Formation of 3-D program**

The Ceramics area and Sculpture area will join to form a 3-D program. This will allow students from both disciplines to enroll in the same Directed Study and Graduate Seminar course under the direction of one faculty member. By forming a larger critical mass of students, they will experience richer and more diversified feedback in their group critiques as well as more exposure to the possibilities of creative problem solving in their studio practice.

**Established in Cycle:** 2008-2009

**Implementation Status:** Planned

**Priority:** High

**Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):**

**Measure:** Thesis Paper | **Outcome/Objective:** Theoretical and critical thinking
Implementation Description: Ceramics and Sculpture faculty are in the process of refining the details of a 3-D program yet are moving forward by joining the two disciplines in one Directed Study course this semester. By Fall 2010 all details should be resolved and in full operation.
Projected Completion Date: 07/2010
Responsible Person/Group: Mark Burleson, Christina West, Ruth Stanford, George Beasley

Graduate Program Review
A Graduate Program review is scheduled for 2009 - 2010. A committee has been formed and will be chaired by Graduate Program Director Joe Peragine. Topics for consideration are: increasing cross disciplinary interaction and instruction among studio disciplines, expanding attendance and participation in graduate studio critiques to include faculty and students from all studio disciplines, reducing the isolation of graduate students in their respective studio areas and increasing their experience of other graduate students’ research activities, and devising program opportunities for graduate students to have greater exposure to practicing contemporary artists excelling in the field.

Established in Cycle: 2008-2009
Implementation Status: Planned
Priority: High

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
- Measure: Thesis Paper | Outcome/Objective: Theoretical and critical thinking

Implementation Description: The review of the Graduate Program will take place throughout this academic year with the intent of implementing any changes in Fall 2010.
Projected Completion Date: 07/2010
Responsible Person/Group: Graduate Program Director Joe Peragine

Professional Practice in Higher Education
The graduate studio faculty is going to consider whether making Professional Practice in Higher Education (AE 6100) mandatory for all students (it is currently only required of graduate assistants who are teaching) will improve student achievement in the area of Professional Practice.

Established in Cycle: 2011-2012
Implementation Status: Planned
Priority: Medium

Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
- Measure: MFA Solo Exhibition with Statement and Resume | Outcome/Objective: Professional practice
- Measure: Thesis Paper | Outcome/Objective: Professional practice

Implementation Description: Spring 2013
Responsible Person/Group: Stan Anderson

Seminar Reorganization
In order to improve the performance of our students in regard to Theoretical and Critical Thinking and Contemporary Contextual Knowledge, we are planning to restructure the way MFA seminars are taught and rotated, including involving the art history faculty to a greater degree.

Established in Cycle: 2011-2012
Implementation Status: Planned
Priority: High
Graduate Program Review

As the needs and expectations of students and the university change, it is clear that our MFA graduate program needs to change to meet new demands. We have begun this process by streamlining internal processes and are working toward a redesign of the graduate program. The School of Art is scheduled for a faculty retreat Spring 2014 in which we will discuss seminar structures, new classes (e.g. professional practices, thesis writing).

- **Established in Cycle**: 2012-2013
- **Implementation Status**: Planned
- **Priority**: High
- **Implementation Description**: Redesign class structures and offerings to bolster student outcomes.
- **Responsible Person/Group**: Research Faculty/Graduate Director/Director
- **Additional Resources**: Unknown at this time.