

# **Academic Degree Programs Assessment**

College of Visual and Performing Arts

School of Art and Design

Master of Fine Arts in Art and Design

MFA

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## 1. Introduction

The Master of Fine Arts in Art requires 60 credits, 75% of which are studio related . An additional 25% of course work relates to art/design history and university electives. This is exclusive of work taken to remove deficiencies. As the terminal degree in art, the curriculum presents appropriate professional intensity and high standards. It prepares students to be professional artists/designers and/or university art teachers with top level masteries, skills, knowledge, and entrepreneurial capabilities in compliance with National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) accreditation. Beginning in the 2019-2020 academic year, the Master of Fine Arts degree program will be simplified. Rather than the current practice of splitting the degree into three different Emphases which span eleven different areas of study, the program will be is a single track program, that combines both Design/Media Arts and Fine Arts through ten areas of study: Time Arts, Photography, Visual Communication, Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Ceramics, Fiber, Metalwork/Jewelry/Digital Fabrication, and Sculpture. This change seeks to promote greater interdisciplinary collaboration between faculty and graduate students, which in turn will model creative interdisciplinary possibilities for undergraduates beginning as early as the first-year program. The program is also in the process of streamlining its student learning outcomes to bring the current list of ten down to a more manageable number.

## 2. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)\*

- 1 Possess comprehensive knowledge of history and current issues facing the art professions.
- 2 Possess broad insights into the unique contributions of art to human cultures
- 3 Demonstrate a high level personal motivation and the capacity to develop ideas with persistence
- 4 Possess comprehensive understanding of business practices related to career opportunities in art and/or design
- 5 Use materials and processes relevant to stated artistic intentions with a high level of sophistication in a single or cross-disciplinary specializations
- 6 Demonstrate evocative development of visual content illustrating insightful understanding of the relationship between concepts, materials, and visual qualities
- 7 Be able to insightfully contextualize personal artistic production in relation to other artists and cultures working with similar ideas
- 8 Apply theory to create sophisticated solutions to pragmatic problems using a broad range of media, tools and techniques viable in the contemporary marketplace
- 9 Demonstrate advanced ability to think critically about artifacts in relation to society and culture
- 10 Apply comprehensive knowledge of cultural, social, and psychological factors.

\*Note that through the assessment process, these students learning outcomes are now being proposed for simplification

## 3. Program-by-Baccalaureate Student Learning Outcomes Matrix

Not Applicable, the MFA is a graduate program

#### 4. Curriculum Map

B, D, or P in the corresponding cell. It would be *unusual* to find all courses supporting all student learning outcomes—instead, concentrate on the primary focus of each course.

Course	Program Student Learning Outcomes									
	1 Possess comprehensive knowledge of history and current issues facing the art professions.	2 Possess broad insights into the unique contributions of art to human cultures	3 Demonstrate a high level personal motivation and the capacity to develop ideas with persistence	4 Possess comprehensive understanding of business practices related to career opportunities in art and/or design	5 Use materials and processes relevant to stated artistic intentions with a high level of sophistication in a single or cross-disciplinary specializations	6 Demonstrate evocative development of visual content illustrating insightful understanding of the relationship between concepts, materials, and visual qualities	7 Be able to insightfully contextualize personal artistic production in relation to other artists and cultures working with similar ideas	8 Apply theory to create sophisticated solutions to pragmatic problems using a broad range of media, tools and techniques viable in the contemporary marketplace	9 Demonstrate advanced ability to think critically about artifacts in relation to society and culture	10 Apply comprehensive knowledge of cultural, social, and psychological factors
ART, ARTD, ARTS ≥ 5XX			B		B	B	B	B	B	B
ART, ARTD, ARTS ≥ 5XX			B		B	B	B	B	B	B
ARTH ≥ 5XX		B							B	B
ARTS 615	B	B		B					B	
ART, ARTD, ARTS ≥ 5XX			B		B	B	B	B	B	B
ART, ARTD, ARTS ≥ 6XX			D		D	D	D	D	D	D
ART, ARTD, ARTS ≥ 6XX			D		D	D	D	D	D	D
ART, ARTD, ARTS ≥ 6XX			D		D	D	D	D	D	D
ART, ARTD, ARTS ≥ 6XX			D		D	D	D	D	D	D
ART, ARTD, ARTS ≥ 6XX			D		D	D	D	D	D	D

Course	Program Student Learning Outcomes									
	1 Possess comprehensive knowledge of history and current issues facing the art professions.	2 Possess broad insights into the unique contributions of art to human cultures	3 Demonstrate a high level personal motivation and the capacity to develop ideas with persistence	4 Possess comprehensive understanding of business practices related to career opportunities in art and/or design	5 Use materials and processes relevant to stated artistic intentions with a high level of sophistication in a single or cross-disciplinary specializations	6 Demonstrate evocative development of visual content illustrating insightful understanding of the relationship between concepts, materials, and visual qualities	7 Be able to insightfully contextualize personal artistic production in relation to other artists and cultures working with similar ideas	8 Apply theory to create sophisticated solutions to pragmatic problems using a broad range of media, tools and techniques viable in the contemporary marketplace	9 Demonstrate advanced ability to think critically about artifacts in relation to society and culture	10 Apply comprehensive knowledge of cultural, social, and psychological factors
NIU ≥ 5XX										
ART, ARTD, ARTS 6XX			D		D	D	D	D	D	D
ART, ARTD, ARTS 7XX			P		P	P	P	P	P	P
ARTH ≥ 6XX		D						D	D	
NIU ≥ 5XX										
ART, ARTD, ARTS ≥ 7XX			P		P	P	P	P	P	
ART, ARTD, ARTS 7XX			P		P	P	P	P	P	
ARTH ≥ 6XX		P						P	P	
ART, ARTD, ARTS 7XX			P		P	P	P	P	P	
ART 715	D	P		D			D	D		
ART 799	P		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	

*Note.* Course supports the outcome at the B=beginning, D=developing, or P=proficient level.

## 5. Assessment Methods

Assessment Method	Explanation					
	Description	Student-Level Achievement <sup>a</sup>	Program-Level Target <sup>b</sup>	When Data Will be Collected	Person Responsible	SLOs
ART 615: Introduction to Studio Practices.	Graded class performance. Introduction of the skills related to the development of the student entering the M.F.A. program. Includes artists' presentations, portfolio documentation, resume writing, group critiques, faculty presentations, studio/materials safety, and selected readings.	Not yet articulated	Not yet articulated	End of the class	Instructor of Record	1, 2
1st Year Review –	The review session provides both a (formative) diagnostic assessment of individual student achievement in a single area of art studio practice and a summative assessment to determine continuance in the program.	A score of 3 or higher is the desired outcome.	80% of all students should pass	End of second semester	Rubric filled in by Grad Committee	1,2,3,4,5,6,7, 8
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Review – Presentation	The review session provides both a (formative) diagnostic assessment of individual student achievement in a single area of art studio practice and a summative assessment to determine continuance in the program.	Not yet articulated	Not yet articulated	End of 4 <sup>th</sup> semester	Rubric filled in by Full Faculty and Grad Committee	1,2,3,4,5,6,7, 8

Assessment Method	Explanation					
	Description	Student-Level Achievement <sup>a</sup>	Program-Level Target <sup>b</sup>	When Data Will be Collected	Person Responsible	SLOs
One Person Thesis Exhibition or Presentation	<p>the student's work must culminate in a one-person exhibition or presentation.</p> <p>The exhibition or presentation documentation must be a unique product with the degree candidate as the sole author. The author must demonstrate to his or her committee satisfactory command of all aspects of the work presented.</p>	Not yet articulated	Not yet articulated	At the end of course of study	The student's graduate advisory committee, consisting of at least three members., will judge the acceptability of the work	1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9
One Person Exhibition or Presentation Documentation Paper – Thesis and documentation	The thesis and documentation must demonstrate command of all 10 SLOs in the MFA program	Not yet articulated	Not yet articulated	At the end of course of study	The student's graduate advisory committee	1,2,3,4,5,6,7, 8, 9, 10
Performance in Art History Required Courses	Overall grade point average for 3 required graduate level courses	Not yet articulated	Not yet articulated	Various	Instructor of record	1, 2, 9, 10
Grades from selected studio courses related to area of focus	Essential studio course work within are of focus	Not yet articulated	Not yet articulated	Various	Instructor of record	5,6

Assessment Method	Explanation					
	Description	Student-Level Achievement <sup>a</sup>	Program-Level Target <sup>b</sup>	When Data Will be Collected	Person Responsible	SLOs
Comprehensive Exam	The exam outcome provides a diagnostic assessment and insight of individual student achievement and understanding in a single area of art studio practice as well as demonstration of their comprehensive knowledge of cultural, social, and psychological factors in art and design.	Not yet articulated	Not yet articulated		Graduate Committee	1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9
ART 715	Course work directly addressing cultural implications of professional art and design practice.	Not yet articulated	Not yet articulated	End of course	Instructor of Record	2, 4
<i>Note.</i> <sup>a</sup> Student-level target is the score or performance an individual student must demonstrate to say the student met the student learning outcome. <sup>b</sup> Program-level target is the percent of all students that must demonstrate they meet the student learning outcome.						

## ASSESSMENT METHODS-BY-OUTCOMES MATRIX

Assessment Method	Program Student Learning Outcomes									
	1 Possess comprehensive knowledge of history and current issues facing the art professions.	2 Possess broad insights into the unique contributions of art to human cultures	3 Demonstrate a high level personal motivation and the capacity to develop ideas with persistence	4 Possess comprehensive understanding of business practices related to career opportunities in art and/or design	5 Use materials and processes relevant to stated artistic intentions with a high level of sophistication in a single or cross-disciplinary specializations	6 Demonstrate evocative development of visual content illustrating insightful understanding of the relationship between concepts, materials, and visual qualities	7 Be able to insightfully contextualize personal artistic production in relation to other artists and cultures working with similar ideas	8 Apply theory to create sophisticated solutions to pragmatic problems using a broad range of media, tools and techniques viable in the contemporary marketplace	9 Demonstrate advanced ability to think critically about artifacts relation to society and culture	10 Apply comprehensive knowledge of cultural, social, and psychological factors
1 <sup>st</sup> year review	F/D	F/D	F/D	F/D	F/D	F/D	F/D	F/D		
2 <sup>ns</sup> year review	F/I	F/I	F/I	F/I	F/I	F/I	F/I	F/I		
One Person Exhibition or Presentation Documentation Paper – Thesis/ Documentation	S/D	S/D	S/D	S/D	S/D	S/D	S/D	S/D	S/D	S/D
Performance in Art History Required Courses	S/D	S/D							S/D	S/D
Grades from selected studio courses related to area of emphasis					S/D	S/D				
Comprehensive Exam	S/I	S/I	S/I	S/I			S/I		S/I	S/I
ART 615	S/D	S/D								
ART 715		S/D		S/D						



Assessment Method	Program Student Learning Outcomes									
	1 Possess comprehensive knowledge of history and current issues facing the art professions.	2 Possess broad insights into the unique contributions of art to human cultures	3 Demonstrate a high level personal motivation and the capacity to develop ideas with persistence	4 Possess comprehensive understanding of business practices related to career opportunities in art and/or design	5 Use materials and processes relevant to stated artistic intentions with a high level of sophistication in a single or cross-disciplinary specializations	6 Demonstrate evocative development of visual content illustrating insightful understanding of the relationship between concepts, materials, and visual qualities	7 Be able to insightfully contextualize personal artistic production in relation to other artists and cultures working with similar ideas	8 Apply theory to create sophisticated solutions to pragmatic problems using a broad range of media, tools and techniques viable in the contemporary marketplace	9 Demonstrate advanced ability to think critically about artifacts relation to society and culture	10 Apply comprehensive knowledge of cultural, social, and psychological factors
One Person Thesis Exhibition or Presentation	S/I	S/I	S/I	S/I	S/D	S/D	S/D	S/D	S/D	
<p><i>Note.</i> F=formative assessment, S=summative assessment, D=direct assessment, and I=indirect assessment. See the paragraph above for an explanation of each type of assessment.</p>										