

## Assessment Cycle 2019 – 2020

### Master of Arts in Art

**College: Arts and Sciences**

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**Northwestern Mission.** Northwestern State University is a responsive, Student-oriented institution that is committed to the creation, dissemination, and acquisition of knowledge through teaching, research, and service. The University maintains as its highest priority excellence in teaching in graduate and undergraduate programs. Northwestern State University prepares its students to become productive members of society and promotes economic development and improvements in the quality of life of the citizens in its region.

**College of Arts and Sciences' Mission.** College of Arts and Sciences' Mission. The College of Arts & Sciences, the largest college at Northwestern State University, is a diverse community of scholars, teachers, and students, working collaboratively to acquire, create, and disseminate knowledge through transformational, high-impact experiential learning practices, research, and service. The College strives to produce graduates who are productive members of society equipped with the capability to promote economic and social development and improve the overall quality of life in the region. The College provides an unequaled undergraduate education in the social and behavioral sciences, English, communication, journalism, media arts, biological and physical sciences, and the creative and performing arts, and at the graduate level in the creative and performing arts, English, TESOL, and Homeland Security. Uniquely, the College houses the Louisiana Scholars' College (the State's designated Honors College), the Louisiana Folklife Center, and the Creole Center, demonstrating its commitment to community service, research, and preservation of Louisiana's precious resources.

**Department of Fine and Graphic Arts.** The mission of the Art Unit within the School of Creative and Performing Arts operates under the mission of the university. This mission involves three primary goals: first, to provide quality instruction in a variety of disciplines; second, to encourage creative activity and scholarship, and third, to serve the college and surrounding community via the educational, cultural and economic opportunities provided by the university.

A broad range of educational offerings in fine and applied art and art history, in conjunction with the university's core curriculum, provides in-depth study for the professional major, as well as a body of knowledge associated with a liberal arts degree.

In addition to facilities, expertise and instruction regarding traditional media, the Art Unit has a strong commitment to technologically enhanced instruction and relevant technology curriculum. The availability of new technology and instruction is considered imperative by the faculty and administration.

## Assessment Cycle 2019 – 2020

The Art Unit is committed to an academic and professional environment, which encourages creative activities, scholarship, and research. Faculty development in the areas of personal research and creative growth, technological competencies and teaching is nourished by the department and the university. This emphasis on active professional competence promotes excellence in the learning environment while engaging the public in university activities.

The university serves a diverse cultural and economic audience encompassing not only the local area, but also the state, region and beyond. Students come from small communities as well as metropolitan areas. Through academic offerings, art exhibitions, and the contributions of students to the community and contributions of graduates to the work force, the Art Unit is deeply tied to the surrounding community. The unit is committed to an environment of mutual respect, in which academic and cultural opportunities are made available; helping to meet the educational, cultural, and professional needs of the community at large.

**Master of Arts in Art Program Mission Statement:** The Master of Arts in Art degree program offers the student an opportunity to study graduate level art courses either on campus or online. The curriculum allows the student to propose their vision for their studies that coincides with the vision for their personal art practice. Seminar and research-based courses will assist the student in personal research to expand their understanding of their own artistic context and methodology. These courses will culminate in the capstone experiences writing and presenting a creative research document and exhibition. The outcomes of these will propel the student into terminal degree studies or artistic and professional practice.

**Methodology:** The assessment process for the MA/MS program is as follows:

- (1) Data from assessment tools (both direct – indirect, quantitative, and qualitative) are collected and returned to the program chair and graduate coordinator.
- (2) They will analyze the data to determine whether students have met measurable outcomes.
- (3) Results from the assessment will be discussed with the program graduate faculty.
- (4) Individual meetings will be held with faculty if required (show cause).
- (5) The Program Chair and Graduate Coordinator will propose changes to measurable outcomes, assessment tools for the next assessment period and, where needed, curricula and program changes.

## Assessment Cycle 2019 – 2020

### Student Learning Outcomes:

**SLO 1. Evaluate own artistic experience and formulate an advanced direction, voice, and momentum in the creation of personal artwork.**

**Measure:** Observable through projects, seminars, and by semester faculty and peer evaluations. Data will be collected through semester reviews. Benchmark reviews will be after the first semester and with the proposal of their creative research project. Advisor will collect data for the first benchmark. Graduate Coordinator will collect data for the proposals. Student and faculty (outcome and curriculum) will work together with the appropriate balance of direction and freedom for the student to build upon their artistic voice and style. Acceptable data would reflect 75% of the students actively evaluating their own artistic experience and formulating an advanced direction, voice, and momentum in the creation of personal artwork. Target data would show 95%.

**Findings:** Target not met.

**Analysis:** In AC 2018-2019 the target was not met. As a result, information about the *General Guidelines for Preparing your Final Research Document at Northwestern State University* document from the Graduate School website was incorporated into a quiz to ensure students read and understood the requirements. In AC 2019-2020, 80 percent of students actively evaluated their own artistic experience and formulated an advanced direction, voice, and momentum in the creation of their personal artwork. This is a 5% increase from the AC 2018-2019 data.

**Decision:** Based on the analysis of the AC 2019-2020 results, in AC 2020-2021 graduate reviews will be revised to have different online and on-campus participation techniques. A Moodle shell will be set up where all the students can display their work and peer review and discussion can ensue. Graduate Student Reviews will address writing issues as well as their artwork. Faculty discussion will be held to add the Writing for Academia class into the curriculum.

**SLO 2. Synthesize the curricular experience to meet their professional and creative goals.**

**Measure:** Observable and testable through the curricular opportunity to take independent courses in specific areas. Students will submit a proposal for each class of what they will accomplish for the course. The students will present a cohesive body of artwork and a creative research paper at the end of their degree program. An alumni survey will be administered at one-year, three-year and five-year intervals. Data will be collected through individual courses, reviews of exhibition and paper, and through the administered surveys. The faculty will assess whether the students have accomplished the proposals for each class. Advisors and committees will assess the success or failure of the papers and exhibits. Faculty will administer the surveys and collect the data. Data will allow faculty to assess current and future curricular needs. Students will respond to curriculum

## Assessment Cycle 2019 – 2020

and their own creative drive to build a research and object-based output for review that will propel them to the next level of our artistic and academic goals. Acceptable data would reflect 75% of the students synthesizing the curricular experience to meet their professional and creative goals. Target data would show 95%.

**Findings:** Target not met.

**Analysis:** In AC 2018-2019, the target was not met. During that AC, 92% of students were able to synthesize the curricular experience to meet their professional and creative goals. Based on the analysis of the 2018-2019 results, in AC 2019-2020, regular graduate critiques, quality solo, and graduate group exhibitions were implemented. Committee and faculty discussions with graduate students were conducted to improve communication with students. Studio visits with faculty and graduate students were implemented to assist struggling students with their work. As a result, in AC 2019-2020, 89% of students synthesized the curricular experience to meet their professional and creative goals.

**Decision:** Based on the analysis of the AC 2019-2020 results, in AC 2020-2021 graduate-focused critiques and exhibitions will be a cornerstone of graduate work moving forward. Graduate committees will be reorganized to allow for more effective monitoring of students. The alumni surveys will be revised to make their meanings clearer.

### **SLO 3. Participate in experiences that encourage familiarity with a broad variety of work in various specializations and media.**

**Measure:** Observable through participation in departmental or class field trips to museums, galleries, and design centers, and in national, international juried exhibitions, and in the graduate student exhibition opportunities. Also observable through teaching assistant opportunities. Data will be collected by generating lists of the percentage of graduate students attending the various class and departmental trips. Also, in reviews, faculty will report independent trips the students have initiated and their participation in student and other exhibitions. Data will also be received through reports of the Graduate Assistants' level of participation and professional candor in various assignments. Faculty will collect the data for student exhibition participation. Faculty will collect the data for student trip attendance. Advisors and committee members will collect the data for individual assignments in the Assistantships. Data will allow faculty to assess the frequency and effectiveness of exhibitions and trips. Students will independently seek after life-long learning not based solely upon curricular experience. Acceptable data would reflect 75% of the students actively participating in experiences that encourage familiarity with a broad variety of work in various specializations and media. Target data would show 95%.

## Assessment Cycle 2019 – 2020

**Findings:** Target data not met.

**Analysis:** In AC 2018-2019, the target was not met. During that cycle, 65% of students entered regional, national, or international art competitions. Based on the analysis of the 2018-2019 results, in AC 2019-2020, on-campus and online students were encouraged to participate in the Graduate Student Exhibition with the active support of the Graduate Coordinator who assisted in the organization and execution of exhibition events. As a result, in AC 2019-2020, 40% of students entered regional, national, or international art competitions. Four graduate students, ~30%, participated in a departmental field trip.

**Decision:** Based on the analysis of the AC 2019-2020 results, in AC 2020-2021, graduate students will be encouraged to take the initiative and create collaborative field trips among themselves. Faculty discussions will be held to discuss requiring graduate students to enter juried exhibitions instead of the current exhibition format.

**Comprehensive summary of key evidence of improvements based on analysis of last year's results.** As a result of the analysis of AC 2019-2020 data, the following changes were implemented in AC 2019-2020:

- Information about the *General Guidelines for Preparing your Final Research Document at Northwestern State University* document from the Graduate School website was incorporated into a quiz
- Regular graduate critiques, quality solo, and graduate group exhibitions were implemented
- Committee and faculty discussions with graduate students were conducted to improve communication with students
- Studio visits with faculty and graduate students were implemented to assist struggling students with their work
- On-campus and online students participated in the Graduate Student Exhibition

**Plan of action moving forward.** To drive improvement moving forward, the following will be implemented:

- Graduate reviews will be revised to have different online and on-campus participation techniques
- A Moodle shell will be set up where all the students can display their work and peer review and discussion can ensue
- Graduate Student Reviews will address writing issues as well as their artwork
- Faculty discussion will be held to add the Writing for Academia class into the curriculum
- Graduate-focused critiques and exhibitions will be a cornerstone of graduate work moving forward

## **Assessment Cycle 2019 – 2020**

- Graduate committees will be reorganized to allow for more effective monitoring of students
- The alumni surveys will be revised to make their meanings clearer