

Master of Arts in Art (511)

College: Arts and Sciences

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Northwestern Mission. Northwestern State University is a responsive, student-oriented institution committed to acquiring, creating, and disseminating knowledge through innovative teaching, research, and service. With its certificate, undergraduate, and graduate programs, Northwestern State University prepares its increasingly diverse student population to contribute to an inclusive global community with a steadfast dedication to improving our region, state, and nation.

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 as a whole. 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.

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 as a whole. This emphasis

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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.

COVID-19 STATEMENT: The majority of the SLOs and Measures for the program were unaffected by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, SLO 3 was impacted due to pandemic restrictions. Planned field trips were cancelled and students had to alter their intended work plans for that SLO.

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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 in order 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 met.

Analysis: In AC 2019-2020, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2019-2020 results, in AC 2020-2021, a Graduate Critique shell was set up through Moodle. This proved effective in evaluating and commenting on the work of graduate students.

As a result of these changes, in AC 2020-2021, the target was met. One hundred percent (100%) of students committed to actively evaluating their own artistic experience and formulating an advanced direction, voice, and momentum in the creation of personal artwork.

Decision: In AC 2020-2021, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2020-2021 results, to drive improvement in AC 2021-2022, the curriculum will be revised to add the Writing for Academia class.

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 and their own creative drive to build a research and object-based output for review that

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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 met.

Analysis: In AC 2019-2020, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2019-2020 results, in AC 2020-2021 regular graduate critiques and quality solo exhibitions were enacted. More open communication between graduate students and faculty about the quality and quantity of work was established.

As a result of these changes, in AC 2020-2021, the target was met. One hundred percent (100%) of graduate students synthesized the curricular experience to meet their professional and creative goals.

Decision: In AC 2020-2021, the target was met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2020-2021 results, to drive improvement in AC 2021-2022, faculty will revise the Graduate Critique to be more rigorous and clearer in expectations.

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 date for student trip attendance. Advisors and committee members will collect the data for individual assignments in the Assistantships. Data will allow faculty to assess 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%.

Findings: Target not met.

Analysis: In AC 2019-2020, the target was not met. Based on the AC 2019-2020 results, in AC 2020-2021, students participated in Graduate Assistantships effectively taught or assisted in courses, maintained facilities and lab hours, and performed other duties throughout the department. Planned field trips were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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As a result of these changes, in AC 2020-2021, the target was not met.

Decision: In AC 2020-2021, the target was not met. Based on the analysis of the AC 2020-2021 results, and to drive improvement in AC 2021-2022, new gallery guidelines will be implemented. Shows and field trips will be added back to the activities performed by students.

Comprehensive summary of key evidence of improvements based on analysis of data

As a result of the analysis of AC 2019-2020 data, the following changes were implemented in AC 2020-2021:

- A Graduate Critique shell was set up through Moodle.
- Regular graduate critiques and quality solo exhibitions were enacted.
- More open communication between graduate students and faculty about the quality and quantity of work was established.
- Students participated in Graduate Assistantships effectively taught or assisted in courses, maintained facilities and lab hours, and performed other duties throughout the department.

Plan of action moving forward.

To drive the cycle of improvement, in AC 2021-2022 the following will be implemented:

- The curriculum will be revised to add the Writing for Academia class.
- Faculty will revise the Graduate Critique to be more rigorous and clearer in expectations.
- New gallery guidelines will be implemented.
- Shows and field trips will be added back to the activities performed by students.