

Assessment Cycle 2020 - 2021

Bachelor of Fine Arts (214)

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.

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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 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.

Bachelors of Fine Arts Program Mission Statement: Students in the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program will experience a thorough educational experience in the visual arts. They will learn a variety of foundational principles and mediums in art that will lead to upper level specificity and personal development. Each concentration will help the students reach their personal career and artistic goals by giving them opportunities through projects and class assignments to develop habits, style, and artistic voice. These class experiences will culminate with professional studies, business practices, and the capstone Senior Exhibition in order to provide the students with experience in planning, processing, and carrying out professional artistic and design practice. The students should graduate with the portfolio and experience to begin professional practice or graduate studies.

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;
- (2) The program chair will analyze the data to determine whether students
- (3) have met measurable outcomes;
- (4) Results from the assessment will be discussed with the program faculty;
- (5) Individual meetings will be held with faculty if required (show cause);
- (6) The Program Chair will propose changes to measurable outcomes, assessment tools for the next assessment period and, where needed, curricula and program changes.

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NOTE: Due to large-scale natural disasters, local emergencies, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the evaluation methods for assessment were not applied in AC 2020-2021.

Student Learning Outcomes:

SLO 1. Through directed studies in art and design, students secure an in-depth understanding and application of visual art techniques.

Measure: Testable through projects, annual student reviews with faculty advising committees and class critiques. Data will be collected through curricular benchmarks, annual student review rubric forms, and course reports. Faculty advising committees will collect data at annual student reviews. Data collected will allow faculty to assess current and future curricular needs. Acceptable data would show overall 50% of students secure an in-depth understanding and application of visual art techniques, or a 3.5 or better on the review rubric. The target data would show 80%. Faculty and students (curriculum and outcomes) reach a competitive level of professional proficiency early in the students' studies.

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, due to extreme weather, the COVID-19 pandemic, and other unforeseen regional and local emergencies, students missed a large portion of their class time. In order to ensure students were exposed to the proper amount of instruction and contact time for the courses, the Department did not conduct the Annual Student Reviews (where quantitative data is collected).

As a result, 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, to drive improvement in AC 2021-2022, faculty will implement in-class demonstrations on topics found difficult by students in order to better explain requirements on assignments.

SLO 2. Students acquire valuable production experience that is reflected in their own independent achievements.

Measure: Observable through projects and academic patterns by regular faculty evaluations and review of sketchbook work. Data will be collected through annual student review rubric forms and curricular benchmarks. Faculty advising committees will collect data at annual student reviews. Data will allow faculty to assess current and future curricular needs, as well as frequency and quality of evaluation processes. Faculty and students (curriculum and outcomes) increase in the level of expectation and professional output. Students are expected and deliver a qualitative and quantitative level of involvement and production. Acceptable data would show overall 50% of students

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exhibiting high levels of production in their individual artistic achievements, or a 3.5 or better on the review rubric. The target data would show 80%.

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, due to extreme weather, the COVID-19 pandemic, and other unforeseen regional and local emergencies, students missed a large portion of their class time. In order to ensure students were exposed to the proper amount of instruction and contact time for the courses, the Department did not conduct the Annual Student Reviews (where quantitative data is collected).

As a result, 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, to drive improvement in AC 2021-2022, the evaluation process and expectations of the artist talk will be presented to the students at an early stage in the semester to set benchmarks for the project progression through the semester. Reflection documents on the capstone process will become mandatory for all participants. In this way, students will better engage with the process and understand their own artistic styles further.

SLO 3. Students synthesize the curricular experience to meet their professional and creative goals.

Measure: Observable and testable through the curricular opportunity to take upper-level courses in specific areas and the presentation of a cohesive body of artwork at the end of their degree program. Testable through an alumni survey that will be administered at one-year, three-year and five-year intervals. Data will be collected through annual student review rubric forms, curricular benchmarks, reviews of exhibition, and through the administered surveys. Students will submit a proposal for their senior exhibition. Advisors and committees will assess the success or failure of the exhibits. Faculty will administer the surveys and collect the data. Data will allow faculty to assess current and future curricular needs. Faculty and students (curriculum and outcomes) work together to develop and foster their individual voice and style of the student in preparation for professional work. Acceptable data would show overall 50% of students synthesizing the curricular experience to meet their professional and creative goals, or a 3.5 or better on the review rubric. The target data would show 80%.

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, due to extreme weather, the COVID-19 pandemic, and other unforeseen regional and local emergencies, students missed a large portion of their class time. In order to ensure students were exposed to the proper amount of instruction and

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contact time for the courses, the Department did not conduct the Annual Student Reviews (where quantitative data is collected).

As a result, 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, to drive improvement in AC 2021-2022, students taking the capstone experience classes will have a beginning-of-semester meeting to outline the curricular expectations and procedures. This meeting will facilitate further dissemination of the reflection document and provide insights into the artist talk. Students will report on their progress regularly to their instructors/mentors as a way to both ensure the students are keeping a reasonable pace and to mitigate any issues early on.

SLO 4. Students 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 participation in student exhibitions and organizations. The percentage of majors attending major semester field trips, entering annual the student exhibition will be monitored. Data will be collected by generating lists of the percentage of students attending the various class and departmental trips. Also, in annual student reviews, faculty will report independent trips the students have initiated, and their participation in student and other exhibitions. Faculty will collect the data for student exhibition participation, and the data for student trip attendance. Data will allow faculty to assess frequency and effectiveness of exhibitions and trips. Faculty and students (curriculum and outcome) will foster an atmosphere of learning through participation in gallery and extra-curricular experiences. Acceptable data would show overall 50% of students participating in enrichment experiences, or a 3.5 or better on the review rubric. The target data would show 80%.

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, due to extreme weather, the COVID-19 pandemic, and other unforeseen regional and local emergencies, students missed a large portion of their class time. In order to ensure students were exposed to the proper amount of instruction and contact time for the courses, the Department did not conduct the Annual Student Reviews (where quantitative data is collected).

As a result, 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, to drive improvement in AC 2021-2022, faculty will engage students in online exhibitions and receptions to broaden the scope of the students' exposure, as some works would not be otherwise accessible to the students. The use of online exhibits

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will allow for an increase in student participation as the students will not have to take time away from work or studies for travel.

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

Due to extreme weather, the COVID-19 pandemic, and other unforeseen regional and local emergencies, students missed a large portion of their class time. In order to ensure students were exposed to the proper amount of instruction and contact time for the courses, the Department did not conduct the Annual Student Reviews (where quantitative data is collected).

Plan of action moving forward

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

- Faculty will implement in-class demonstrations to better explain requirements on assignments to students.
- The evaluation process and expectations of the artist talk will be presented to the students at an early stage in the semester to set benchmarks for the project progression through the semester.
- Reflection documents on the capstone process will become mandatory for all participants.
- Students taking the capstone experience classes will have a beginning-of-semester meeting to outline the curricular expectations and procedures.
- Students will report on their progress regularly to their instructors/mentors as a way to both ensure the students are keeping a reasonable pace and to mitigate any issues early on.
- Faculty will engage students in online exhibitions and receptions to broaden the scope of the students' exposure.