

## **School of Art Assessment Inventory**

### **Mission and Goals Statement –**

The mission of the School of Art parallels that of the College of Fine Arts and is stated in the University Academic Plan for 2002-2007.

The mission of the College of Fine Arts is to educate students as artists, as teachers in the arts (elementary, secondary, and higher education), as arts researchers, and as life-long audience members who are able to respond to and appreciate the arts. The departments of the College create and produce studio and performing arts works as well as research in order to support this mission. (Academic Plan, p. 8.)

As stated in the Academic Plan, the University recognizes that this mission is "central to the overriding mission of Illinois State University" (p. 8).

The goals of the School of Art are:

1. To maintain an educational program in the visual arts that provides a professional education in the studio arts, art education, graphic design, and art history.
2. To provide art-based instruction for the University's General Education program and, therefore, for the general student population, and selected course work in art production for non-art majors interested in the studio disciplines.
3. To recruit and/or retain a faculty and staff with strong academic and professional credentials, who are committed to teaching, to their own creative/scholarly work, and to participation in academic shared governance.
4. To provide and maintain physical facilities and resources adequate to the educational mission and goals of the School.
5. To recruit and retain students who are committed to acquiring a professional-level art education within the liberal arts environment of the University.

Goals 1 and 2 are directly related to fulfilling the overall mission of the School of Art, the College of Fine Arts, and the University. Goals 3 and 4 address the human and material resources necessary to accomplishing goals 1 and 2. The accomplishment of goal 5 is largely dependent on the accomplishment of goals 1, 2 and 3.

In addition, the School of Art has an overriding goal of being and being recognized as one of the leading art programs in the state and the region.

## **M.A./M.S. in Art**

### **Objectives**

1. To educate students in studio art, art history and art education
2. To prepare students for careers in select areas of studio practice, in elementary and secondary art teaching, and in museum and gallery work, or for further advanced study in art disciplines.

### **Learning Objectives for the M.A./M.S. Degree**

1. Students will demonstrate a high level of competence in the theory and practice of either art education, art therapy or a specific discipline in the studio arts.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to complete research projects in specific subjects relative to their disciplinary emphasis.
3. Students will demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the relevant major field in both written and oral form.

### **General Assessment of the M.A./M.S.**

The skills and concepts outlined are emphasized throughout the MA/MS curriculum, from the beginning of coursework when entering the programs. It continues in all studio courses, especially through the use of individual and group critique, and in all lecture/discussion courses through reading and writing assignments. Assessment is a continuous process that indicates the degree to which results are being produced in each student's work, and since all three sequences share a common core, all involve some degree of art history and aesthetics and research methods, each in its own way. Since studio work is part of the Art Education Sequence, as well as the Studio Art Sequence, there is a wide range of competencies on which students can draw. The experiences give students opportunities to integrate knowledge of studio practices, knowledge of art history, knowledge of research methods, and knowledge of pedagogical practice. As they progress, the students are expected to work more independently, to develop their own projects, and to form a conceptual framework for their artwork, historical and analytical thinking, and knowledge of teaching.

### **Assessment Systems Used to Measure Learning Outcomes (by degree program and linked to learning objectives by parallel numbers)**

(1) The three sequences that make up the M.A./M.S. degree (Art History, Studio Art, and Art Education) have rigorous requirements in coursework, tutorials, and research and often involve one-on-one study with faculty members. Assessment is an ongoing part of the work and takes place through discussion, critique, research and analytical papers, and

teaching assignments. By means of all these methods, faculty are able to assess the students' level of competence in both theory and practice.

(2) All three sequences require research appropriate to the discipline and include specific coursework in research methodology. Students' research abilities developed in the research course (Art 497) are continually put into practice and evaluated in other courses (Art 401, 402, and 403 in Art Education; all upper level Art History courses; and Studio tutorials Art 444 and 451).

(3) All three sequences require a capstone experience that assesses the students' depth of understanding and practice. Studio Art requires a final exhibition of work, a comprehensive oral examination, and a written artist statement; Art History requires a written thesis; and Art Education requires either a comprehensive examination or a written thesis.

### **How Results of Assessment Are Being Used to Lead to Program Improvement (Linked to Degree Programs and Sequences)**

Although no changes have been made to this degree program, consideration is being given to eliminating the M.A. in Art History and the M.S. in Studio Art. This would allow the School to focus its resources and energies on the M.S. in Art Education, the M.F.A. in Studio Art, and the revised undergraduate sequence in Art History.