

**GRADUATE PROGRAMS ASSESSMENT
WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Program Name: MASTER OF FINE ARTS DEGREE IN STUDIO ARTS **Date:** 9/26/07

School: SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN Campus Box
No. 67

College: COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS Campus Box
No. 151

A. MISSION STATEMENT

The School of Art and Design offers the sixty hour, three year terminal degree for studio art. The Master of Fine Arts Degree in Studio Art was established using the guidelines of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. The purpose of this degree is to prepare students for professional practice in the creation of works of art, the application and transmission of knowledge about works of art, and their interrelationships with other artists, the field of visual art and other aspects of culture. A significant number of individuals who earn the Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art are, or will be, engaged in teaching at some point during their professional careers. Others will be practicing artists within the world of business, either as independent artists/designers or as participants in larger organizations in the applied arts.

B. PROGRAM CONSTITUENTS

1. Students who wish to pursue training in the professional practice of ceramics, drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture apply for admission to the MFA in Studio Art degree program. Students must be prepared to be fully engaged in full-time graduate study for six semesters. If they have not achieved the thorough training of the BFA in Studio Art and/or the minimum entry requirement, students may be admitted on a part-time provisional basis to make up any deficiency. Often students are recommended by professional art alumni from art programs across the nation.

C. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

1. To admit each year the most qualified students from the pool of applicants who possess the potential for successful completion of the M.F.A. degree program.
2. To meet or exceed the Wichita State University average (87%) of faculty with terminal degrees as the benchmark for graduate faculty in the M.F.A. program.
3. To require graduate faculty to pursue scholarly activities in exhibiting, publishing, teaching and service that contribute to the development of the visual arts.
4. To meet or exceed the graduation rates set by the Kansas Board of Regents.

5. To develop program evaluation instruments to determine the satisfaction level of current and past graduate students by use of a past graduate survey..

D. EDUCATIONAL STUDENT OUTCOMES

1. Students will develop a mastery of techniques and related knowledge in one of the following studio art: ceramics, painting/drawing, printmaking, and sculpture.

2. Students will develop professional competence in the dissemination of knowledge, including logical, clear verbal and written presentation of aesthetic ideas in teaching and other contexts.

3. Students will demonstrate the ability to conduct independent research and present a plan for a creative project within the content of the subject.

4. Students will complete a final graduation project which consists of a body of art works which are exhibited in a professional manner in a gallery setting as well as participate in an oral defense of that exhibition.

E. ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

1a. After reviewing the application of each student, the graduate faculty ranks the applicants using the admission and achievement criteria as stated in the Graduate Catalog. Each finalist is required to have a 3.00 overall grade point average for their last 60 undergraduate credit hours and must submit a slide portfolio or data CD of 15 artworks which provides evidence of artistic accomplishment. Finalists are interviewed by telephone to verify the interest and the desire to pursue graduate level academic study in studio art. The final recommendation to offer admission to the MFA program, and possibility an assistantship is decided by the graduate faculty of each area in Studio Arts.

19 of the 19 applicants fulfilled all the requirements to be considered for admission to the Studio Arts program.

1b. Course-based assessments of Standards 1, 2 and 3 in the appropriate program area (Ceramics, Painting, Printmaking and Sculpture) – see Appendices A, B, C and D.

20 of the 20 MFA candidates received a favorable report on standards 1, 2, and 3 of appendices A, B, C, and D. Faculty members evaluate all MFA students and make academic decisions each semester. Assessment forms are used to record these decisions. Two of our MFA candidates were deprived of the entrance into the thesis portion of the MFA degree, and left the program. From the Fall of 2006 until the Fall of 2007, four Graduate Students in good standing left the program. While students have withdrawn from the MFA Studio program, we have recruited 5 MFA candidates in the last year.

2. All MFA Graduate Faculty in Studio Art have the terminal degree.

Our six Studio Arts Faculty have terminal degree (Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art /medium specialty). Those degrees come from institutions that are highly rated in the visual arts field. Five of the Faculty come from programs which are consistently rated in the top ten art schools in the nation.

3. Graduate Faculty exhibit their art in local, regional, and national exhibitions. The Faculty are actively engaged in Teaching and Service at all levels in WSU undergraduate and graduate program.

Annual Faculty updates give evidence that the Studio Art Faculty are very involved in the exhibition of their art. Each had a record of substantial activity in local, regional, and national exhibits, which provided an opportunity for public and critical review. Teaching and service were also on a commendable level.

4. The Studio Art Program in Ceramic, Painting, Printmaking and Sculpture has met the graduation rate of five graduates a year over the last five years.

The Studio Art program has been at capacity with 16 to 20 MFA candidates. Our program's greatest challenge is to maintain the required graduation rate over a five year period, while at the same time admitting only the highest quality candidates. The Studio Arts program has met the graduation rate as required by WSU Office of Institution Research.

5. The Studio Art Graduate Program has developed Exit Surveys for current and post graduate students.

We are in the second year of obtaining information for alumni surveys. The number of alumni from a small graduate program and the usual limited responses to surveys has not provided much data for teaching trends in response. See **Appendix A: Graduate Alumni Survey Review**

F. ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL STUDENT OUTCOMES

1. In the first three semesters of graduate coursework, each student receives monthly verbal evaluation emphasizing artistic and verbal skill development from the Graduate Faculty. The peer group critiques provides a forum to exchange opinion on aesthetic and technical issue. Students must then schedule individual reviews with the graduate faculty to present a creative research plan using some of the recommendations of the peer committee.

Each program area has individualized approaches for evaluation of course work. These include individual (one on one) critiques, group critiques, and an exhibition of their art works. All MFA students are encouraged to have individual critiques with a variety of Studio Arts faculty. The reviews are conducted on a weekly schedule throughout the semester.

Program evaluation forms are used to evaluate student success in their individual areas. For the results for the Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 semesters, see **Appendix B: Semi Annual MFA Evaluation**

2. In the final three semesters, the student exercises teaching methods observed during the earlier assisting semesters to become an instructor-of-record (Direct instruction). Meetings with graduate faculty are held to improve teaching methods and to recognize achievement among GTA instructors. Faculty observes GTA instructors in unscheduled visitations to their classrooms to assist in the evaluation of successful teaching. A new one hour course (Arts 790) is in our MFA curriculum, starting Fall, 2007. This course provides a student direction in improving teaching.

Teaching evaluation forms are used in the evaluations of each MFA student. For the results of the Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 semesters, see **Appendix C: Semi Annual Teaching Evaluations – Graduate Teaching Assistants**

3. A graduate committee organized to evaluate the final project, provides each student with an assessment of the educational objectives stated in the written proposal. Students who fail this review must repeat a second final project review to continue in the MFA program.

Each semester as needed, the entire Studio Art Faculty plus additional Graduate Faculty (8 to 10 members) meet to evaluate each student's ability to enter the final requirement of the program, which is the thesis project. This constitutes ten hours of course work and represents an extensive study of a focused art experience. After approximately an hour of discussion with the student, the faculty reach an opinion on whether the student can continue in the MFA program. An evaluation form is used and each faculty present signs off on the document. That form with written comments is presented to the student as a guide for completion of the degree. For the results of Fall 2006 and Spring 2007, see **Appendix D: Evaluation of Master of Fine Arts Terminal Project/Thesis Proposal.**

4. Students are required to produce a group of art objects which are then exhibited in a professional manner in either an on campus or off campus gallery. Each MFA Candidate must present an exhibition of their Thesis project. During the exhibition period, each student is given an oral exam regarding their Thesis project. A three member committee is involved, and at that time, the form for a Recommendation for Degree is signed by the graduate faculty. That form is then submitted to the Graduate School, which completes the MFA degree requirement process. The form for the Studio program oral defense is signed by the committee of three faculty, and is given a score from 1 to 5. For the results of Fall 2006 and Spring 2007, see **Appendix E: Recommendation for Degree - Master of Fine Arts Degree in Studio Art.**

Additionally, each MFA student submits a binder with a Vita, slide documentation of the Thesis project, a slide list and a statement about their Thesis project.

G. FEEDBACK LOOP

1. Graduate faculty meet each semester to discuss the current curriculum and assess its effectiveness in meeting the graduate program goals. Course changes and/or curriculum reorganization is discussed with the entire faculty before proposals are submitted for changes.

The Studio Faculty meet and establish the following: Graduate Students are required to meet with Faculty in and out of their program area for individual critiques. Each area establishes a minimum and maximum amount of meeting per semester. A tutorial was voted in by the Studio Arts Faculty. The 1 hour course became part of the MFA curriculum for Fall 2007 (Art S 790, Graduate Teaching Seminar)

2. During a two-day springtime event called "Crit-o-Rama", guest artists from Kansas and elsewhere are invited to comment on student's art work. Visiting artists are a good source for preparation for success in the visual art field. This year's Crit-o-Rama featured 3 regional professionals as the visiting artists, and 15 to 20 local art educators. Printmaking had 2 monoprint workshops and a visiting artist: (Andy Totman). Students were encouraged to meet and discuss their art and explore additional approaches to future art projects.

Additionally, Studio Arts had workshops, in which students, undergraduate and graduate, could discuss issues regarding the profession. The Studio Arts Program had four workshops in the Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 semesters.

3. The Studio Arts program has an annual Fall organizational meeting to introduce new MFA candidates to continuing MFA Graduates and faculty. Additionally, faculty and Graduate students discuss plans for individual faculty critiques, MFA interdisciplinary critiques, and Slide Night activities. Dates and activities regarding individual and group critiques are established. This year, the University of Kansas (Lawrence) and Wichita State University graduate student are planning an exchange exhibition at their respective institutions. KU Grad students will exhibit work at Shift Space in November 2007, and WSU graduates will exhibit work in the Spring, 2008 at the KU Art School gallery in Lawrence.

4. The School Chair attends professional conferences which present case studies of both successful programs and those in need of revision. Workshops conducted by the accreditation agency for studio art, the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, are attended every three years.

Don Byrum attended one workshop in the Fall of 2006 (National Council of Art Administrators).

H. SUMMARY OF YEARLY ACTIVITIES REGARDING ASSESSMENT

The Studio Art faculty met at various times throughout the Fall of 2006 and Spring of 2007 semesters. One issue concerning assessment was the teaching evaluations of Graduate students who teach directly, as well as assist a faculty member. As a result of these meetings, the faculty decided that a teaching practicum was advisable. Currently, the Studio Art faculty is requiring a one hour teaching practicum for all our GTA students who are assisting or teaching Studio courses: Art S 790, Graduate Teaching Seminar, a course which provides a structural approach to improving teaching efficiency to the MFA teaching assistants.

The Studio Art assessment plan for FY 2008 is to maintain the same structure as the FY 2007 plan. There was discussion of introducing a Graduate course in Gallery practices. This would inform and teach the Graduate student of the requirements needed to produce a professional quality exhibition.

John Boyd, Graduate Coordinator

SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN
SCHOOL ASSESSMENT
GRADUATE ALUMNI SURVEY REVIEW

September 25, 2007

Appendix A

The review is designed to measure student satisfaction with the Master of Fine Arts in Art degree program in the School of Art and Design (Studio Art: ceramics, painting/drawing, printmaking, and sculpture). The sample group are alumni graduated one year and three years.

MFA Alumni Sample: FY-07, FY-06

Number of Replies: 2

OPINION RANK 1 -5, LOW QUALITY – HIGH QUALITY Quality Questions:	SURVEY YEAR					Five Year Average
	<u>FY-05</u>	<u>FY-06</u>	<u>FY-07</u>	<u>FY-08</u>	<u>FY-09</u>	
Overall quality of the School of Art and Design.	4.33	5.0	4.0			4.44
Quality of specific major in art and design.	4.67	5.0	5.0			4.89
Quality of overall studies at Wichita State University.	4.50	5.0	N/A			4.75

OPINION OF POSITIVE RESPONSES, YES-NO Positive Questions: Adequate opportunities.

Independent studio work in major.	100%	100%	100%		100%
Work in collaborative projects.	100%	100%	N/A		100%
Participate in exhibitions.	100%	100%	100%		100%
Participate in classroom teaching.	100%	100%	100%		100%

OPINION OF INFLUENCE OF OPPORTUNITIES ON FINE ARTS CAREER DEVELOPMENT Rank: 1-5, N/A, No Influence – Tremendous Influence

Independent studio work in major.	4.67	5.00	5.00		4.89
Collaborative projects with peers.	5.00	3.00	2.00		3.33
Participation in student or media exhibitions.	5.00	3.00	4.00		4.00
Classroom teaching as assistant or instructor.	5.00	5.00	4.00		4.67

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION TO OTHERS Positive question, percentage.

You would recommend the School of Art and Design to someone Considering studying art and design.	100%	100%	100%		100%
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	<u>FY-05</u>	<u>FY-06</u>	<u>FY-07</u>	<u>FY-08</u>	<u>FY-09</u>	Five Year Average
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IMPORTANCE OF GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP EXPERIENCE ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING FACTORS Rank: 1-5, Terrible – Excellent

Freedom from inappropriate duties.	4.67	4.00	5.00	4.56
Supervision and guidance received from Graduate Faculty.	4.34	5.00	5.00	4.78
Contribution of assistantship or fellowship experiences to your career development.	5.00	5.00	4.00	4.67
Preparation for future professional responsibilities.	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

**IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN YOUR DECISION
TO ATTEND THE SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN**
Rank: 1-5, Not Important – Very Important

Location of the School/University.	4.34	5.00	3.00	5.78
Cost of Tuition.	3.00	1.00	2.00	2.00
Recommendation from a teacher/advisor.	3.00	1.00	4.00	2.67
Recommendation from an acquaintance.	3.34	5.00	4.00	4.11
Graduate assistantship/fellowship offer.	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Standard of quality education.	4.34	5.00	5.00	4.78
Reputation of the School of Art and Design.	3.67	5.00	4.00	4.22
Presence of particular faculty member(s).	3.00	5.00	3.00	3.67

Donald R. Byrum, School Chair
June 20, 2006

Appendix B

SEMI-ANNUAL M.F.A. EVALUATION

Master of Fine Arts student is evaluated on a semi-annual basis to determine progress in their

program of study. Each is reviewed by a graduate faculty team. In addition to the average score listed below, each student receives a narrative report of each review.

EVALUATION SCORES: 1 Unacceptable (Change Plan of Study), 2 Unsatisfactory (Review Again), 3 Acceptable (With Reservations), 4 Satisfactory (Continue W/Plan of Study), 5 High Quality

EVALUATION RANK 1 -5, UNACCEPTABLE – HIGH QUALITY, FY-07: 27 EVALUATIONS

EVALUATION YEAR					Five Year
<u>FY-06</u>	<u>FY-07</u>	<u>FY-08</u>	<u>FY-09</u>	<u>FY-10</u>	<u>Average</u>
4.23	3.41				3.82

Appendix C

SEMI-ANNUAL TEACHING EVALUATION GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Master of Fine Arts student appointed to as a Graduate Teaching Assistant is evaluated on a semi-annual basis to determine success as an instructor of record or teaching assistant. Each student is reviewed by a graduate faculty in their media area. In addition to the average score listed below, each student receives a narrative report of each review.

EVALUATION SCORES: 1 Unacceptable, 2 Unsatisfactory, 3 Acceptable, 4 Satisfactory, 5 High Quality

EVALUATION RANK 1 -5, UNACCEPTABLE – HIGH QUALITY, FY-07: 21 EVALUATIONS

EVALUATION YEAR					Five Year
<u>FY-06</u>	<u>FY-07</u>	<u>FY-08</u>	<u>FY-09</u>	<u>FY-10</u>	<u>Average</u>
4.9	4.14				4.52

Appendix D

EVALUATION OF MASTER OF FINE ARTS

TERMINAL PROJECT/THESIS PROPOSAL

Studio Art Graduate Faculty evaluates the Master of Fine Arts Terminal Project/Thesis Proposal to determine if the student will be admitted to the final stage of the degree program. In addition to the average score listed below, each student receives a narrative report of each review.

EVALUATION SCORES: 1 Unacceptable (Change Plan of Study), 2 Unsatisfactory (Review Again), 3 Acceptable (With Reservations), 4 Satisfactory (Continue W/Plan of Study), 5 High Quality

EVALUATION RANK 1 -5, UNACCEPTABLE – HIGH QUALITY, FY-07: 0 EVALUATIONS

EVALUATION YEAR					Five Year
<u>FY-06</u>	<u>FY-07</u>	<u>FY-08</u>	<u>FY-09</u>	<u>FY-10</u>	<u>Average</u>
2.0	(late data)				2.0

Appendix E

RECOMMENDATION FOR DEGREE MASTER OF FINE ARTS DEGREE IN STUDIO ART

Master of Fine Arts Thesis/Creative Project Committee evaluates the oral defense and the terminal project to determine completion of the M.F.A. degree and recommend the student to the Graduate School to confer the degree. In addition to the average score listed below, each student receives a narrative report of each review.

EVALUATION SCORES: 1 Unacceptable (Fail), 2 Unsatisfactory (Review Again), 3 Acceptable (Pass), 4 Very Good, 5 High Quality

EVALUATION RANK 1 -5, UNACCEPTABLE – HIGH QUALITY, FY-07: 3 EVALUATIONS

EVALUATION YEAR					Five Year
<u>FY-06</u>	<u>FY-07</u>	<u>FY-08</u>	<u>FY-09</u>	<u>FY-10</u>	<u>Average</u>
0	4.0				4.0