

GRADUATE PROGRAMS ASSESSMENT PLAN 2006-07
WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

Program Name: MASTER OF FINE ARTS DEGREE IN STUDIO ARTS Date:
10/03/06

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 3.25 overall grade point average for their last 60 undergraduate credit hours and must submit a slide portfolio of 15 artworks which provides evidence of artistic accomplishment. Finalists are interviewed by telephone to verify the interest and 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 entire graduate faculty.
- 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.
2. All MFA Graduate Faculty in Studio Art have the terminal degree.
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.
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.
5. The Studio Art Graduate Program has developed Exit Surveys for current and post graduate students.

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.

2. In the final three semesters, the student exercises observed methods of the assisting semesters to become an instructor-of-record. 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.

3. The 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 the final project course 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.

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. 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.

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.

3. 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.

H. SUMMARY OF YEARLY ACTIVITIES REGARDING ASSESSMENT

The Studio Art assessment plan for FY 2007 is to maintain the same structure as the FY 2006 plan.