

# Academic Assessment Plan

(BFA/Studio Art)

(May 16, 2025)

## Program Goals (3-4)

*(Program goals are broad general statements of what the program intends to accomplish and describes what a student will be able to do after completing the program. The program goals are linked to the mission of the university and college.)*

1. The program will cultivate creative thinkers and inventive problem solvers that are aware of contemporary technological, social, physical and cultural contexts.
2. The program will prepare students to be contributors to an interdisciplinary art and design world.
3. The program will ask students to experiment with form, technique and concept, while simultaneously understanding the historical precedents of their discipline(s).

## Student Learning Outcomes (6-8)

*(Student Learning Outcomes are defined in terms of the knowledge, skills, and abilities that students will know and be able to do as a result of completing a program. These student learning outcomes are directly linked to the accomplishment of the program goals.)*

1. Students will actively research, analyze and interpret the contemporary art and design world as it relates to their own, individual artistic practices.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to solve problems through art and design.
3. Students will develop the ability to be successful collaborators through the use of strong communication skills.
4. Students will practice experimenting with form, technique, and concept, pushing their work beyond expected outcomes.
5. Students will demonstrate the ability to be lateral thinkers through experimentation and exploration during concept development.
6. Students will identify and describe historical precedents in the justification of formal, technical and conceptual choices.

## Process for Assessing each Student Learning Outcome

*(A process must be defined and documented to regularly assess student learning and achievement of student learning outcomes. The results of the assessment must be utilized as input for the improvement of the program.)*

1. Timeline for assessment and analysis

*(Must include specific timeline for collection and analysis of assessment data.)*

**Direct Methods** are assessed by BFA coordinators of the School of Art at the end of every semester. **In-Direct methods** are monitored by the Director, Dean, Provost through the Annual Report and the fields of student through external achievements of students continuing in the studio art and design fields.

**The Annual Report** is submitted annually in July.

2. Means of assessment and desired level of student achievement  
*(Must include at least one direct and one indirect method of assessment for each learning outcome.)*

**Direct Method:**

BFA Students participate in formal critiques each year in which they are assessed by a group of faculty and peers. Each reviewer fills out an assessment form, articulating aspects of the work that are successful, aspects of the work that need further development, and additional resources to aid students in their growth and achievement. These reports are sent directly to the students and to members of the Undergraduate committee.

**In-direct Method:**

BFA students are required to maintain a 3.0 or higher grade point average withing the School of Art, and at least a 2.0 grade point average in the overall university.

3. Reporting of results  
*(Must at least report annually to the Dean of college/school.)*

**Annual Academic Assessment Report**

- Each semester, the BFA program assesses student studio artwork through critiques that are separate from regular coursework. A group of faculty and peers review the BFA student in all areas for forty minutes, which is an extended amount of time compared to what is possible in a class setting. Assessment includes describing what elements are successful in the student work, describing what areas need more improvement, and additional research suggestions. Overall, the written assessments are rich and in-depth, and reflective of engaging student work. As we move forward, the Undergraduate committee plans to gather documentation of the actual student artwork to serve as a record and a repository.
- Overall, grades are above average. Students are expected to maintain a 3.0 grade point average within the School of Art.
- The BFA Capstone course had it's largest cohort ever this spring at 29 students. We will be running two sections of Capstone next spring (2026) to accommodate the now consistently large cohorts. It is a testament to the strength of the program that our graduating classes keep increasing in size; there is sustained excitement and motivation amongst the students to be a part of the BFA program. Moving forward, the Undergraduate committee will be collecting documentation of student artwork and student coursework from Capstone, to act as a resource for faculty, for future cohorts, and for future assessment.
- This spring 2025, we took students on the second annual Capstone trip to Kansas City. Our goal is to expose students to the wealth of resources available to them as practicing artists, and how to seek out those types of resources wherever they may end up. We visited the Charlotte Street Foundation, where students learned about the residency program, the opportunities for curators, their community events, resources and library that is open to all. We also visited the Nerman Museum, where students were able to see and study contemporary artwork up close and in person.

- **The Undergraduate committee is researching and gathering information with the goal of providing recommendations for the eventual creation of a Studio Art Minor. This research is still in process.**