

Academic Assessment Plan
MFA in Studio Art
May 2021

Program Goals

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.

- As the terminal degree in the field, the MFA program will cultivate achievement of the highest level of professional skill in the graduate student's area of study in visual arts and contemporary practices requiring:
 - A demonstrated formal and technical proficiency in the major studio area
 - A demonstrated conceptual development supporting creative research
 - An ability to locate the work within the context of contemporary and historical issues in art (including references to other artists and art movements influential to the development of the work) and placing the research within visual culture.
 - An ability to successfully articulate the basis of research in written and verbal form
- The program asks students to rigorously deconstruct their practice. Risk-taking and experimentation are employed towards the goal of expanding the scope and depth of their work. Study of art history, critical theory, and visual culture furthers understanding of the implications of the work in the contemporary context.
- The program prepares students to be contributors to an interdisciplinary art and design world as creative thinkers and inventive problem solvers who are cognizant of technological, social, physical, political, and cultural contexts.
- The program provides teaching, technical, and leadership experience through Graduate Assistantships, workshops, residencies, and competitive research grants, which will make our students more marketable.

Student Learning Outcomes

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 evaluate their own methodology through active research, analysis, and interpretation of contemporary art and design as it relates to their own research to solidify a foundation for their studio practice.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to solve complex problems by employing art and design principles through requirements including the design and installation of a solo exhibition of thesis work in their third year.
3. Students will master technical processes specific to their concentration area and learn new skills towards an interdisciplinary practice.
4. Students will develop the ability to be successful collaborators through the use of strong communication skills.
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 and contemporary practices as they relate to cultural production and employ critical theory in the justification of formal, technical and conceptual decisions.
7. Students will learn the teaching and technical skills needed to apply for university- level teaching positions and other art-related career positions.

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.

- **Timeline for assessment and analysis**

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

Direct Methods are assessed by the School of Art Director of Graduate Studies, and MFA Graduate Committee at the end of every semester. At the end of the spring semester, Academic Progress forms are completed and sent to the Graduate School. Indirect methods are monitored by the Director of Graduate Studies, Director of Studio Art, Director and Associate Director of the School of Art, Dean, Provost through the Annual Report and through the external achievements of students continuing in the studio art and design fields. The Annual Report is submitted annually in July.

- **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 Methods

- Graduate Critiques

All MFA students are required to participate in regular reviews critiquing their artworks.

- For first- and second-year students, these reviews involve both a mid-term critique conducted by several faculty members and a final critique attended by a selected graduate faculty members and MFA students. Faculty evaluate the work for evidence of the above listed program goals and learning outcomes 1-6 via written evaluations with numerical scores. Evaluation responses are collated into a spreadsheet for review by the Director of Graduate Studies as well as returned to the individual student. Any student scoring below expectations on any of the criteria will have their scores and comments forwarded to the lead faculty member in their studio area, so that any weak areas can be addressed.

- Candidacy Review and Graduate Committees

Third-year MFA's who have attained candidacy will meet regularly with their thesis committee for input and evaluation.

- Candidacy Application and Review: After completion of four semesters in the MFA degree program, the student will make application to be a candidate for completion of the MFA degree. A committee of graduate faculty members will conduct a formal review of the applicant's work and progress in the program. The awarding of candidacy will be dependent upon a three-fourths majority vote by the student's graduate faculty committee based on the following criteria:
 - Demonstrated formal and technical proficiency in the applicant's major studio.
 - Conceptual development as demonstrated by growth in ideas supporting the applicant's creative research.
 - An ability to locate their research in the context of issues and practices within contemporary and historical art issues.
 - The ability to communicate the intention and basis of their research in coherent written and verbal form.

At least two regular semesters of residence must be completed after acceptance as a degree candidate. Students who do not pass the Candidacy Review will be allowed one additional Candidacy Review, held during the following regular semester. Students failing to pass Candidacy the second time will be dismissed from the program.

- Graduate Committee and Major Adviser: When the student has been accepted as a degree candidate, the student will select a major adviser from the graduate studio art faculty. The major adviser will serve as adviser to the student in planning the completion of the program of study. At least one semester before graduation, a four- or five-member committee of graduate art faculty will be selected. The student's major adviser will be chairperson of this committee, and one member of the graduate committee will represent the art history or criticism area. The degree candidate may select one additional committee member from a discipline outside the School of Art.

- Graduate Assistant Evaluations
Teaching and technical skills (learning outcome 7) are monitored by the students' Graduate Assistant Supervisor(s), who submit evaluation reports twice per semester. Each GA is assigned to a supervisor/s who writes a duty sheet describing the assignment and distributes to the GA through the Graduate Coordinator along with the GA contract in the beginning of each semester. The Graduate Coordinator collects GA Evaluation sheets twice per semester at midterms and finals in order to assess performance in the GA Assignment area. Areas of assessment include quality of work performed, completing duties on time, punctuality and reliability for the duration of duties, and faculty prerogative on continuance in the assignment. If a GA receives one evaluation in which they are not meeting the expectations of the assignment, it will be met with a warning from the Director of Graduate Studies. If a GA receives two consecutive evaluations from the same supervisor in which expectations of the assignment are still not being met, the MFA Student may lose their Graduate Assistantship per graduate faculty vote. A MFA Student may also lose their Graduate Assistantship at any time with 60-days notice.

- Indirect Method:
 - MFA students are required to maintain a 2.85 or higher grade point average overall, or will be placed on academic probation. After two consecutive semesters on academic probation, the student may be dismissed from the program and will lose their Graduate Assistantship.

- **Reporting of Results**
Must at least report annually to the Dean of college/school.
 - Based on findings from assessment, a summary will be provided to the Dean's office via the department chair each July in the Annual Report.

Report annually to the Dean of the college/school the following:

- **Results of analysis of assessment of Student Learning Outcomes**

- On the Annual Academic Progress forms to be submitted to the Graduate School in 2021 for returning MFA's, twenty-two of twenty-two have made satisfactory progress towards completion of the MFA degree in Studio Art during the 2019-2020 academic year. Two students, one in their first year and one in their second year have withdrawn from the program for personal reasons at the end of the spring semester.
- In August of 2020, four class of 2020 MFAs successfully completed their MFA thesis exhibitions and submitted their final written thesis to the Graduate School with the approval of the thesis chairs and committees. These four students were delayed May completion due to campus closure, but were able to finish all requirements in the summer of 2020.
- Twelve of thirteen class of 2021 MFA's successfully presented thesis exhibitions, with seven of thirteen completing their exhibition statement and graduating at the May deadline. One student was forced to defer graduation due to a work-related injury, and is scheduled to finish in Spring 2022. The five remaining students have successfully presented their thesis exhibitions and are on-schedule to complete their written statements and graduate in August 2021.
- In total, from July 2020 to July 2021, eleven MFA students completed their degree.
- One student was dismissed from the program because of a failure to pass Candidacy in August 2020, after two attempts.
- Nine of ten second year MFA's proceeded with Candidacy Reviews as scheduled in May, 2021. All nine passed candidacy with unanimous faculty support. The tenth student, who did not participate, elected not to do so in anticipation of withdrawing from the program (and in consultation with faculty mentors).
- Thirteen of thirteen first year (and third-semester) MFA students received composite evaluation scores from the faculty following midterm and final critiques indicating that they met or exceeded expectations in the below areas:
 - Conceptual Development
 - Craftsmanship/Technical Proficiency
 - Formal Qualities of the work
 - Productivity
 - Presentation, including visual, verbal, and written discussion of ideas and contexts supporting the work
- Of the thirty-six MFA students who were enrolled in 2020-21 courses, thirty-six received grades of As and Bs in Art Studio (major and studio electives) and Art History (including Contemporary Art History and Critical Theory) courses. One student received two grades of "incomplete," one in the fall term, and one in the spring.

- Overall, the thirty-six Graduate Assistants (GAs) including TAs and instructors for our Foundations and Studio Art courses received strong scores, meeting and/or exceeding their supervisors' expectations. No unsatisfactory performances were noted in the 2020-21 AY. The majority of the evaluation scores from faculty supervisors were excellent.
- Many external achievements have been noted in 2020/21, and our MFA's have been very successful with securing external opportunities. Here are some examples (though the list is not exhaustive):
 - Thomas Coffey (MFA 2020)
 - *Exhibitions*
 - *Thomas Coffey* | Solo Exhibition, The Apollo on Emma, Springdale, AR
 - *Small Works Pop-up* | Group Exhibition, Sutton Hylton Gallery, Bentonville, AR
 - *Sutton Hylton Gallery Launch* | Group Exhibition, Sutton Hylton Gallery, Bentonville, AR
 - Shelby Fleming (MFA 2020)
 - *Exhibitions*
 - *The Shape of Our World*, Art Ventures: Jim and Joyce Faulkner Performing Arts Center, Fayetteville, AR
 - *Art Must Go On*, Scattered Gallery Project, London, United Kingdom, Online Exhibition
 - *Queers Just Want to Have Fun*, Queerly Collective, Online Exhibition
 - *Solo Exhibition*, The Apollo on Emma, Springdale, AR
 - *Publications/Press*
 - *Art Saint Louis "Varisty Art" Artist Q&A Series Two*, Roxanne Phillips, Art Saint Louis Blog, 1 July 2020.
 - *Shelby Fleming*, artFIXYMX Radio, London, England
 - Ashley Gardner (MFA 2020)
 - *Exhibitions*
 - #SelfQuarantine, Lenscratch, Online Exhibition
 - Full House, Local Host Gallery, Online Gallery Exhibition
 - *Publications/Press*
 - Polemical Zine, Issue 13: Dreams, (Collaboration with Robert Gordon)
 - Artist feature, Arkansas Times' Arkansas Made
 - Kalyn Barnoski (MFA 2021)
 - *Exhibitions*
 - BETTER TOGETHER. Group exhibition. Wells College. Aurora, NY. POSTPONED.
 - POST YES BILLS! Group exhibition. University of Akron Emily Davis Gallery. Akron, OH.
 - DISTRESS/DISTRUST. Juried exhibition. Little D Gallery. Oklahoma City, OK.
 - Word, Image, Object, Action. Group exhibition. TRANSMITTER Gallery. Brooklyn, NY.
 - Disconnected. Group exhibition. Bend Gallery. Virtual. Chicago, IL.
 - Graduate Exchange Show. Group Exhibition. Syracuse University. Syracuse, NY.
 - shackingUP: Intersections in Cohabitation. Group Exhibition. PhGallery. West Fork, AR.
 - All of Us / All at Once. Solo Exhibition. PhGallery. West Fork, AR.

- *Residencies/Workshops*
 - In Cahoots Residency. Petaluma, CA.
 - Women's Studio Workshop. Rosendale, NY.
- *Performances*
 - Folk Alliance International. Official Showcase. New Orleans, LA.
 - Live at Cain's Ballroom. Virtual.
 - The John F. Kennedy Center for the Arts. Arts Across America. Virtual.
 - Philbrook Museum of Art. Heart of Our People Exhibition. Tulsa, OK
- Trinity Kai (MFA 2021)
 - *Exhibitions*
 - Unseen Imprints, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, AR Solo Exhibition
- Acadia Kandora (MFA 2021)
 - *Exhibitions*
 - Answering Earth, Group Exhibition, Rural Midwest Artist Cooperative, Midwest Reforestation,
 - Full House, Group Exhibition, localhost Gallery, localhost.gallery
 - Looking For America, Group Exhibition, Springdale Public Library, Springdale, AR
 - Looking For America, Group Exhibition, Fayetteville Public Library, Fayetteville, AR
 - Looking For America, Group Exhibition, NWACC, Integrated Design Lab, Bentonville, AR
 - *Publications/Press*
 - Tipping Point, The MAPC Journal Vol. 32/33, Mid America Print Council
 - Land and Body Revisited, Interview with Shelby Fleming, Creative Spaces North West Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR
 - Put It In Print Featured Artist, Video, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art Bentonville, AR
 - ARTS883 Interview, KXUA 88.3FM, Fayetteville, AR
 - A Changing America Artist Panel, Fayetteville Public Library, Fayetteville, AR
 - *Lectures/Workshops*
 - Maker Sessions: Relief Printmaking, Series of 8 workshops, Scott Family Amazeum, Bentonville, AR
 - Presentation, MAPC 2020 Travel/Research Grant Awardees Panel, MAPC 2020 Remote Symposium
 - *Residencies/Awards*
 - MAPC 2020 Travel/Research Grant, Mid America Print Council. Postponed due to COVID-19
 - Windgate Maker in Residence, Scott Family Amazeum, Bentonville, AR
- Minah Kim (MFA 2021)
 - *Exhibitions*
 - It Was Always Us! Perrodin Supplies, Co. Springdale, AR
 - NCECA Student Juried National Exhibitionn. DAAP Gallery, CT. Juror: Jessika Edgar. Malcolm Mobutu Smith
 - Imaginative Garden, theiplatform, London, UK
 - *Workshops/Residencies*
 - (Forthcoming) MASS MoCA, MS, US

- (Forthcoming) Vermont Studio Center, VT, US
- Grants
 - NCECA Multicultural Fellowship
 - Artist 360, Mid-America Arts Alliance, KS
- Taylor Loftin (MFA 2021)
 - Exhibitions
 - Very Cool, Binder Projects, Memphis, TN
 - Young Painters Competition, Heistand Gallery, Miami University, Oxford, OH
curated by Ebony G. Patterson
 - Mirror Eye, Ortega y Gasset Projects, Brooklyn, NY, curated by Kate Mothes & FarxWide
 - Exhibition #4, ToPaintersToPaintings, curated by Meredith Rosen (online)
- Chris Schultz (MFA 2021)
 - Exhibitions
 - Really Good Show – Levitt Gallery – Iowa City, Iowa
 - Residencies/Workshops
 - Airy – Kofu City, Japan, Summer 2021 (Residency)
- Jonathan Green (MFA 2022)
 - Exhibitions
 - Rise, False Cast Gallery, San Diego, CA
 - Tight as Leather, Parallelogram Gallery, Tampa, FL
 - MASTER PIECES, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
 - Identity II, Envision Arts Magazine (online)
 - Everything but the Kitchen Sync, La Luz de Jesus Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
 - UTK Exchange Exhibition, Gallery 1010, Knoxville, TN
 - January Group Exhibition, Jones Gallery, Kansas City, MO
 - Press
 - The Huts Magazine, Issue No. 1, Contemporary Art Magazine, December 2020
 - Lumiere Review, Issue No. 3, Literary Magazine, December 2020
 - Awards
 - Scholarship, Drawing Marathon, New York Studio School, NY
- Tay Butler (MFA 2022)
 - Exhibitions
 - “Slowed and Thrown: Records of the City through Mutated Lenses”,
Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston TX
 - “Oracles of the Other”, Modified Arts, Phoenix AZ
 - Press
 - CAMH: In Conversation <https://camh.org/event/conversation-patricia-restrepo-camhexhibitions-manager-assistant-curator-artists-tay-butler-robert-hodge-ayanna-jolivetmcloud/>
 - Kolaj magazine, <http://kolajmagazine.com/artistdirectory/tay-butler>
- Adam Fulwiler (MFA 2022)
 - Exhibitions
 - Raw, University of Montana, Online MFA Exhibition.
 - Sutton Hylton, Inaugural Exhibition, Bentonville, AR.
 - 40th Annual SECURA Exhibition, The Trout Museum of Art, Appleton, WI.

- Awards
 - Oxbow Fellowship, University of Arkansas.
- Publications/Press
 - Studio Break Podcast, Interview by David Linneweh (Online)
- Brit Borchert (MFA 2023)
 - Exhibitions
 - Art & Cultures Gallery, Alverno College, Milwaukee, WI
 - *Art is in the Air*, Dane County Airport, Madison, WI
- Nick Hobbs (MFA 2023)
 - Exhibitions
 - *Softcore*, IRL Gallery, Brooklyn, N.Y.
 - *New Media*, The In Art Gallery, www.theinartgallery.com (virtual)
 - *36th Annual International Exhibition*, U.T. Tyler, Tyler, T.X.
 - *DRAWN*, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, O.H.
 - *College Invitational*, Indianapolis Art Center, Indianapolis, I.N.
 - *BLOOM!*, R.W. Norton Art Gallery, Shreveport, L.A.
 - *Fresh Produce*, Big Room Gallery, Monroe, L.A.
- Skyler Maggiore (MFA 2023)
 - Exhibitions
 - *Untitled*, Darkside Collective, curated by Nat Raum (online)
 - Lectures/Residencies
 - Visiting Artist, MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN
 - Anderson Ranch Summer Workshop, Snowmass Village, CO
 - Publications/Press
 - Lenscratch, Photographers on Photographers: Nicole Norman in conversation with Skyler Maggiore, August 19 (online)
 - Nat Raum, *Moon Soaked*, Cumulus Photo x Fifth Wheel Press, July 2020 (online & print)
 - LB, *Stone Fruit Issue 03 Sanctuary*, Perfectly Acceptable Press, June 2020 (print)
 - Kris Graves, *Not Wrong No. 2: Solace* (oversized), Kris Graves Projects, May 2020 (online & print)
- **Any changes to degree/certificate planned or made on the basis of the assessment and analysis**
 - None
- **Any changes to the assessment process made or planned.**
 - None