Undergraduate Program Assessment

Department of Art, Architecture, and Art History

Student Learning Objectives

Studio Art

- Demonstrate mastery of technique, especially in their discipline.
- Articulate an understanding of the formal qualities of fine and applied arts media.
- Demonstrate visually an understanding of formal elements in their own artwork and articulate such an understanding in the artwork of their peers.
- Write creatively and critically about the arts and understand research methods and principles.
- Develop their own voice in interpreting art criticism; raise clear and precise questions; use abstract ideas to interpret information; consider diverse points of view; reach well-reasoned conclusions; and test those conclusions against relevant criteria and standards.
- Describe and locate fine art in relation to history and culture, both western and non-western. Understand and articulate inter-relationships among the arts. Apply the principles and concepts of the field to new situations.

Architecture

- Ability to raise clear and precise questions, use abstract ideas to interpret information, consider diverse points of view, reach well-reasoned conclusions, and test them against relevant criteria and standards.
- Ability to use appropriate representational media, including freehand drawing and computer technology.
- Ability to recognize the varied talent found in interdisciplinary design project teams in professional practice and work in collaboration with other students as members of a design team.
- Ability to design both site and building to accommodate individuals with varying physical abilities.
- Ability to respond to natural and built site characteristics in the development of a program and the design of a project.
- Ability to conceptually integrate systems into building design.

Art History (updated Spring 2017)

1. **Art History majors will acquire visual literacy as an integral part of critical thinking.** By mastering visual analysis of works of art in all of its components – formal elements, style, iconography, cultural and historical context – they will understand how art expresses ideas and values.
   - Majors will learn how to translate skillful acquisition of visual and documentary information into clear and effective writing and speaking, that integrate the synthesis of abstract ideas with analysis of art and visual culture.
   - *In so doing, majors will recognize the fundamental relevance of the visual arts as significant expressions of complex and often conflicting social and political values in contemporary as well as historical cultures.*

2. **Art History majors will develop an understanding of complex reasoning** involved in analyzing the process of historical continuity between past and present in the visual art, as this process reflects the fundamental relevance of the visual arts in documenting and expressing diversity of human values and beliefs, societies and cultures, economic status and social class, and technological change in past and present.
   - *In so doing, majors will comprehend and apply the vast historical heritage of visual culture, its beauty, its values, and its ability to cast light on both the past and the present, especially in the ways that historical visual culture molds our broader understanding and perception of the world in the present and future.*

3. **Art History Majors will acquire and learn to apply a wide spectrum of practical skills** gained through visual analysis, course work, independent research, internships, museum visits, and
other hand-on elements of an art historical education, in practical ways that will **contribute to innovative thinking**, both in a successful career in many different fields, and to intellectual development and personal fulfillment for a lifetime.

- **Majors will use their practical mastery of current knowledge, methodology and research techniques** to work with original documents and works of art, to develop a sophisticated command of traditional print and photographic resources, and to incorporate into their professional lives the newest developments in digital techniques and resources.

- **In so doing, Art History majors will acquire both motivation for deep learning, and the ability to synthesize what they have acquired through study, in order to perform innovative thinking in a lifetime of work, personal fulfillment, and beneficial contributions to their cultural and social environment.**

**Assessment tools**

**Studio Art program:**
- Students are expected to produce a body of artwork that is based on their individual intentions. They are expected to place this body of work in context in their thesis paper and defend the work in an orals examination with their faculty committee. The artwork and thesis paper are permanently archived in the Department.

- **Direct method:** Internal and external review of design work at “Junior/Senior” Exhibit (outcomes assessment tool unrelated to course grade)

**Design program:**
- **Direct method:** Internal and external review of design work at “Junior/Senior” Exhibit (outcomes assessment tool unrelated to course grade)

**Art History program:**
- **Direct method:** assessment of students’ performance in critical writing, through evaluation of an assignment from Junior Year Writing course and Integrative Experience course.