

Learning Goals: The Program in Art, Design and Art History, Department of Arts, Culture and Media

Program Goals

To develop artists, designers, and art historians with the disciplinary knowledge and skills that will enable them to successfully compete in their desired fields. With this, students should gain the ability to apply their liberal arts education to life-long learning. Our intent is to empower students to be able to integrate their education and creative thinking through effective analysis, decision-making and problem solving to address personal, ethical, and social responsibilities.

Student Learning Outcomes

A basic understanding and introduction to all the visual arts coupled with a focused understanding of their chosen concentration, Art History, Graphic Design and Fine Arts (Fine Arts includes Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture, and Computer Art).

Students should possess the ability to present sophisticated critical judgments regarding the historical, creative and technical aspects of art and design.

Students should possess a strong foundation of theory and skills that will allow them to adapt to creative and technical innovations in their field and/or graduate studies.

Students should understand what it means to creatively, effectively, and appropriately communicate and inform.

Students should understand the historical and cultural dimensions of Art, Design and Art History.

In the case of Art and Design, students are preparation for an entry-level position in a professional design studio or visual art organization that draws upon skills acquired as part of the visual art major.

In the case of Art History, students have honed their writing and research skills to a point where they can be applied variety applications of their degree, from graduate study to entry level positions in museums and commercial galleries.

Measuring Outcomes

BFA Portfolio Review: As part of the BFA in Art and Design, students' portfolios are reviewed before they are accepted in to the program. For current BA students hoping to enter the more prestigious and rigorous BFA program, the review offers the opportunity to assess their work up to that point in their studies. The review also provides a benchmark against which the students' future progress can be measured.

Evaluation of Classroom Work: In lecture classes, particularly in Art History, students regularly take exams that monitor their acquisition of course material, and they also are regularly required to complete a variety of written assignments. These standard tools of student assessment also serve to monitor the effectiveness of the curriculum as a whole, providing insights into the strengths and weaknesses of particular pedagogical strategies.

Classroom Critiques: Studio courses within the program often use the critique mode for project assessment. Through this method, students are given the opportunity to present and articulate their ideas and concepts for the given problem/project. Students then receive feedback from the instructors and other students on the formal and conceptual validity of their solutions. Students' homework usually consists of reactions and revisions based on these weekly critiques. Through this process the students develop a strong vocabulary that allows for greater confidence and understanding as well as, the ability to self-analyze their work in the future.

Capstone Courses: In Fine Art and Graphic Design, the Senior Studio Seminar classes are our program's capstone courses. These seminars are a forum for students to display their understanding of the curriculum and to formulate a creative and conceptual response to various self-initiated problems. Guided by a senior faculty member, students develop a portfolio of original artwork and designs that showcase their ability to problem solve and visually represent advanced concepts within the fields of Art and Design. These portfolios of student work are presented at the Paul Robeson Galley during their final semester. In Art History, a rigorously conceived Senior Seminar in Art History produces graduates with focused career goals and the ability to synthesize and optimize the skills they have acquired during their time in the program. The Senior Seminar requires the completion of a specialized research project, and includes discussions of methodology and theory, strategies for original research, meetings with professionals with backgrounds in Art History, and a Senior Symposium where the students present their final project in a formal public lecture.