

Art Program Student Learning Outcome Goals

Student learning outcomes of the program have been brought into line with the Mission of the University and the student learning outcomes of the National Association of Schools of Art & Design (NASAD), which is our accrediting body. NASAD requires that, “Students enrolled in professional undergraduate degrees in art and design are expected to develop the knowledge, skills, concepts, and sensitivities essential to the professional life of the artist/designer. In any of many possible roles, the professional must exhibit not only technical competence, but also broad knowledge of art/design, the ability to integrate art/design knowledge and skills, and an insight into the role of art/design in intellectual and cultural life.” (NASAD Handbook, p. 79)

According to NASAD, “Upon graduation students must possess:

1. A developed visual sensitivity;
2. The technical skills, perceptual development, and understanding of principles of visual organization sufficient to achieve basic visual communication and expression in one or more media;
3. Ability to make workable connections between concept and media; and
4. Some familiarity with the works and intentions of major artists/designers and movements of the past and the present, both in the Western and non-Western worlds.” (NASAD Handbook, p. 78)

To the NASAD requirements, and in keeping with the mission of the University, the art program adds the following two competencies:

5. An increased aesthetic awareness that includes a knowledge of the social, cultural, political, and economic context for art, and
6. A response to art that takes the concerns of social justice into consideration. All art majors should be able to create original artwork upon graduation. To that end, every art major must successfully complete Senior Capstone, a class which teaches students how to present their work, write an artist’s statement, and participate in professional exhibitions. Competency is determined by the work produced for the Senior Exhibit which is the culmination of this course.

Senior Capstone also prepares students to both apply for an MFA program and continue toward a post-graduate degree, or to research and apply for work in the professional art world. There are many job/life options open to art majors: teaching, curatorial work, arts administration, art criticism/arts writing, exhibiting, public art, crafts, exhibition design, gallery work, development/grants-writing, or creating other unique opportunities in the art world.

For every student who participates in the art program the universal outcome is to enrich the life of the student by instilling an appreciation for the arts, which will result in a life-long learning process in this field.