

2021 Visual Arts Assessment Plan

MISSION OF THE VISUAL ARTS MAJOR, ALIGNED WITH STUDENT LEARNING GOALS OF WELLS COLLEGE

The visual arts as a major area of study offers students the opportunity to develop:

1. An informed understanding of aesthetics and visual language
2. An acute and engaged sense of visual literacy and communication
3. Creative problem-solving skills
4. Experience with various technical skills in a range of media
5. The ability to critically describe and analyze visual images, both past and present, with an accurate vocabulary and informed discourse (written, oral, art making/artistic expression)
6. Meaningful links between contemporary trends and conceptual practices with those from the past
7. An understanding of the relationship between art and society.
8. An awareness of professional standards and best practices involved with the development, distribution and presentation of creative work.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS OF WELLS COLLEGE

CONTENT

1. Breadth of knowledge
Understanding the physical world, cultures, individuals, personal health and well being
2. Depth in field
Developing expertise in a chosen major field
3. Career preparation
Acquiring substantive and professional competence

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

1. Fundamental literacies
 - The ability to read critically across the disciplines
 - The ability to employ effectively oral, written and expressive communications
 - The ability to identify and evaluate relevant information
2. Critical thinking and application
 - The ability to use reasoning and evaluative skills in distinctive modes of inquiry and analysis
3. Ethical decision making
 - The ability to reason wisely and act humanely

4. Creativity

- The ability to transcend established understandings to discover something new

5. Metacognitive

- The ability to use self reflective skills to understand what one knows, how one learns, and how to use resources effectively and to seek help

6. Skills and beliefs to navigate living and working in community

- The ability to engage in problem solving and to work in a team environment
- The ability to manage time effectively and to possess a positive work ethic
- The ability to offer and accept constructive criticism, to possess self confidence, be flexible, adapt quickly and work well under pressure

VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM GOAL FOR 2021-22:

As we rebuild the Studio Art program, we will focus on the program objective of Critique and Informed Decision Making because this aspect of our curriculum allows us to continue to build on collaborative work across the department as we support students to draw on art historical study to develop critically-engaged studio and writing practices.

CRITIQUE AND INFORMED DECISION MAKING

Analyze, verbally and in writing, past and contemporary works of art and purposefully adapt/appropriate techniques, forms, methodologies, or concepts through artistic production and critically engaged writing assignments.

College Learning Goals:

- Content: Breadth of Knowledge, Depth in Field, Career Preparation
- Essential Skills: Fundamental Literacies, Critical Thinking and Application, Creativity, Metacognitive

LEARNING OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES AND VALIDATIONS

Objective 1: Connect the history of art and study of visual culture with contemporary practice by relating students' individual practices (methods, media, techniques and subject matter) to those of the past.

Outcome 1:

Visual Arts Majors will be able to identify critical methodologies.

- ➔ Validation: Participation in Senior Seminar Discussions; in-class discussions; formal oral report; research papers; response papers

Outcome 2:

Students in the Art History concentration will begin to use critical approaches.

- ➔ Validation: Senior Thesis; research papers in 300-level classes; formal oral report;

response papers

Outcome 3:

Students in the Studio concentration will apply appropriate historical and contemporary techniques, styles and media towards their own expressions.

→ Validation: Senior critiques; Creative Arts Projects; exhibitions; Senior Thesis Exhibition

Outcome 4:

Students in the Studio concentration will apply informed conceptual frameworks in their own expressions.

→ Validation: Senior critiques; special projects; exhibitions; Senior Thesis Exhibition