

## Assessment Cycle 2022-2023

**Program: Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) (214)**

**College: Arts and Sciences**

**Prepared by: Leslie Gruesbeck**

**Date: 05/29/2023**

**Approved by: Dr. Francene Lemoine**

**Date: 06/19/2023**

**Northwestern State University Mission:** Northwestern State University is a responsive, student-oriented institution committed to acquiring, creating, and disseminating knowledge through innovative teaching, research, and service. With its certificate, undergraduate, and graduate programs, Northwestern State University prepares its increasingly diverse student population to contribute to an inclusive global community with a steadfast dedication to improving our region, state, and nation.

**College of Arts and Sciences' Mission:** College of Arts and Sciences' Mission. The College of Arts & Sciences, the largest college at Northwestern State University, is a diverse community of scholars, teachers, and students, working collaboratively to acquire, create, and disseminate knowledge through transformational, high-impact experiential learning practices, research, and service. The College strives to produce graduates who are productive members of society equipped with the capability to promote economic and social development and improve the overall quality of life in the region. The College provides an unequalled undergraduate education in the social and behavioral sciences, English, communication, journalism, media arts, biological and physical sciences, and the creative and performing arts, and at the graduate level in the creative and performing arts, English, TESOL, and Homeland Security. Uniquely, the College houses the Louisiana Scholars' College (the State's designated Honors College), the Louisiana Folklife Center, and the Creole Center, demonstrating its commitment to community service, research, and preservation of Louisiana's precious resources.

**Department of Fine and Graphic Arts:** The mission of the Department of Fine and Graphic Arts within the Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts operates under the mission of the university as a whole. This mission involves three primary goals: first, to provide quality instruction in a variety of disciplines; second, to encourage creative activity and scholarship; and third, to serve the college and surrounding community via the educational, cultural, and economic opportunities provided by the university.

A broad range of educational offerings in fine and applied art and art history, in conjunction with the university's core curriculum, provides in-depth study for the professional major, as well as a body of knowledge associated with a liberal arts degree.

In addition to facilities, expertise, and instruction regarding traditional media,

## Assessment Cycle 2022-2023

the Department has a strong commitment to technologically enhanced instruction and relevant technology curriculum. The availability of new technology and instruction is considered imperative by the faculty and administration.

The Department is committed to an academic and professional environment which encourages creative activities, scholarship, and research. Faculty development in the areas of personal research and creative growth, technological competencies, and teaching is nourished by the department and the university as a whole. This emphasis on active professional competence promotes excellence while engaging the public in university activities.

The university serves a diverse cultural and economic audience encompassing not only the local area, but also the state, region, and beyond. Students come from small communities as well as metropolitan areas. Through academic offerings, art exhibitions, and the contributions of students to the community and graduates to the work force, the Department is deeply tied to the surrounding community. The unit is committed to an environment of mutual respect, in which academic and cultural opportunities are made available helping to meet the educational, cultural, and professional needs of the community at large.

**Bachelor of Fine Arts Program Mission Statement:** Students in the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program will experience a thorough educational experience in the visual arts. They will learn a variety of foundational principles and mediums in art that will lead to upper level specificity and personal development. Each concentration will help the students reach their personal career and artistic goals by giving them opportunities through projects and class assignments to develop skills, habits, style, and artistic voice. These class experiences will culminate with professional studies, business practices, and the capstone Senior Exhibition in order to provide the students with experience in planning, processing, and carrying out professional artistic and design practice. The students should graduate with a portfolio and experience to begin professional practice or graduate studies.

**Methodology:** The assessment process for the BFA program is as follows:

1. Data from assessment tools (both direct – indirect, quantitative, and qualitative) are collected and returned to the program chair.
2. The program chair will analyze the data to determine whether student have met measurable outcomes.
3. Results from the assessment will be discussed with the program faculty.
4. Individual meetings will be held with faculty if required (show cause).

## Assessment Cycle 2022-2023

The Program Chair will propose changes to measurable outcomes, assessment tools for the assessment period and, where needed, curricular and program changes.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

**SLO 1. Through directed studies in art and design, students secure an in-depth understanding and application of visual art techniques.**

**Course Map:** Tied to course syllabus objectives in all ART courses

**Measure:** Testable through projects, annual student reviews with faculty advising committees, and class critiques. Data will be collected through curricular benchmarks, annual student review rubric forms, and course reports. Faculty advising committees will collect data at annual student reviews. Data collected will allow faculty to assess current and future curricular needs. Acceptable data would show 50% of students secure an in-depth understanding and application of visual art techniques as indicated by their earning a 3.5 or better on the review rubric. The ideal target data would be 80% of students earning a 3.5 or better on the review rubric. Achieving this target would indicate that students are reaching a competitive level of professional proficiency early in their studies.

**Findings:** Target met.

**Analysis:** In AC 2021-2022, the target was not met. Student review results (n=90) showed 55% of students reviewed met with an in-depth understanding and application of visual art techniques as indicated by their earning a 3.5 or better on the review rubric. Our students struggled with the return to campus and the demands of face-to-face courses. However, of graduating seniors (n=19), 89% met the required target for this SLO 1.

Based on the analysis of AC 2021-2022, the faculty implemented more in-class demonstrations on topics found difficult by students in order to better explain requirements of the assignments. The faculty implemented rapid instruction in basic tool use for students with tool use deficits. Faculty explained and adhered to absentee policies established by the university to aid students in understanding the importance of attendance. New faculty and a growing culture of care and responsibility have positively impacted the department and its students. Moving forward, the faculty sought to improve advising and invested time in exposing students to best practices and outside experiences like field trips to museums, commercial production pottery facilities, and gallery walks. As a result of these changes in AC 2022-23, the target was met with 80% of the students reviewed (Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors: N=52) earning a 3.5 or better on the review rubric.

## Assessment Cycle 2022-2023

**Decision:** Based on the analysis of the AC 2022-2023 results and to drive improvement in AC 2023-2024, Department faculty will maintain the practices added in AC 2022-23 to provide increased and improved advising opportunities for students, offer open studios for work outside of class time, and arrange off-campus trips. These activities and practices will have positive impacts on the students and the Department.

**SLO 2. Students acquire valuable production experience that is reflected in their own independent achievements.**

**Course Map:** Tied to course syllabus objectives in all courses

**Measure:** Observable through projects and academic patterns by regular faculty evaluations and review of sketchbook work. Data will be collected through annual student review rubric forms and curricular benchmarks. Faculty advising committees will collect data at annual student reviews. Data will allow faculty to assess current and future curricular needs, as well as frequency and quality of evaluation processes. Faculty and students (curriculum and outcomes) increase in the level of expectation and professional output. Students are expected and deliver a qualitative and quantitative level of involvement and production. Acceptable target is 50% of students exhibiting high levels of production in their individual artistic achievements as evidenced by earning a 3.5 or better on the review rubric. The ideal target would be 80% of students earning that score.

**Findings:** Acceptable data exceeded – ideal target not met.

**Analysis:** In AC 2021-2022, target was not met. Student review results (N=90) showed 55% of students reviewed earned valuable production experience that was reflected in their own independent achievements and their earning of a 3.5 or better on the review rubric. Our students struggled with the return to campus and the demands of face-to-face courses. Absentee-ism and a sense of resignation towards their projects seemed to be systemic. Despite these issues, we experienced two of the strongest semesters in terms of graduation numbers and those students presented a level of excellence. (Graduating seniors (N=19) met this SLO2 standard with 73% earning a score of 3.5 or better on the review rubric.)

Based on the analysis of AC 2021-2022, instructors focused on teaching technique in conjunction with producing final works that illustrated mastery of technique and growth in personal expression of the student's artistic voice. Faculty-led, in-class peer critiques enhanced student experiences. Students attend courses more regularly and provide each other with peer support. As a result of these changes in AC 2022-2023, the target was not met. However, there was a dramatic increase in student success with 75% of student reviews (N=52) earning a 3.5 or higher mark on the review rubric

## Assessment Cycle 2022-2023

used to assess SLO 2.

**Decision:** Based on the analysis of AC 2022-2023 and to drive improvement during AC 2023-24, faculty will strive to add more opportunities for students to attend workshops and internships and to work on public art projects as part of their studies and courses.

**SLO 3. Students synthesize the curricular experience to meet their professional and creative goals.**

**Course Map:** Tied to the course syllabus objectives in all courses.

**Measure:** Observable and testable through the curricular opportunity to take upper-level courses in specific areas and the presentation of a cohesive body of artwork at the end of their degree program. Testable through an alumni survey administered at one-year, three-year, and five-year intervals post-graduation. Data will be collected through annual student review rubric forms, curricular benchmarks, reviews of exhibition, and through the administered surveys. Students will submit a proposal for their senior exhibition. Advisors and committees will assess the success of the exhibits. Faculty will administer the surveys and collect the data. Data will allow faculty to assess current and future curricular needs. Faculty and students (curriculum and outcomes) will work together to develop and foster the individual voice and style of the student in preparation for professional work. An acceptable target would be 50% of students synthesizing the curricular experience to meet their professional and creative goals as evidenced by their earning a 3.5 or better on the review rubric. The ideal target would show 80% of students earning a 3.5 or better on the review rubric.

**Findings:** Acceptable target exceeded. Ideal target not met.

**Analysis:** In AC 2021-2022, the target was not met. Student review results (N=90) showed 51% of students synthesizing the curricular experience to meet their professional and creative goals and earning a 3.5 or better on the review rubric. This likely reflected that the general population was included in this evaluation. However, when the population of graduating seniors (N=19) was evaluated alone, 94% met or exceeded this SLO indicating that the Department well exceeded its target of 80% in this scenario.

Based on the analysis of AC 2021-2022 and to drive improvement in AC 2022-2023, a special UNIV1000 course was created as a Freshman Interest Group (FIG) for Art majors. All incoming Art majors enrolled in this section in order to become immediately immersed in the Department's culture and the University Experience's role in

## Assessment Cycle 2022-2023

professional preparation. While Senior Capstone classes (ART 4980 and ART 4990) are the best assessment of this SLO, the Department collected data in AC 2022-2023 from all other courses instead as evaluating graduating seniors as a part of the total population may skew results. As a result of these changes in AC 2022-2023, the target was not met. However, 75% of Freshman, Sophomores, and Juniors who were reviewed (N=52) achieved a 3.5 or better on the review rubric.

**Decision:** Based on the analysis of AC 2022-2023 and to drive improvement 2023-2024, Art faculty will strive to add more opportunities for students to attend workshops and internships and to work on public art projects as part of their studies and courses. Greater emphasis will be placed on workforce readiness, graduate study readiness, and profession development earlier in the curriculum.

**SLO 4. Students participate in experiences that encourage familiarity with a broad variety of work in various specializations and media.**

**Course Map:** Tied to the course syllabus objectives in all courses

**Measure:** Observable through participation in departmental or class field trips to museums, galleries and design centers, and participation in student exhibitions and organizations. The percentage of majors attending major semester field trips, entering annual the student exhibition will be monitored. Data will be collected by generating lists of the percentage of students attending the various class and departmental trips. Also, in annual student reviews, faculty will report independent trips the students have initiated, and their participation in student and other exhibitions. Faculty will collect the data for student exhibition participation, and the data for student trip attendance. Data will allow faculty to assess frequency and effectiveness of exhibitions and trips. Faculty and students (curriculum and outcome) will foster an atmosphere of learning through participation in gallery and extra-curricular experiences. An acceptable target is 50% of students participating in enrichment experiences as evidenced by earning a 3.5 or better on the review rubric. The ideal target would show 80% of students earning a 3.5 or better on the review rubric.

**Findings:** Acceptable target exceeded. Ideal target not met.

**Analysis:** In AC 2021-2022, the target was not met with sixty-eight percent (68%) of students participating in enrichment experiences and earning a 3.5 or better on the review rubric. This represented a major increase in participation (+19%). When examining graduating seniors only (N=19), 89% successfully met the requirement of this SLO. In the case of this SLO, the onus for improvement lies with the faculty rather than the students as assessments were not collected routinely and thoroughly collected.

## Assessment Cycle 2022-2023

Based on the analysis of AC 2021-2022, the faculty increased focus of their efforts on arranging more opportunities for students to travel to exhibitions, attendance at exhibitions/ receptions was added for credit to UNIV 1000 FIG, regular gallery talks with visiting artists was more consistently scheduled. Students restarted an Art Club—Kappa Pi International and began working to have that club become a recognized student organization. This club traditionally hosted events and trips for the unit's students. As a result of these changes implemented in AC 2022-2023, a slight increase to 69% was observed. While this increase was exciting, the target remained unmet.

**Decision:** Based on the analysis of AC 2022-2023 and to drive improvement in AC 2023-2024, faculty will refocus efforts on arranging more opportunities for students to travel to exhibitions, attendance at exhibitions/ receptions will be added for credit to UNIV 1000 FIG, regular gallery talks with visiting artists will be more consistently scheduled. Faculty will work to develop uniform measures of attendance — a goal from AC 2021-2022 that remains unmet.

### Comprehensive summary of key evidence of improvements based on analysis of results:

The following reflects all the changes implemented to drive the continuous process of seeking improvement in AC 2022-2023. These changes are based on the knowledge gained through the AC 2021-2022 results analysis.

- Implemented more in-class demonstrations on topics found difficult by students.
- Implemented rapid instruction in basic tool use for students with tool use deficits.
- Explained and adhered to absentee policies established by the university.
- Established routine faculty-led in-class peer critiques.
- Established UNIV 1000 Freshman Interest Group (FIG) for Art majors to immerse freshmen in departmental culture and the university experience's role in professional preparation.
- Instructors focused on mastery of technique and growth in personal expression of the student's artistic voice.
- Arranged more opportunities for students to travel to exhibitions.
- Mandated attendance at exhibitions/receptions for University 1000 FIG
- More consistently scheduled gallery talks with visiting professional artists.
- Increased percentages of in all areas assessed point to the effectiveness of curricular updates.

## Assessment Cycle 2022-2023

- Met Target Goal of 80% for SLO 1

### Plan of action moving forward:

As the Art Department saw improvement in all SLOs during AC 2022-23, it will continue the beneficial practices added during that assessment year. In AC 2023-24, to continue this upward trend, the Department will strive to build a better environment for student improvement by:

- Providing exposure to workshops and internship opportunities
- Providing opportunities to work with faculty on public art projects.
- Adding improved advising opportunities for students.
- Offering open studios for work outside of class time.
- Arranging off-campus trips to museums, galleries, and appropriate work sites.
- Placing appropriate emphasis on workforce readiness, graduate study readiness, and profession development earlier in the curriculum.
- Working to develop uniform measure of attendance.