

Department of Visual Arts
Senior Assessment 2011
Submitted June 8, 2011

DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS SENIOR ASSESSMENT REPORT

ACTIONS TAKEN AS A RESULT OF ASSESSMENT

Area: Fine Arts

Number of students assessed: 2 of 2

Date submitted: 5-16-11

1. Outcomes reviewed:

Scholarship: All undergraduates will develop and demonstrate advanced habits of academic inquiry and creativity through the production of a body of artistic, scholarly or community-based work intended for public presentation and defense.

Vocation: Using appropriate scholarly and communal resources, all undergraduates will develop and demonstrate ability to articulate reflectively the purposes of their life and proposed work through the language of vocation. In collaboration with the university community, students' developing vocational plans will exhibit appreciation of the fullness of human life, including its intellectual, ethical, spiritual, aesthetic, social, emotional, and bodily dimensions, and will examine both the interdependence of self and community and the responsibility to live in service of others.

2. Changes made since the last time these outcomes were reviewed:

(If this was the first time this outcome was reviewed skip to question 4.)

NA

3. What prompted those changes? Were the changes effective?

NA

4. After reviewing the assessment results the department/program/unit has decided to:

- a. Stay the course and continue to monitor: were satisfied that the outcomes are being met
- b. Monitor the results and investigate causes; we may need to make changes in the future; we don't have enough information to make an informed decision yet
- c. Make changes (list below)
- d. Other

Comments:

- c. Make changes (list below)

The fine arts area plans to implement these requirements/changes for the upcoming year:

- Seniors will be required to participate in annual fine arts student review
- Seniors will be required to participate in public presentations about their scholarship/vocation
- Seniors will be required to participate in a public thesis group exhibition in addition to the senior exhibition held in the Department of Visual Arts Gallery

Department of Visual Arts Senior Outcomes

1. Changes to the senior outcomes – after working with particular outcomes the department/program/unit has decided to:

- a. Keep the wording of the departmental outcomes as is and keep the same measures
- b. Keep the wording of the departmental outcomes but use different measures next time (list below)
- c. Keep the same measures but change the wording of the outcomes (list below)
- d. Change the wording of the outcomes and change the measures (list below)
- e. Drop the outcome entirely (list reason below)

Comments: As of this moment we feel that the two outcomes work well in providing us with adequate information on our students.

DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS SENIOR ASSESSMENT REPORT

ACTIONS TAKEN AS A RESULT OF ASSESSMENT

Area: Art History

Number of students assessed: 1

Date submitted: 5/19/11

1. Outcomes reviewed: Scholarship: All undergraduates will develop and demonstrate advanced habits of academic inquiry and creativity through the production of a body of artistic, scholarly or community-based work intended for public presentation and defense. This outcome was assessed in the Spring Term, 2010 in the context of 1 graduating senior participating in VAH 485: Art History Seminar. The Seminar was focused on the exhibition of abstract and minimalist works from the Dicke Collection on view in O'Reilly Hall. The student participant conducted research on the whole of the exhibition, presented her findings throughout the semester to diverse audiences, and made a final presentation at the annual Stander Symposium in April, 2011. The student then submitted her presentation in written form for final evaluation.
2. Changes made since the last time these outcomes were reviewed: No significant changes have been made since the last time that this outcome was reviewed in the present manner.
3. What prompted those changes? N/A Were the changes effective? N/A
4. After reviewing the assessment results the department/program/unit has decided to: stay in the course in its abiding commitment to provide the best possible art history education to its majors in this concentration.

Comments: None at this time to be made

Department of Visual Arts Senior Outcomes

1. Changes to the senior outcomes after working with particular outcomes the department/program/unit has decided to: make no particular changes at this time.

Comments: None at this time to be made

**DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS SENIOR ASSESSMENT REPORT
ACTIONS TAKEN AS A RESULT OF ASSESSMENT**

Area: Photography

Number of students assessed: 5

Date submitted: 6.6.11

1. Outcomes reviewed:

Senior assessment is primarily conducted through the completion of the capstone VAP 498 and VAP 499 and Stander Presentations.

Scholarship: All undergraduates will develop and demonstrate advanced habits of academic inquiry and creativity through the production of a body of artistic, scholarly or community-based work intended for public presentation and defense.

Practical Wisdom: All undergraduates will develop and demonstrate practical wisdom in addressing real human problems and deep human needs, drawing upon advanced knowledge, values, and skills in their chosen profession or major course of study. Starting with a conception of human flourishing, students will be able to define and diagnose symptoms, relationships, and problems clearly and intelligently, construct and evaluate possible solutions, thoughtfully select and implement solutions, and critically reflect on the process in light of actual consequences.

2. Changes made since the last time these outcomes were reviewed:

There is still work to be done regarding the 2010 goal of addressing the dissemination of the student's work. Several professional development and media workshops were offered over the course of the year and will continue to do so. Seniors did not see the relevance of these offerings and thus did not participate. This will need to be addressed through advising and course development.

Scholarship: Collectively seniors were assessed as average. One student was outstanding (took part in most of the activities associated with scholarship) with two at average and two below average. The overall quality of the final portfolio, as well as written materials and public presentation, were reflective of this assessment.

Practical Wisdom: Overall students lack an above average development of the skill set needed to address this category in their chosen profession.

3. What prompted those changes? Were the changes effective?

Review of the 2010 assessment. It will take time to implement so it is difficult to tell.

4. After reviewing the assessment results the program has decided to:

A major challenge has been the lack of a full-time tenure line faculty presence in Photography for the last three years. All full-time Photography faculty are currently serving various positions in the College, meaning that their interaction with Photography majors is limited. This challenge will be dealt with in the next academic year with the hiring of a full-time faculty member and the returning of another tenured faculty member to full-time teaching.

Additionally there will be a review of the foundation courses and number of credit hours for the major. It will be recommended to increase the overall Foundation hours to build a stronger base for Photography majors.

The Comments:

Found these two outcomes to be very relevant to students. The challenge will be having students recognize the importance and relevancy of the outcomes.

Department of Visual Arts Senior Outcomes

1. Changes to the senior outcomes after working with particular outcomes the program has decided to:

Keep the wording of the departmental outcomes as is and keep the same measures.

Comments:

The two outcomes work well in providing an adequate assessment of VA students. Will need to continue to address outcomes in classroom and curriculum to strengthen student understanding of the relevance of the PW outcome. The importance of the Scholarship outcome is clearly understood by students.

**2011 DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS SENIOR ASSESSMENT REPORT
ACTIONS TAKEN AS A RESULT OF ASSESSMENT**

Area: Visual Communication Design

Number of students assessed: The entire graduating class of 21
(19 BFA Graphic Design; 1 BFA Computer Imaging; 1 BA)

Date submitted: 06.07.11

1. Outcomes reviewed:

Scholarship. Particular attention was directed toward the measures within the *Professionalism* section of the Senior Review Form. The evaluation of *Professionalism* consists of the sub-sections:

- A. Commitment—with the measures: (1) Level of commitment in discipline and (2) Quality of Work Overall—and
- B. Synthesis—including (1) Visual presentation of portfolio and paper and (2) Understanding of discipline.

Practical Wisdom. Particular attention was directed toward the measures within the *Intellectual Ability* section of the Senior Review Form. The evaluation of *Intellectual Ability* consists of the sub-sections:

- C. Problem Solving—with the measures: (1) Originality and Invention and (2) Research—and
- D. Reason and Integration—including (1) Conceptual and Formal Resolution and (2) Evolution and Development.

Senior Review/evaluation is primarily conducted through the Visual Communication Design Senior Portfolio event and VCD faculty discussions of the presentations and represented work. Particular attention is paid to the visual portfolio; the verbal presentation of said portfolio; and the professional papers (resume and cover letter) submitted by the senior.

2. Changes made since the last time this outcome was reviewed:

REGARDING SCHOLARSHIP:

Significant modification was not indicated as a result of the 2010 assessment. The VCD area faculty has developed (and continues to develop) course content and revised requirements that have resulted in stronger *digital* representation of the student's body of work (i.e., electronic representation of printed *and* digital work). The changes and this material are manifest, primarily, in the VAD498 (Professional Seminar) and VAD499 (Portfolio and Paper) capstone experience courses, although the methods and processes utilized are being consciously modified in other VCD courses so as to support the modifications.

REGARDING PRACTICAL WISDOM:

Significant changes were not indicated in the 2010 assessment. A notation in the 2010 assessment regarding generally lower scores among Computer Imaging concentration students (compared to Graphic Design) continues to hold true in 2011. It is difficult to evaluate beyond this observation however, as there is only one graduate of the Computer Imaging concentration. The VCD area, in 2010, opted to “monitor the results and investigate causes” with regard to *practical wisdom* and the Computer Imaging concentration.

3. What prompted those changes? (previous assessment results, discussions with colleagues, etc.) Were the changes effective?

REGARDING SCHOLARSHIP:

The VCD area has been responding to a need for more portable/flexible methods of presentation, resultant of a changing market for young designers and a necessity for representation of the student's work to be sent long distances (a dimensional print portfolio is impractical) and to multiple destinations (often simultaneously).

REGARDING PRACTICAL WISDOM:

Significant changes were not indicated in the 2010 assessment.

4. After reviewing the assessment results the department/program/unit has decided to:

B. Monitor the results and investigate causes; we may need to make changes in the future; we don't have enough information to make an informed decision yet (see comments below).

C. Make changes (see comments below).

Comments:

REGARDING SCHOLARSHIP:

The VCD faculty believes that remarkable changes are not indicated at this time. However, as before, we will continue to develop all course content and impose requirements that result in stronger *digital* representation of the student's body of work.

In the Spring of 2011 the AAC approved changes to the VCD curriculum that will, ultimately, have a major impact on VCD graduates. *Web Design* will be required for all VCD students who enter the program in the Fall of 2011. Graduates of the class of 2015 will all have been required to take *Web Design* in their junior year. This will go far toward equipping these graduates toward the development of electronic or web-based portfolios. This will require all VCD courses' content to be evaluated and modified.

REGARDING PRACTICAL WISDOM:

The VCD area, in 2011/2012, will continue to "monitor the results and investigate causes" with regard to *practical wisdom*, intellectual ability, and the Computer Imaging concentration.

Other issues plague the Computer Imaging concentration—such as enrollment numbers (2 graduates in 2010, 1 in 2011, and total majors estimated at fewer than 5). The VCD area is interested in engaging the Visual Arts faculty to explore a revised configuration with regard to this option.

NOTE REGARDING SENIOR EVALUATIONS AND ASSESSMENT:

Overall VCD notes lower evaluations of its seniors (in all measures). Considering the measures and outcomes addressed in this report:

In "professionalism" (used as the primary measure for the *scholarship* outcome), we see a 3.5% decline in student performance (2011 compared to 2010). Among the "intellectual ability" measure scores (*practical wisdom*) we observe an 8% decline.

As VCD prides itself on moving the program forward and increasing (at the very least: maintaining) the level of excellence, its faculty is troubled by this. We believe that, overall, when compared to recent years, the class of 2011 was a somewhat less accomplished group. The faculty, however, intends to monitor this performance closely, paying particular attention to the level of these scores in next year's evaluations

Department of Visual Arts Senior Outcomes

1. Changes to the goal itself— after working with particular outcome the department/program/unit has decided to:
 - a. **Keep the wording of the outcome as is and keep the same measures**
 - b. Keep the working to this outcome but use different measures next time (list below)
 - c. Keep the same measures but change the wording of the outcome (list below)
 - d. Change the wording of the outcome and change the measures (list below)
 - e. Drop the outcome entirely (list reason below)

Comments:

None.

Report completed by John V Clarke, Area Coordinator of VCD.

All VCD full-time faculty participated in the evaluations of the 2011 VCD graduates and in discussions involving this assessment (John V Clarke, Suki Kwon, Fred Niles, and Jayne Matlack Whitaker).