

Master of Fine Arts, Integrated Visual Arts

I. Mission Statement

The mission statement for the MFA in IVA is based upon the requirements set out by the College Art Association (CAA):

"The MFA, unlike most masters' degrees, is used as a guarantee of a high level of professional competence in the visual arts. It is also accepted as an indication that the recipient has reached the end of the formal aspects of his/her education in the making of art, that is to say, it is the terminal degree in visual arts education and thus equivalent to terminal degrees in other fields, such as the Ph.D. or Ed.D."

Standards for the MFA Degree, page 5, Directory of MFA Programs in The Visual Arts, College Art Association of America, 1996.

The MFA in Integrated Visual Arts for the Department of Art and Design embraces diverse academic cultures within Iowa State University. This new program bridges two intellectual cultures, Art and Science. An Integrated Visual Arts degree combines personal research present in the visual arts with public research in the sciences and engineering motivating marketable and innovative applications and directions.

II. Assessment Goals, Measures, Results and Changes

1. Major learning goals: Intended learning outcomes

- a. Body of professional quality work
- b. Understanding of current theory, practice and application within their curriculum.
- c. Professional knowledge of their chosen media.
- d. Finding one's own personal "voice" in their chosen media.

2. Measures:

- a. Formal exhibitions, and student's participation in juried and refereed venues (exhibitions, publications).
- b. Measured by written thesis, oral defense of thesis.
- c. Performance in critiques.

3. Relevant Required Courses:

- a. Courses as required by POS committee. 501, 511.

4. Results:

- a. We currently have 100% placement of our MFA graduates into areas of their choice. This includes one MFA who was hired at the university level before she was finished on condition that she finish her MFA here, which she did.
- b. Letters from graduated students, and from their supervisors indicate that they are.

5. Examples of program changes based upon results of assessment to enhance learning

- a. The program is extremely new. Assessment has been ongoing and is currently being analyzed. One result is more openness to potential candidates entering from the sciences and engineering. This is based upon an increase in interest shown by

inquiries made by people from those other areas. We have now a process with which to determine and require lower level classes to be taken as needed by those who have undergraduate degrees in areas other than the fine arts. We are pursuing the role of our MFA as a part of the University's PhD in Human Computer Interaction (HCI) program which has reciprocated the interest in our MFA.

Summary of Outcomes Assessment, MFA, Integrated Visual Arts

Intended Learning Outcomes	Measures	Relevant Required Courses	Results	Changes Based Upon Results
Use verbal, written and visual means to effectively communicate ideas and concepts.	Reviews and critiques	All courses, one on one consultation with faculty and Major Prof.	Studio work will reflect increasing ability; development of skills and concepts.	First students just now finishing degrees in the last two years. We have 100% placement in desired areas of employment. None
Examine one's own artwork and that of others critically.	Participation in reviews, critiques, ability to express oneself in verbal and written forms.	All courses, one on one consultation with faculty and Major Prof.	Students able to express and support a point of view with confidence.	“
Understand professional practices of an artist and teaching	Exhibitions, papers, Publications, employment	All courses esp. 501 and 511, one on one consultation with faculty and Major Prof.	Acceptance into exhibitions, etc.	“
Develop refined skills in one or more art media and techniques.	Ongoing review and evaluation from more than one instructor.	All courses esp. 501 and 511, one on one consultation with faculty and Major Prof.	Students are capable of carrying out increasingly complex projects involving work in more than one media.	Students work more closely with faculty advisor to determine direction for further.

II. Assessment Processes

Who does what?

- All ISA faculty actively teaching in the MFA program and the graduate coordinator conduct reviews of work being done by candidates. Program of Study Committees as well as Major Professors monitor quality of candidates work.

How often?

- Ongoing. End of semester group review/exhibition of graduate students' work and defense of that work.

How is activity recorded?

- Placement records, theses, feedback from former MFA conferees, collective memory.

Table of Assessment Processes: MFA, Integrated Visual Arts

Assessment Activity	Period or Cycle of Activity	Record of Activity
Semester review	Each semester	None
Interaction of student with Major Prof. and POS.	Continual	Working portfolio
Final Defense of written thesis and Exhibition of Work	At the end of student's course of study	Thesis, degree conferred or not conferred.
Employment records, Conferee feed back	Ongoing, follow up after 2 years.	Collective memory at present