

UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR
UNIVERSITY PROGRAM REVIEW (UPR)
REPORT ON: VISUAL ARTS
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS
January 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This review covers the Visual Arts undergraduate programming offered by the School of Creative Arts. However, to provide context, some information on the area's other undergraduate programs and its graduate programs has also been included.

Review Preparation

In preparing this document, the Program Development Committee reviewed the following: Visual Arts' Self-Study (SS) (2014/15), the report of the external reviewers (ER) (February 2015), the response from the Director (July 2015), and the response from the Dean (July 2015) to the above material. The external reviewers were: Dr. Sean Caulfield, Department of Art and Design, University of Alberta, Dr. Yvonne Singer, Department of Visual Art and Art History, York University, and Dr. Jonathan G. Bayley, Faculty of Education, University of Windsor.

Undergraduate Programs

At the undergraduate level, the School of Creative Arts offers the following program in Visual Arts: a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Media Art Histories and Visual Culture, a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) in Visual Arts, and, in collaboration with the Department of Communication, Media and Film, a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Visual Arts and Communication, Media, and Film. The School also offers an innovative Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) in Visual Arts and the Built Environment (VABE) in collaboration with the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM). Students enrolled in the VABE program may be eligible to apply to the fourth year of the architecture program at the UDM, following completion of their third year in the VABE program. Students admitted to the fourth year of the UDM program will graduate with a General BA in Visual Arts from the University of Windsor. Students who continue to the fourth year of the Windsor program will graduate with a BFA in Visual Arts and the Built Environment. While there are no direct admissions to a General degree, students have the option of a Bachelor of Arts (General) in Visual Arts as a fall back degree, after first having attempted an Honours degree. Students also have the option of combining their Honours Visual Arts major with a major from another discipline.

The School also offers a Minor in Art History/Visual Culture, as well as Major and Minor Concentrations for the Bachelor of Arts and Science.

To provide greater context for the review, the Music programs offered in the School of Creative Arts are as follows, though they are not the subject of this review: a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Music, and a Bachelor of Music (Honours) (Music Education and Comprehensive streams). Students also have the option of combining their Honours Music major with a major from another discipline.

The School also offers a Minor in Music, as well as Major and Minor Concentrations for the Bachelor of Arts and Science.

At the graduate level, the School offers a Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts with the following areas of research: Painting/Drawing, Sculpture, Printmaking, and Integrated Media (Video, Sound, Photography and Digital Arts).

Enrolments

Undergraduate

	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015
Visual Arts Full-Time	185	196.88	182.6	160.16	111.06
Visual Arts Part-Time	47.25	37.81	37.29	34.58	20.5
Music Full-Time	160.4	139.71	130.59	110.29	65.5
Music Part-Time	35.8	32.24	31.11	29.74	18

Graduate

	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015
MFA Full-Time	12	9	8	11	9
MFA Part-Time	1	0	0	0	0

Human Resources

Faculty/Instructors

Tenure/tenure-track faculty	17 (12, including Head, in Visual Arts; 5 in Music)
Sessional Lecturers (continuous 8 month positions)	4 (in Visual Arts)
Faculty members involved in graduate program delivery	11 tenure/tenure track and 1 sessional lecturer (in Visual Arts)

Full/Part-time Staff

Concert Producer/Operations Manager	1
Marketing/Publicity Coordinator	1
Printmaking/Photography Technician	.4
Secretaries	2.7 (+1 vacant position)
Store/Woodshop Technician	.4
Visual Arts Digital Technician	1
Visual Arts Technician	1

FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT (with Implementation Plan)

Significant Strengths of the Programs

The School “has several innovative course offerings such as *BioArt*, *Green Corridor*, [*Border Cultures*, *Stories of the City*], internships, new courses in photography, as well as other courses that explore the intersection of performance, visual art and social practice. These classes are an excellent complement to the broader course offerings in SoCA as they provide students with unique opportunities to work in collaborative, interdisciplinary and community-based contexts.” (ER, p.3)

Other strengths include: students’ “high degree of contact with instructors throughout their degree” (ER, P.2); a strong record of faculty research and creative output; and the academically rigorous and unique collaboration with the University of Detroit Mercy’s School of Architecture in the delivery of the BFA VABE program, where, as the reviewers noted, “the impact of visual art courses [...] encourage unexpected approaches to architectural problems” (ER, p. 4)

Opportunities for Program Improvement/Enhancements

The recent coming together of Visual Arts, Music and Cinema Arts into one School of Creative Arts has created unique opportunities for innovative program development, research and community collaborations, which “has the potential to lead to further national and international funding and dissemination opportunities” (ER, p. 2, p. 3) As

the reviewers noted, “there is tremendous potential” in this merger as is evidenced by the fact that collaborations and innovative interdisciplinary projects have already begun such as the new Inter-media Practices area of study and the creation of the Noise Ensemble which is a sonic, media arts group engaging faculty and students. (ER, p.10)

The move to the downtown campus also opens a number of opportunities for SoCA including, as the School noted, introducing new offerings such as digital printing and silk screen printing. The new facilities will “raise the profile of SoCA both within the university as well as in the broader art community regionally and nationally.” Further opportunities for program improvements are captured in the recommendations listed below.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Recommendations (in priority order)

(Final recommendations arrived at by the Program Development Committee, following a review and assessment of the External Reviewers report, the Director’s response and the Dean’s response.)

Recommendation 1: That the School review its curriculum with a view to:

- a. smoothing the transition from introductory to advanced courses in the Media Art Histories/Visual Culture program
- b. giving consideration to re-introducing a portfolio review at the end of the second and third years for the BFA majors
- c. determining and addressing the reasons behind the high attrition rate (52.4%) in the visual arts programs

Agents: Director, AAU Council

Completion by: Fall 2017

Recommendation 2: That the School submit learning outcomes and assessment methods for each of its undergraduate programs and courses that clearly correspond to the University's stated "Characteristics of a University of Windsor Graduate".

[PDC notes that one set of learning outcomes was submitted for all its undergraduate programs. Each individual program should have its own set of learning outcomes which will necessarily vary, at least minimally (e.g., BFA varies from a BA Honours). PDC also notes that learning outcomes for some of its undergraduate courses are provided in the Self Study, appendix D]

Agents: Department Council, Head, CTL, Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning

Completion by: Fall 2017

Recommendation 3: That SoCA submit a request to the Dean

- a. to resource the areas of Drawing, Painting and Sculpture.
- b. to address concerns around technical support resources

Agents: Director, Dean of FAHSS

Completion by: Annual Review

Recommendation 4: That there be ongoing dialogue among SoCA faculty and with the Dean of FAHSS about the merger and redeployment in order to ensure that teaching, research and services responsibilities/roles are clear.

Agents: Director, Dean of FAHSS, AAU faculty members

Completion by: Fall 2017

Recommendation 5: That SoCA work with the FAHSS Major Gifts Officer to develop a plan for new scholarship donations for students in the Visual Arts programs.

Agents: Director, Dean of FAHSS, FAHSS Major Gifts Officer

Completion by: Fall 2019

Recommendation 6: That pressures on SoCA’s administrative support staff be monitored after the move is complete to ensure that workloads return to a more manageable level.

Agents: Director

Completion by: Fall 2019

Recommendation 7: That the School submit an implementation plan, and provide evidence of progress, to ensure an appropriate balance between pursuing interdisciplinary, collaborative and community-based teaching and research and providing a strong disciplinary foundation by maintaining a solid Visual Arts program.

Agents: Director, AAU faculty members

Completion by: Fall 2017