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College of Arts and Humanities

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**MA in ART: 2015-16 ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES AND REPORT**

**1. Learning Outcome Assessed: C.2.**

Demonstrate continued engagement in research, reflection, and evaluation of art and design forms and theories in relation to multiple social and cultural traditions, issues, and histories of art and design.

**2. Instruments/Method of Assessment:**

For MA in Art students emphasizing Studio Art, the written Project Report required along with the candidate’s MA Project Exhibition is the most demanding piece of research and analysis carried out during the MA program. During AY 2015-16 the MA in Art faculty evaluated all Project Reports completed during the previous two years, focusing especially on sections III-IV-V (III. Introduction/Objectives; IV. Influences/State of the Field; and V. Significance.) In addition to evaluating the completed Project Reports, we also discussed the research and writing process from the perspective of faculty members who advised the students and served on their Project committees. Finally, we considered data from Exit Surveys in which graduating MA students assessed their experience completing MA Projects and Project Reports.

**3. Findings of Assessment/ What did you discover from these data?:**

MA in Art faculty found widely divergent results in terms of students’ level of mastery in regard to SLO C.2 (demonstrate continued engagement with research, reflection, and evaluation of art and design forms and theories in relation to multiple social and cultural traditions, issues, and histories of art and design.) All faculty reported major struggles helping their advisees conduct research and create written material that met their expectations. Many students also expressed frustration and confusion about what was expected of them. Exit Surveys showed the single greatest complaint from graduating MA in Art students was the Project Report experience, and many stated that they wished they had received better preparation. Finally, faculty realized that although the MA in Art Graduate Guide includes a Rubric for the Graduate Writing Requirement, as well as an Outline for the Project Report, there is no Rubric for the Project Report itself.

**4. What changes did you make as a result of these findings?:**

This is a complex problem that requires a multi-pronged strategy for improvement.

The first change we made was to require that MA in Art students submit Sections III and IV (Project Objectives and Influences/State of the Field) at the time they petition to Advance to Candidacy. This means that students must have a good start on the research and analysis required in the Project Report BEFORE they get approval to enroll in ART 298 (Project). By requiring students to compete significant research and analysis before they begin creating the artwork for their MA Project, we hope to better prepare students for the demands of the Project Report and facilitate better outcomes.

During AY 2016-17 the MA in Art faculty plan to prepare and implement a Rubric and standards for performance specifically for the Project Report. We also plan to strengthen requirements for research and writing in graduate-level studio art classes so that students feel better prepared for the Project Report.

**5. What assessment activities will you be conducting in the 2016-17 academic year?**

During AY 2016-17 the MA in Art faculty will again assess SLO C.2. by reviewing Project Reports submitted during AY 2015-16. This time we will apply the Project Report Rubric and standards to be created for this purpose.

**6. What progress have you made on items from your last program review action plan?**

In our last program review action plan (AY 2015-16) we determined to implement more rigorous course requirements for the MA in Art. In particular, more writing-intensive courses will be required for completion of the MA in Art degree.

Specifically, all studio art majors will be required to complete a minimum of 3 units of Art 230: Seminar in Art Theory, 6 units of ART 240: Seminar in Studio Art, and 6 units of ART 298 (Project). Art history majors will be required to complete a minimum of 6 units of ART 260: Seminar in Art History, plus 3 additional units of ART 260 or ART 230, and 6 units of ART 299 (Thesis).

Faculty member Paula Durette is currently developing an MA Program Change Proposal to undergo review by department, college, and university level curriculum committees during AY 2016-17.

You may submit the reports separately or collectively for the college in one document.

**Please send your assessment reports to Dr. Angel A. Sanchez** [**aansanchez@csufresno.edu**](mailto:aansanchez@csufresno.edu)**, in the Office of Institutional Effectiveness (OIE), and copy Dr. Melissa Jordine** [**mjordine@csufresno.edu**](mailto:mjordine@csufresno.edu)**, Director, University Assessment and Ms. Marie Fernandez** [**mfernandez@csufresno.edu**](mailto:mfernandez@csufresno.edu)**, Administrative Analyst in OIE.**