

REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:

The department of Art & Design requests approval to establish a comprehensive major in Art, Integrative Visual Arts to pursue as a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree. This integrated degree is the culmination of work to make the BFA program more relevant following the most recent program review (in 2017-18). The program currently offers multiple comprehensive majors, six of which allow students to specialize in a particular visual art form. Current standards for professional work require artists to be able to create across different medias. This 69-credit major will integrate the six BFAs, allowing students more flexibility, improving time to degree, and providing students with opportunities to learn across medias while still meeting degree requirements. In conjunction with the creation of this new major, the department of Art & Design requests suspension of the six individual comprehensive majors: Art Ceramics, Art Drawing & Painting, Art Graphic Design, Art Illustration, Art Photography, and Art Sculpture.

Points Discussed by Committee:

1. Potential for revival of suspended majors – what would be most likely to be reinstated as a standalone comprehensive major.
2. Decrease in credits from 75 to 69.
3. Student input in the process of developing the new integrated major.
4. Why suspend the individual majors versus eliminate them?
5. Current students can choose between continuing their present major or changing to the new integrated major.

Pros of Recommendation:

The proposed Integrated Visual Arts major will better prepare students for careers as professional artists or Master of Fine Arts (MFA) programs. The major provides opportunities for students to work in various media, which is something students have been doing already for several semesters in their exhibition presentations. The integrated major will allow students to move fluidly between experiences in different types of media and aid students who decide to shift directions or move into this major from other Art majors. The integrated major will also reduce the number of credits to degree while providing students credit-bearing courses for studio work and exhibition-type experiences that build their professional portfolio. Choosing to suspend rather than eliminate the individual comprehensive majors provides a safety net, should the department ever need to revert to the individual majors.

Cons of Recommendation:

Currently students may seek out specific areas of art, like graphic design or illustration, and the program is recognized for excellence in these areas. Marketing the new integrated major will be important so that students see the benefit of a more holistic, integrated major, which still allows them to focus on a specific medium as much as they choose, such as graphic design or illustration.

Technology/Human Resource Impact:

No technology impacts.

Integrating students into a single visual arts major will improve human resource impacts within the department by allowing all faculty to advise students, rather than just the faculty in a sub-specialty area. Increased flexibility in student course options will also relieve pressure on the department, allowing faculty to rotate courses, take sabbaticals, or even introduce new courses without impacting student time to degree.

Committee Recommendation:

The committee approved the creation of a 69-credit comprehensive major in Art, Integrated Visual Arts and suspension of the individual comprehensive majors in Art Ceramics, Art Drawing & Painting, Art Graphic Design, Art Illustration, Art Photography, and Art Sculpture.

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of 8 for to 0 against on October 11, 2022 (Date)

Recommends the creation of a 69-credit major in Art, Integrative Visual Arts starting 2023-2024 AY and the suspension of the following:

Comprehensive Major, Art Ceramics [Code 020-011], Comprehensive Major, Art Drawing and Painting [Code 020-022], Comprehensive Major, Art Graphic Design [Code 020-012], Comprehensive Major, Art Illustration [Code 020-019], Comprehensive Major, Art Photography [Code 020-018], Comprehensive Major, Art Sculpture [Code 020-017].

Implementation Date: 23/24 catalog

Signed: _____

Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office