**Annual Assessment Report for 2020-2021 AY**

Reports completed on assessment activities carried out during the 2020-2021 AY will be due September 30th 2021 and must be e-mailed to the Director of Assessment, Dr. Douglas Fraleigh (douglasf@csufresno.edu).

Provide detailed responses for each of the following questions within this word document. Please do NOT insert an index or add formatting. For purposes of this report, you should only report on two or three student learning outcomes (department’s choice) even if your external accreditor requires you to evaluate four or more outcomes each year. Also be sure to explain or omit specialized or discipline-specific terms.

**Department/Program:** MA in Art Program

**Assessment Coordinator:** Stephanie Ryan, MA in Art Coordinator and Professor of Art in Drawing and Painting.

1. Please list the learning outcomes you assessed this year.

We assessed SLO A/1, which is:

* + 1. **Reflect critically on works of art and design at a level comparable to professional standards in the field. Students should be able to:**
       1. Analyze, synthesize, and evaluate works of art and design and its related literature.

1. What assignment or survey did you use to assess the outcomes and what method (criteria or rubric) did you use to evaluate the assignment? **Please describe the assignment and the criteria or rubric used to evaluate the assignment in detail and, if possible, include copies of the assignment and criteria/rubric at the end of this report.**

The Graduate Faculty Group members randomly selected 25 papers to review that were collected from the Graduate Seminars, ART 230: *Seminar in Art Theory*, Art 260: *Seminar in Art History*, offered during the AY 2020-2021. The papers we selected came from a group of writing assignments given to students on a variety of topics, but that were meant to measure students’ ability to analyze, evaluate and/or critique readings (previously assigned) that expressed an opinion or evaluation of major works of Art and/or ideas relating to art theory, criticism, or art history. They specifically needed to demonstrate an understanding of the ideas/theories/evaluations presented and respond with their own point of view taking the other ideas into account. (See the attached for Data).

The Graduate Faculty reviewed and scored the papers using the *Graduate Writing Assessment Rubric*, which utilizes a 4-point scale, where a “4” is the highest, and “1” is the lowest score a student can receive (see attached Graduate Writing Assessment Rubric.) After reviewing each of the papers, we discussed our findings as a group.

1. What did you learn from your analysis of the data? Please include sample size (how many students were evaluated) and indicate how many students (number or percentage instead of a median or mean) were designated as proficient. Also indicate your benchmark (e.g. 80% of students will be designated as proficient or higher) and indicate the number of students who met that benchmark.

The sample size was 25. The benchmark set was to expect students to earn at least a “3-Accomplished” in Graduate-level writing according to our scoring rubric. Below are the results:

* 24% earned a “4-Exemplary”
* 60% earned a “3-Accomplished”
* 16% earned a “2-Developing”
* 0% earned a “1-Beginning”

We were pleased to discover that the majority of the papers (84%) reviewed earned a “3” or “4” which meets our benchmark, and leads us to conclude that we are meeting the goals of this particular SLO adequately. We were also pleased that no student scored a “1”. With that said, the fact that 16% earned a “2” means that we still need to work a bit more to raise the standards of graduate-level writing in our program so that we are able to make sure these students do not fall through the cracks and are adequately prepared for the challenges of the field.

1. What changes, if any, do you recommend based on the assessment data?

Although we are consistently meeting our benchmark in Graduate Writing, we are continuing efforts to further refine our graduate students’ research and writing skills so that they are well-prepared to enter the professional art field of their choosing. We also will work to keep improving our programs so that we are able to maintain NASAD Accreditation, and to work towards development of an MFA in Art Program (in Studio Art, Art History, and Graphic Design.) Above-average writing and research skills are essential in such programs since MFA graduates qualify to apply for university FT/TT teaching positions.

To address these issues, we have incorporated the following changes to the program:

* Dr. Jordan has developed a new course for Graduate Students called ART 280: *Research Methods and Theories of Art History*, which will become a program requirement for all students. This new graduate course will be sent through the Curriculum Committees for approval this year.
* Dr. Gordo-Peláez and Dr. Noonsuk each have created exciting new topics courses for ART 260: *Seminar in Art History* to increase the breadth and depth of our offerings in Art History.
* The Graduate Faculty are actively cultivating a stronger relationship with the *Graduate Writing Center* on campus by encouraging Graduate students to apply for internships there (Sarah Theller, as Art History Graduate Student, is interning at the GWC), by planning to have representatives from the GWC give presentations in Art 240: *Seminar in Studio Art* each semester, and by sending students there for support in writing their Project Reports or their Thesis more consistently.
* The Graduate Faculty Group has recently voted unanimously to revise the MA in Art Program requirements, to include the following courses as requirements for our students in the program that are meant to deepen their understanding of Art Theory & Criticism, Art History, and Research Methodology (and writing). We will send these requirements through the curriculum committees:
* ART 230 (to be taken at least once by all students)
* ART 260 (to be taken at least once by all students)
* ART 280 (to be taken at least once by all students)
* ART 240 (to be taken at least twice for studio art students)

1. If you recommended any changes in your response to Question 4 in your 2018-19 assessment report, what progress have you made in implementing these changes? If you did not recommend making any changes in last year’s report please write N/A as your answer to this question.

*The assessment activity from 2018-2019 demonstrated that while the majority of the students were proficient in terms of writing ability and demonstrating an understanding of contemporary arts (as relates to their topics) most could use further development in more fully understanding contemporary art theory, and articulating this understanding, and perhaps also in envisioning themselves as contributing participants in the field, whether the field be studio art, art history or art education. To address these issues, we are discussing the possibility of creating additional sections within courses or new courses that give graduate students more experience with research methodologies, especially those focused on the synthesis of information gathered in research.*

Yes, in response to this Dr. Jordan has created ART 180/280: *Research Methods and Theories of Art History* which will be made into a requirement for all MA in Art Students. Also, more topics were created for ART 260: *Seminar in Art History,* as mentioned earlier.

*Further, we have been/are very interested in creating more professional experiences that all graduate students in the program can participate in, such as organizing exhibitions of contemporary art, arranging one-on-one critiques with professional artists (as we did with artist Yishai Jusidman this fall), and having our graduate students write proposals to bring in visiting artists to exhibit at M Street Galleries, and to give lectures, demonstrations, and/or workshops.*

While we could not conduct in-person workshops or experiences for our students last year due to the pandemic, we did create an excellent *Virtual Visiting Artist Lecture Series* with renowned artists: Steven Assael, Laura Krifka, Swoon, Julie Heffernan, The Bird Machine, Stephen Talasnik, Jeanne Quinn, and Alec Soth. These webinars helped students to feel connected with the Art Dept. and to be able to interact with our lecturers.

1. What assessment activities will you be conducting during AY 2021-22?

Due to the pandemic, and our students hoping for in-person exhibitions which are possible now, we have put off evaluating culminating experiences in ART 298: Project and ART 299: Thesis. Thus we plan to evaluate SLO’s A/1, and A/3:

1. **Demonstrate mastery of skills in studio practice/production or scholarly research/production, comparable to accepted professional standards in the field. Students should be able to:**
   * + 1. Produce an original body of artwork and/or written work that conveys a personal direction of study/research, and that makes a statement, in the student's area of study in art and design.
       2. ~~Apply the techniques/tools/media/terminology of art and design studio production and/or research in visual, verbal and/or written forms.~~
       3. Engage critically with issues of contemporary and/or historical significance in art and design in relation to one's own work/studio production and/or research in visual, verbal or written forms.
2. Identify and discuss any major issues identified during your last Program Review and in what ways these issues have or have not been addressed.

We are currently working on developing new courses for the MA in Art Program that will also be needed for development of the new MFA in Art Program (Studio Art, Art History, and Graphic Design.) These issues were identified, along with obtaining NASAD Accreditation, which we obtained in 2018.

**New courses include:**

* ART 123: *Advanced Drawing* (approved)
* ART 120: *Intermediate Drawing* (approved)
* ART 122: *Figure Painting* (in development)
* ART 180: *Research Methods and Theories of Art History* (approved)
* ART 280: *Research Methods and Theories of Art History* (ready for Curriculum Committees)
* ART 223: *Graduate Drawing* (ready for Curriculum Committees)
* ART 224: *Graduate Printmaking* (approved)
* ART 283: *Extended Projects in Photography* (in development)

**New Programs include:**

* MFA in Art Program (Studio Art, Art History and Graphic Design)

**Accreditation**

NASAD Accreditation will be maintained for the MA in Art Program and will be sought after for the MFA in Art Program.