

Academic Assessment Plan for the M.F.A. in Art

USU Department of Art + Design

A. Mission

The Master of Fine Art degree is the terminal degree in the visual arts field. USU's MFA degree is designed to provide a rigorous program of study that enables students to attain a high level of professional experience in art-making. Related courses in disciplines outside of art/design augment this intensive studio-based program.

The MFA program supports the Caine College of the Art's primary mission by "cultivating artistic and academic excellence, by preparing our students to realize their full creative potential as artists and citizens, by increasing the visibility of the college and university, and by fostering professionalism and collegial relationships in all aspects of our operations. See full CCA [Mission Statement](#) here.

The MFA program supports the mission of Utah State University "by fostering the principle that academics come first, by cultivating diversity of thought and culture, and by serving the public through learning, discovery, and engagement." See the full USU [Mission Statement](#) here.

B. Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Measures

SLO Type	Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Method
Visual and Design Understanding	<p>1. Uses acute visual observations to make decisions about the overall design and concept of the artwork; <i>and</i> displays understanding of visual perception.</p> <p>2. Asks critical questions about artistic processes and problems <i>and</i> demonstrates thoughtful investigation of concepts and media.</p>	<p>1. MFA Thesis Proposal</p> <p>2. Regular MFA thesis progress meetings with committee.</p> <p>3. Final MFA Thesis Exhibition and Defense</p>
Technical and Professional Skills	<p>3. Develops and produces a cohesive body of work that displays significant experimentation and evolution.</p> <p>4. Demonstrates technical proficiency with the chosen medium; artwork consistently displays a high level of finish.</p>	<p>1. MFA Thesis Proposal</p> <p>2. Regular MFA thesis progress meetings with committee.</p> <p>3. Final MFA Thesis Exhibition and Defense</p>
Critical Engagement	<p>5. Expresses complex ideas through an independent approach to the selection and manipulation of materials; <i>and</i> integrates concepts and contexts beyond the studio classroom using visual, oral, and written skills.</p>	<p>....</p> <p>1. MFA Thesis Proposal</p> <p>2. Regular MFA thesis progress meetings with committee.</p> <p>3. Final MFA Thesis Exhibition and Defense</p>

C. Assessment Timeline

Assessment	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Assessment 3
SLOs			
Visual and Design Understanding			
1. Uses acute visual observations to make decisions about the overall design and concept of the artwork; <i>and</i> displays understanding of visual perception.	MFA Thesis Proposal	Regular progress assessment meetings with committee.	Final MFA Thesis Exhibition and Defense.
2. Asks critical questions about artistic processes and problems <i>and</i> demonstrates thoughtful investigation of concepts and media.	MFA Thesis Proposal	Regular progress assessment meetings with committee.	Final MFA Thesis Exhibition and Defense.
Technical and Professional Skills			
3. Develops and produces a cohesive body of work that displays significant experimentation and evolution.	MFA Thesis Proposal	Regular progress assessment meetings with committee.	Final MFA Thesis Exhibition and Defense.
4. Demonstrates technical proficiency with the chosen medium; artwork consistently displays a high level of finish.	MFA Thesis Proposal	Regular progress assessment meetings with committee.	Final MFA Thesis Exhibition and Defense.
Critical Engagement			
5. Expresses complex ideas through an independent approach to the selection and manipulation of materials; <i>and</i> integrates concepts and contexts beyond the studio classroom using visual, oral, and written skills.	MFA Thesis Proposal	Regular progress assessment meetings with committee.	Final MFA Thesis Exhibition and Defense.

D. Assessment Cycle

MFA in Art & Design

Data Collection:	Spring Semester
Analysis and Interpretation:	Following Fall Semester
Program Modifications:	Subsequent Spring Semester
Dissemination:	Following academic year

SLOs	Year	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22
Visual and Design Understanding							
#1		√	√	√	√	√	√
#2		√	√	√	√	√	√
Technical and Professional Skills							
#3		√	√	√	√	√	√
#4		√	√	√	√	√	√
Critical Engagement							
#5		√	√	√	√	√	√

Note: Data collection for these assessments will begin in AY 16-17, we did not assess this data in prior years.

E. Measurement Tools

Rubrics used to measure the SLOs are under development by the faculty committee.

During the fall review and analysis cycle the Department Graduate Committee will review the data answering key questions such as: What does the data show us about each individual SLO, and what changes do we want to make, based on these observations?

Should there be observations that lead the faculty to consider revisions, the faculty would have the option to:

- *change the SLOs and ALC
- *change the data collected (assignments, etc.)
- *change the curriculum