

UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE FORMS

Academic Program Approval

This form is a routing document for the approval of new and revised academic programs. Proposing department should complete this form. For more information, call the Faculty Senate Office at 831-2921.

Submitted by: René Marquez phone number x4314

Department: ART email
address rmarquez@udel.edu

Action: Revision of the MFA program in Art
(Example: add major/minor/concentration, delete major/minor/concentration, revise major/minor/concentration, academic unit name change, request for permanent status, policy change, etc.)

Effective term 07F
(use format 04F, 05W)

Current degree MFA
(Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

Proposed change leads to the degree of: MFA
(Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

Proposed name: _____
Proposed new name for revised or new major / minor / concentration / academic unit (if applicable)

Revising or Deleting:

Undergraduate major / Concentration: _____
(Example: Applied Music – Instrumental degree BMAS)

Undergraduate minor: _____
(Example: African Studies, Business Administration, English, Leadership, etc.)

Graduate Program Policy statement change: _____
(**Must attach** your Graduate Program Policy Statement)

Graduate Program of Study: MFA
(Example: Animal Science: MS Animal Science: PHD Economics: MA Economics: PHD)

Graduate minor / concentration: _____

Note: all graduate studies proposals must include an electronic copy of the Graduate Program Policy Document, highlighting the changes made to the original policy document.

List new courses required for the new or revised curriculum. How do they support the overall program objectives of the major/minor/concentrations)?

(Be aware that approval of the curriculum is dependent upon these courses successfully passing through the Course Challenge list. If there are no new courses enter “None”)

None

Explain, when appropriate, how this new/revised curriculum supports the 10 goals of undergraduate education: <http://www.ugs.udel.edu/gened/>

Identify other units affected by the proposed changes:

(Attach permission from the affected units. If no other unit is affected, enter “None”)

None

Describe the rationale for the proposed program change(s):

(Explain your reasons for creating, revising, or deleting the curriculum or program.)

Recognizing the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of contemporary art, the Department of Art proposes revisions to its MFA degree that provide students with a non-discipline-based and intellectually rigorous program of study. These revisions address two primary arenas: 1) simplification of the existing curriculum, 2) increased flexibility for interdisciplinary study. Emphasis is placed on a graduate student’s independent studio work and the conceptual considerations that may derive from scholarship outside of art.

Specifically, the proposed changes are as follows with accompanying rationales:

1) Increasing the minimum art concentration credits from 24 to 33

In the past, the art “concentration” referred specifically to a discipline such as painting. If a student in painting also wished to study sculpture, for example, s/he could take more credits in sculpture through electives, thereby decreasing the total “concentration” credits. However, our overall move to an interdisciplinary system precludes the need for prescribed disciplines and regards the full range of students' studio practice as their “concentration.” Therefore, the 33 total “concentration” credits reflect a deep commitment to personal investigation that is not impeded by categorical requirements.

2) Eliminating “cognate”

Admittedly, the "cognate" requirement dates back to a time before most of the present faculty joined the Art department; even senior faculty cannot actually recall its origins. As we understand it, however, "cognate" refers to coursework outside a student's area of specialization (formerly "concentration"), meant to insure some level of technical and creative breadth. Again the curriculum changes we propose embrace the value of breadth and infuse it with a directed, multidisciplinary approach. In other words, the spirit of the “cognate” requirement remains, but it is, in fact, absorbed into the nature of what we call “concentration.”

3) Eliminating free elective and studio elective courses

Again, the actual elimination occurs in name only. The spirit of elective courses is reflected in our view of the “concentration” as comprehensive studio practice. As with the “cognate,” electives are fully absorbed and valued in the overall number of “concentration” credits.

4) Adding 12 credits of critique

In the past, critiques existed as components of individual studio courses. That is, painting students would critique each other's work as would sculpture students and so on. Those dialogues remained discipline specific, however, and do not reflect the ongoing discourse in contemporary art in general or in our department specifically. In its contemporary form, the graduate "critique" course brings together graduate students from all areas of the department to share and critique work, exchange ideas, and challenge one another. Teaching of the course rotates among faculty each semester and, coupled with an intensive advising structure, encourages thinking beyond conventional boundaries. The critique experience serves as the foundation for an MFA candidate's education every semester. Its ultimate goal is to encourage artists to create intellectually rigorous work that is conceptually sophisticated and not medium dependent.

6) Adding a non-art academic course

Just as we acknowledge that contemporary artists no longer need to work in conventional categories, we understand the vital connections artists must make with scholarship outside of art. In demanding intellectual rigor and sophistication from our students, we ask them to explore related ideas in other fields that will stimulate their thinking and, consequently, their studio practice. We recognize the importance of an MF. Program within a larger University and encourage our graduate students to take advantage of the breadth of knowledge offered.

Program Requirements:

(Show the new or revised curriculum as it should appear in the Course Catalog. If this is a revision, be sure to indicate the changes being made to the current curriculum and **include a side-by-side comparison** of the credit distribution before and after the proposed change.)

See attached revised catalog text.

REQUIREMENTS CREDIT HOURS

OLD:	NEW:
Art Concentration (max. 36 credits)...24 (minimum)	Art Concentration. 33
Cognate 9	Critique12
Free Electives 9	Graduate Seminars in Art6
Studio Electives6	Non-Art Academic.3
Graduate Seminars in Art 6	M.F.A.Exhibition.3
M.F.A. Supporting Paper.3	M.F.A. Supporting Paper. 3
M.F.A.Exhibition. 3	TOTAL 60
TOTAL 60	

ROUTING AND AUTHORIZATION: (Please do not remove supporting documentation.)

Department Chairperson _____ Date _____

Dean of College _____ Date _____

Chairperson, College Curriculum
Committee _____ Date _____

Chairperson, Senate Com. on UG or GR Studies _____ Date _____

Chairperson, Senate Coordinating Com. _____ Date _____

Secretary, Faculty Senate _____ Date _____

Date of Senate Resolution _____ Date to be Effective _____

Registrar _____ Program Code _____ Date _____

Vice Provost for Academic Programs & Planning _____ Date _____

Provost _____ Date _____

Board of Trustee Notification _____ Date _____

Revised 5/02/06 /khs