

ASSESSMENT PLAN

Fine Arts

(Instructional Degree Program)

B.F.A.

(Degree Level)

Program Mission:

1. To inspire students to make creative and expressive ideas the foundation of their lives and in their work, which is the essence of the cultivation of the human mind and spirit.
2. To provide opportunities for students to work closely with faculty and staff in its academic courses, thus demonstrating that faculty and staff readily interact with students.
3. To incorporate appropriate elements from northern New Mexico's artistic culture in its courses, its production, and its presentations which relate to the rich heritage of Hispanic and Native American cultures of the State of New Mexico.
4. To prepare its students for an active professional life in each discipline through the knowledge, creativity, teaching skills and dedication of its faculty and staff, showing "excellence in teaching, discovering, preserving, and applying knowledge".
5. To develop knowledge and skill, literary and historical backgrounds, and ethical applications of communication and the arts, in order to "develop broadly literate students and leaders, educated in analytical and critical thought and in the appreciation of the arts and sciences".

Criteria for Assessment

Senior Exhibit - the student hangs the exhibit consisting of the portfolio, exhibit announcement and artist's statement. An exit interview is held in the gallery with the student and two full time members of the Program faculty.

Criteria - The Categories (Learning Outcomes) for Evaluation in Art Studio form* is used as a primary tool for outcomes assessment. Categories have been established and are assigned a number from 1 - 5, 5 being the highest. Students are expected to perform at a 3 or better in each of the categories. Scores of 3 and higher are considered to have met criteria, scores lower than three are considered to have not met the criteria.

Student Learning Outcome 1:

1. Solving artistic problems

The student is expected to solve artistic problems through creativity, originality, expressiveness and diversity. Diversity may be exhibited in the areas of technique, style, and in some cases, choice of media. Originality and expressive intent should be responsive to an understanding of art historical precedent. The work should transcend mechanical or technical instruction and demonstrate that genuine thought and feeling were employed in its execution.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 1

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:

Senior Exhibit - the student hangs the exhibit consisting of the portfolio, exhibit announcement and artist's statement. An exit interview is held in the gallery with the student and two full time members of the Program faculty.

Criteria - The Categories (Learning Outcomes) for Evaluation in Art Studio form* is used as a primary tool for outcomes assessment. Categories have been established and are assigned a number from 1 - 5, 5 being the highest. Students are expected to perform at a 3 or better in each of the categories. Scores of 3 and higher are considered to have met criteria, scores lower than three are considered to have not met the criteria.

Student Learning Outcome 2:

2. Content, Style and Presentation

Students are expected to unite content, style and presentation in a manner that reflects an awareness of art history and a concern with meaning and cultural context. Students are exposed to the history of art through visual imagery presented to them in both studio and art history courses, while studio courses also hold "critique sessions" in order to further develop understanding. The assignments of the courses inform the student in both a kinesthetic and intellectual manner as to the crafting of an image that communicates ideas clearly. Students should utilize the experience of group gallery exhibits held in the art department as a tool for understanding exhibit design prior to and in relation to their Senior Exhibit. The student is expected to present his/her work in a public exhibition in an effective manner. Gallery exhibitions within their studio environment are expected to assist the student in understanding how their work relates to others as well as how an individual idea or expression can develop into groups of ideas and expressions within their life-long careers.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 2

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:

Senior Exhibit, Exit interview, and Ratings form of Criteria, Specifically scores from item 2 of ratings form.

Student Learning Outcome 3:

3. Individual and Collaborative Technical Competence

The student is expected to exhibit skill and control of the elements appropriate to the mediums chosen. The studio courses support an emphasis on technical skill-building through classes offered with professionals in specified media. Technical skill-training assignments are given to develop the student's abilities. Exhibitions offer a consistent opportunity to work with peers in what can be a very social undertaking and cooperative work in the studio and in technical workshop settings provides situations where collaborative efforts are crucial. The student is expected to demonstrate competence and willingness to participate in a variety of collaborative situations.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 3

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills
- Effective Communication Skills
- Effective use of Technology

Student Learning Outcome 4:

4. Student Assessment of Development through Critique and Self Reflection

Students are expected to have a thorough and mature understanding of their growth and development. Critique sessions in studio courses and self-reflection are designed to develop an awareness of individual weaknesses and strengths. Critiques offer the student a number of solutions to perceived challenges and all students are expected to offer critical review to classmates during these sessions. The student is expected to show an individual capacity to utilize the criticism of others regarding creative, technical, aesthetic and stylistic concerns. The student should incorporate these wherever appropriate into the final portfolio.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 4

- Effective Communication Skills
- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 4:

Student Learning Outcome 5:

5. Motivation and Self Discipline leading to an Understanding of Professional Practices

The student is expected to demonstrate motivation and self-discipline in the planning, preparation and execution of the final portfolio and exhibition. Students are expected to explain their thought process using self-generated visual aids in classroom critiques. Proposal writing is an aspect of upper level studio coursework which assists the student in developing the ability to create art beyond the educational environment. Knowledge of professional practices is further enhanced through the example of professors, visiting artist lectures, workshops and on and off campus exhibitions. Students should not rely excessively on the assistance of others and should display an eagerness to uniquely fulfill the requirements of their senior exhibition and portfolio.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 5

- Effective Communication Skills
- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills
- Effective use of Technology