

Proposal from
Winthrop University
to the
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
to modify the
Master of Fine Arts in Art and Design
to the
Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art

September 15, 2014



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<http://www.winthrop.edu/cvpa/finearts/>

2. Classification

- a. Proposed Modified Program Title: M.F.A. in Studio Art
Current title: M.F.A. in Art and Design
- b. Proposed concentrations, options, and tracks: None
Current concentrations, options, and tracks: Concentrations in Painting, Sculpture, General Studio, and Crafts.
- c. Academic Unit: College of Visual and Performing Arts
- d. Proposed designation, type, and level of degree: Master of Fine Arts, graduate
Current designation, type, and level of degree: Master of Fine Arts, graduate
- e. Proposed date of implementation: Spring 2015
- f. Current CIP code of program to be modified: 50.0401
Suggested new CIP: 50.0701
- g. Site: Winthrop University campus, Rock Hill, SC 29733
- h. The proposed modified program does not qualify for supplemental Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship awards.
- i. Delivery Mode of proposed modified program: Traditional Studio Instruction and Traditional Lecture Instruction.

3. Institutional Approval

- a. List titles and dates of all internal institutional approvals
 - Fine Arts Curriculum Committee - January 17, 2014
 - Fine Arts Faculty - January 17, 2014
 - College of Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum Committee - January 24, 2014
 - College of Visual and Performing Arts Graduate Faculty Assembly - January 31, 2014
 - Graduate Council Approved - April 11, 2014
 - Graduate Faculty Assembly - April 25, 2014
 - Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs -
 - President -

4. Purpose

- a. Detailed description of the proposed modification.

Degree title. We propose to change the current degree program title to M.F.A. in Studio Art. The current graduate M.F.A. degree program offered by Winthrop University within the Department of Fine Arts is titled M.F.A. in Art and Design. This title was established when there was one Department of Art and Design. In 2007, the former department split into the Department of Design and the Department of Fine Arts. Earlier M.F.A. concentrations in Graphic Design and Interior Design had already been dropped within the degree.

Concentrations. We are proposing to eliminate all the current concentrations within the M.F.A. in Art and Design including Painting, Sculpture, Crafts, and General Studio. Essentially, there will be one program that requires 60 credit hours and typically 3 years to complete. Candidates for the M.F.A. in Studio Art will complete 36-42 hours of approved studio curriculum that form the basis of studio work leading to their thesis. Candidates will still be required to take 9 hours of graduate Art History. In lieu of a minor, candidates will take 3-9 elective hours outside of Fine Arts. Finally, candidates will take two thesis classes, one focusing on the written thesis statement and the other focusing on the thesis exhibition project. A total of 60 credit hours are required.

- b. Statement of Purpose or Mission

The M.F.A. in Studio Art program at Winthrop University develops and nurtures the artist's voice. Winthrop's Department of Fine Arts engages artists who can navigate ideas of the contemporary world. The M.F.A. in Studio Art program demands focused research in traditional, interdisciplinary or emerging practices in visual and conceptual art.

- c. Objectives of Modification

- Our desire to modify the degree title to M.F.A. in Studio Art will clarify our program for prospective students and eliminate unnecessary inquiries regarding interior design and graphic design.
- Eliminating concentrations will help create the possibility for interdisciplinary studio work in keeping with the changing nature of contemporary visual art. Professional artists address more interdisciplinary projects that range from community engagement to digital to performance, as well as our traditional art media.
- Eliminating concentrations will also be in keeping with recommendations from our recent National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) site visitors in April 2013.

Enrollment in the Master of Fine Arts program appears to be erratic across the areas of concentration: Painting, Sculpture, General Studio, and Crafts. These numbers have ranged from high to none over the course of several years. The Department of Fine Arts has indicated that it may reorganize the degree with the possibility of looking at an M.F.A. in Studio Art rather than with individual specializations. The visitors encourage

this effort. (NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF ART AND DESIGN Visitors' Report for site visit April 14-17, 2013)

5. Justification

- a. Discuss need and rationale for proposed modifications.

The M.F.A. in Art and Design was the degree title originated when there was a former Department of Art and Design. At that time there were M.F.A. in Art and Design concentrations in Graphic Design and Interior Design. However, those concentrations were eliminated long ago and the Department of Art and Design split into the Department of Fine Arts and the Department of Design in 2007.

The new title represents more clearly the nature of the program focusing on studio areas of inquiry. We are also proposing to eliminate all concentrations providing students with an opportunity to develop a program based on evolving 21st century contemporary issues and interdisciplinary media in visual arts.

The need is also based in the fact that we have a graduate studio faculty that is typically facilitated by one faculty per discipline. Eliminating the specialization or concentration would allow students a purposeful opportunity to interact with a broader range of studio faculty who can lend expertise to their studio research and thesis projects.

The modified title and curriculum would provide prospective students a better understanding of what the program has been evolving into over the past 7 years. This would also help spread the teaching load of our stand alone M.F.A. courses to help insure an appropriate work load in this changing higher education climate.

- b. Discuss centrality of the modified program to the Commission-approved mission of the institution.

Basic to our assessment of the M.F.A. program as it serves current and future students is our need to continually refresh our teaching and our ability to serve the changing needs of visual arts disciplines and students of evolving disciplines in the 21st century. Our desire to modify the program is in keeping with the institution's mission to be among the very best institutions of its kind as both competitive and distinctive in visual arts degree programs. We do not view the M.F.A. program as merely adjacent to our programs, but as integral to our service to its candidates, graduates, and the communities they serve. Current graduates of the M.F.A. program at Winthrop currently serve as full-time and part-time faculty in state and private institutions in South Carolina, North Carolina, California, Georgia, and Kentucky.

University Mission Statement

Winthrop University provides personalized and challenging undergraduate, graduate, and continuing professional education programs of national caliber within a context dedicated to public service to the nation and to the State of South Carolina. Winthrop's longtime commitment to be among the very best institutions of its kind in the nation continually guides the mission of the university.

Building on its 19th century origins as a distinctive women's college, the Winthrop University of the 21st century is achieving national stature as a competitive and distinctive, co-educational, public, residential comprehensive, values oriented institution. The values of service, excellence, diversity, community, and leadership provide the foundation for Winthrop's continuing development and shape Winthrop's continuing success.

Winthrop enrolls an achievement-oriented, culturally diverse and socially responsible student body between 6,500 and 7,000 students. The University recruits South Carolina's most able students as well as highly qualified students from beyond the state whose presence adds diversity and enrichment to the campus and the state. Winthrop prides itself on being an institution of choice for groups traditionally under-represented on many college campuses.

Winthrop is located in a traditional setting of exceptional beauty, and provides a contemporary, collaborative, and supportive environment that fosters engaged student learning and development. Winthrop has a diverse and able faculty and professional staff of national caliber and supports their work as effective teachers, scholars, researchers, practitioners, and creative artists. Through this talented group, Winthrop students acquire and develop knowledge, skills, capabilities and values that enrich their lives and prepare them to meet the needs and challenges of the contemporary world, including the ability to communicate effectively, appreciate diversity, work collaboratively, synthesize knowledge, solve complex problems and adapt to change. Ongoing assessment of programs and services ensures both that all academic programs challenge students at their highest level of ability and that the library, instructional technology and other academic service areas support courses of study that are consonant with best practices. As a result, Winthrop graduates are eminently well prepared to enter the most competitive graduate or professional schools as well as to be leaders in their chosen professions and in their communities.

6. Enrollment

- a. Discuss impact of proposed modification on student enrollment.

In 2007, there were five students enrolled in the M.F.A. in Art and Design program, all in concentrations of Painting, Sculpture, and General Studio. During the 2013-14 academic year, there was a total of 16 candidates in the M.F.A. program at Winthrop. In the 2013-14 academic year, five M.F.A. candidates successfully completed the M.F.A. in Art and Design degree program. During this past year, 9 students have applied to the program, 5 have been accepted, and one is still under consideration. Since 2007, therefore, the program has increased enrollment from 5 to 16. We intend to maintain that enrollment, and considering the size of our department, the space available, and commitment to undergraduate education as well, we intend to cap the M.F.A. program at 20 candidates.

This rise in enrollment was due in part to a new emphasis on stand-alone graduate classes that helped build community within the program. Numbers need to be maintained in order to create the synergy of numbers and ideas that will sustain not only the graduate community, but also, the cost efficiency of stand-alone course offerings.

We think the modified M.F.A. in Studio Art will provide us an opportunity to market and program to beneficial outcomes. Although our numbers are currently sufficient, we need to be conscious of the possibility of declining enrollments during the critical time within higher education. We think one proactive approach will be the distribution of information about a modified program creating renewed interest in Winthrop's M.F.A. program.

Table H – Estimated New Enrollment

This table is reflecting new enrollment with the addition of new students each year. At the end of the 3rd year, the new enrollment for fall 2015-16 is deducted.

ESTIMATED NEW ENROLLMENT						
YEAR	FALL		SPRING		SUMMER	
	Headcount	Credit Hours	Headcount	Credit Hours	Headcount	Credit Hours
2015 – 16	5	45	5	45		
2016 – 17	11	99	11	99	5	15
2017 – 18	17	153	17	152	7	63
2018 – 19	18	162	18	162	10	90
2019 – 20	18	162	18	162	10	90

7. Curriculum

- a. Discuss curricular changes required for the proposed modifications.

Current M.F.A. in Art and Design program

500-600 level courses in major area; including Special Topics in Art, MFA Studio Seminars ARTS 584, ARTS 585 and ARTS 690 in area of specialization	30 hours
500-600 level courses in minor	9-12
Art History	
ARTH 683 Seminar in Aesthetics, Theory and Criticism of Art	3
500-600 level art history courses	6
500-600 level electives outside Art and Design	3-6

ARTS 695 Thesis**	3
ARTS 696 Thesis**	3

**Documented Thesis and Graduate Thesis Exhibition

Total Semester Hours	60 Hours
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Proposed M.F.A. in Studio Art

500 600 level courses in major area approved studio curriculum (Including Special Topics in Art: MFA Studio Seminars ARTS 584, ARTS 585 and ARTS 690)	36-42
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Art History:

ARTH 683 Seminar in Aesthetics, Theory and Criticism of Art	3
500 600 level art history courses	6

500 600 level electives outside Fine Arts	3-9
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ARTS 695 Thesis**	3
ARTS 696 Thesis**	3

**Documented Thesis and Graduate Thesis Exhibition

Total Semester Hours	60
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Essentially, there is no change in number of hours required for this program that typically takes 3 years of study to complete. In lieu of a designated area of concentration and a studio minor, the student will develop an approved plan of courses leading to a successful thesis project.

That being said, there are no new courses being added to the M.F.A. graduate course offerings. The new approach simply allows the student to organize approved courses and the disciplines required to help further their investigation and research.

The opportunity to take up to 9 hours outside of Fine Arts courses also allows candidates to identify graduate courses in other departments that would be beneficial. For example, graduate business or marketing courses could be an option.

- b. No new courses with catalog type descriptions will be added as a result of this proposed modification.

8. Faculty

No new faculty are required as a result of this proposed modification, M.F.A. in Studio Art. Additionally, there are no faculty changes anticipated as a result of this modification.

9. Physical Plant

- a. There are no specific changes required in terms of the physical plant beyond normal maintenance or existing health and safety regulations.
- b. With the exception of graduate studio spaces which already exist, the M.F.A. in Studio Art will rely on the same physical plant needs as our undergraduate studio programs in the Department of Fine Arts. There are no additional physical plant requirements required as a result of this program modification.

10. Equipment

The M.F.A. in Studio Art will make use of the same equipment as the undergraduate programs in the Department of Fine Arts. There are no additional equipment needs beyond normal acquisitions and replacements.

11. Library Resources

Library Support for MFA in Studio Art

Dacus Library is well positioned to support the MFA in Studio Art. The library has a long tradition of approaches to covering all aspects important to the fine arts and works actively with the Fine Arts faculty to understand the programs' needs and systematically seeks quality library resources. This active relationship enables the library to keep abreast of new developments across the knowledge spectrum within Winthrop's Fine Arts programs. Strategic measures in strengthening the library collection areas for growing and evolving areas have spanned contemporary artists in all art forms, techniques and methods, aesthetics and theoretical underpinnings for studio arts.

In addition to the continuous strengthening of the Art collections, additional targeted efforts in recent years have been directed at broadening collections of books and videos dedicated to jewelry and metalworking, as well contemporary artists spanning sculpture, pottery, painting, drawing, and photography.

Library Collections Supporting Studio Arts

Students make use of library resources spanning drawing, painting, photography, illustration, print media jewelry and metalworking, art glass, pottery and ceramics, sculpture, as well as supporting background materials on aesthetics, gemstones and metals, pigment and color, graphic design and illustration, as well as theoretical and historical foundations.

The library's physical materials include nearly 17,000 books and videos across all art areas, plus over 1,700 ebooks. In addition to 34 current print journals in the arts, online databases, such as Art Index, provide access to over 200 e-journals specifically for arts, fine arts, and visual arts. Reference books, for example, Grove Encyclopedia of American Art, and online guides created in-house provide students resources and reference assistance. ARTstor, a digital library of over

one-million images, provides ambient inspiration for artistic creations, and the continually growing Films on Demand database currently includes 881 art titles.

Materials supporting studio arts housed in the library:

AM 1 - AM 401 (Museums, art collecting)	41
N Art (general)	6,544
NA 190 - NA 164 (Architectural history)	1,513
NB section (Sculpture)	623
NC 1 - NC 825 (Drawing)	1,120
ND section (Painting)	2,865
NE section (Print media)	391
NK section	1,587
NX section (Arts in general, religious arts, patronage, art centers, art administration)	497
QE 392 (Precious stones - for Jewelry program)	19
TN (Gems, ornamental stone, mineral - this area supports Jewelry program)	152
TP 890 - TP 949 (Textiles dyeing, paints, pigment, ink)	29
TR 1 - TR 1050 (Photography)	1,235
TS 752 (Precious stones, gems - new area, incl. jewelry stone settings)	6
	16,622

Library budget supporting Fine Arts and Design:

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015*
Fine Arts	\$28,719	\$32,128	\$10,376
Design	\$6,165	\$7,720	\$6,450
	\$34,885	\$39,848	\$16,826

*current fiscal year reflects allocations for books, audio-visual materials, and ebooks. Journal and database subscription payments are typically reflected toward of close of the fiscal year ending June 30.

ESTIMATED COSTS BY YEAR						
CATEGORY	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	TOTALS
Supplies and Materials	\$4919	\$4919	\$4919	\$4919	\$4919	\$24,595
Library Resources	\$1,392	\$1,392	\$1,392	\$1,392	\$1,392	\$6,960
Equipment	\$247	\$247	\$247	\$247	\$247	\$1,235
Facilities						
Other (Identify)						
TOTALS	\$109,954	\$109,954	\$109,954	\$109,954	\$109,954	\$549,770
SOURCES OF FINANCING BY YEAR						
Tuition Funding	\$50,130	\$116,586	\$179,262	\$193,068	\$193,068	\$732,114
Program-Specific Fees Studio Fees	\$1000	\$2200	\$3400	\$3600	\$3600	\$13,800
State Funding*						
Reallocation of Existing Funds**						
Federal Funding						
Other Funding (Specify)						
TOTALS	\$51,130	\$118786	\$182,662	\$196,668	\$196,668	\$745,914

Program administration based on 10% of Chair/MFA Advisor.

Faculty salaries based on primary thesis chair and major professor, two courses per faculty each academic year, and occasional one-one class arrangement. Percentages vary from 20% to 25% to 100% for adjunct.

Clerical based on 8% of overall undergrad and grad enrollment in Fine Arts.

Supplies and Materials based on 8% of overall undergrad and grad enrollment in Fine Arts.

Library Resources based on 8% of overall undergrad and grad enrollment in Fine Arts.

Equipment based on 8% of overall undergrad and grad enrollment in Fine Arts.

*Special legislative appropriations to support the program.

**Specify significant internal sources of reallocated funds. Add additional rows as necessary.

- c. The assumptions of Table I are a conservative estimate of new students based on the continued growth of the current program. There are very few out-of-state M.F.A. candidates beyond a few from the Charlotte Regional Partnership that still provides in-state tuition for graduate students.
- d. Neither the department nor the College of Visual and Performing Arts envision any unique cost or other special state appropriations that will be or have been required or requested as a result of this proposed program modification.
- e. Tuition funding noted in Table I is based on the current tuition rates for graduate students. Again, the enrollment is based on a conservative estimate of our on-going growth in the M.F.A. program.