

### 30-Review Notice for UW BA in Art

#### Program Information

Academic Unit Name: UW School of Art, Art History and Design

Institution: University of Washington, Seattle

College/School: College of Arts and Sciences

Campus:  Bothell  Seattle  Tacoma

Proposed Degree Title: BA in Art with Four Options

Proposed Degree Option(s): Three-Dimensional Forum, Interdisciplinary Visual Arts, Painting and Drawing, Photomedia

Proposed CIP Code: 50.0702 Total Minimum Credits: 75 (major)  
Required: 180 total  
(degree)

Proposed Start Date: Spring 2018  
(Quarter and year)

Projected Enrollment (FTE) in Year One: 350 Full Enrollment by Year: 2020 ; 350+  
(#FTE) (Academic Year) (#FTE)

#### Mode of Delivery / Locations

Campus Delivery UW Seattle Campus  
(enter locations)

Off-site \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter location(s))

Distance Learning \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter formats)

Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(describe if applicable)

Yes  No *Program will be offered online only*  
 Yes  No *All coursework will correspond to the regular academic calendar*  
 Yes  No *Students will be able to enroll in a full-time course of study each quarter Au/Wi/Sp (10 credits/quarter)*

#### Contact Information (Academic Department Representative)

Name: Jamie Walker

Title: Director of School of Art, Art History, Design

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**Program Description:** *Describe the proposed program, including level, focus, overview of the curriculum, and brief rationale for offering the program at this time and/or place.*

In consultation with Robert Stacy, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Catherine Cole, Dean of the Arts; and Jamie Walker, Director of the School of Art + Art History + Design, the faculty in the Division of Art propose the creation one BA in Art with four options of study.

Presently the Division of Art offers five different degree options for students: A BA in Interdisciplinary Visual Art; a BA and a BFA in Drawing and Painting; a BFA in Photomedia; and a BFA in 3Dimensional Forum (3D4M) with three options or tracks.

Our present degree options were instituted over a period of decades. They have out lived their original rationale and inspiration and are creating major problems for both faculty and students. Our UW colleagues in Dance, Music and Drama have already taken steps to eliminate the BFA in favor of the BA. Faculty at many of our sister institutions have eliminated the BFA and/or offer a BA as their primary degree.

Since the establishment of these existing degrees, the visual arts faculty at UW has been reduced from 35 to 17 members. It has become difficult to maintain the present teaching schedules and demand for resources generated by our five different majors. Most importantly, our existing degrees represent distinctly separate towers of practice at a time when art education and art practice have become increasingly cross-disciplinary. This reorganization will open the door for faculty to teach to their strengths while sharing coursework and teaching students across the Art Division. This flexibility will be further enhanced by a consistent curriculum across the four options.

Several years ago we consolidated separate practice-based majors in ceramics, sculpture and glass into one major with three options, Three Dimensional Forum. This was in a sense a preamble to this proposal as it set the stage for us to review and refocus our teaching practices in light of major shifts in the practice of art in the last 20+ years. Practice-based majors no longer clearly reflect the realities of the national or international art world.

Art in the 21st century is no longer defined by traditional materials and techniques. This is because artists themselves have broken with tradition and are making work that cannot be thought about or even discussed using vocabulary from these old categories. This defining shift needs to be expressed to students studying art at the university level. Disciplines are created to change and grow and this proposal is in part a response to this major shift in art practice locally, nationally and internationally. It has been a long time coming. However, many research institutions including all the public California universities have already made the move. This change will more accurately reflect the interdisciplinary focus in the visual arts today.

Our last two hires are good examples of this shift - Flint Jamison <https://art.washington.edu/people/aaron-flint-jamison> and Michael Swaine <https://art.washington.edu/people/michael-swaine>. In looking at the research of each of these artists/educators it is inappropriate to place their work squarely in any of the traditionally practice-based majors that we presently offer students.

Faculty research at this university can be nothing less than cutting edge in order to grow professionally. Our

research is the basis for our participation in the larger world of art and artists and it anchors our ability and authority to teach at an R1 university. As artists, we push the boundaries of our work into places that our present degrees do not acknowledge. Our teaching needs to reflect this change. A single BA in Art will allow every student at every level to see a clear path into an Art major where they can grow to understand the complexities of Art as a serious discipline. It will allow our research to guide our teaching by example.

In addition, in the past 20 years learning in the arts and especially in the visual arts at the K-12 level has been undermined by budget cuts. This has seriously diminished the experience with and knowledge of the visual arts that students bring with them from high school. Their experience now ranges from miserably inadequate to somewhat prepared. The one BA allows us to meet students where they are in terms of experience. Students with little or no background can begin at the beginning and work their way into an option. They will experience an even playing field of learning possibilities. Those with some background may spot a place for themselves right away in one of the options and begin to expand immediately on the knowledge and skills they learned in high school.

At present, students find our existing degrees confusing and inflexible. This frequently prevents them from making satisfactory progress toward degree and/or frustrates their desire to also study in other disciplines. Our proposal will allow all students studying Art to complete a degree in four years. It will also allow them to pursue a second major and or minor without an additional year of school or additional tuition and related college costs.

The faculty in Art want one BA with options for the same reason that History, English, Anthropology, and other disciplines do. It insures that the emphasis is on the larger discipline of ART as opposed to the more fractured view that a student gets when they study just one aspect or medium of that discipline and are not exposed to a more universal view. One BA with four options speaks to the fact that the discipline of Art is greater than the sum of its parts.

Our proposal hopes to simplify our present system of degrees and majors. More importantly, one BA in Art with Four Options will more accurately reflect the practice of the visual arts today.

**Institutional Role and Mission:** *Note if and, if so, how the new program or location would result in any change in mission.*

Our proposal does not include any change in our present institutional role and mission.

**Documentation of Need for the Program:** *Document the need for the program, with emphasis on student demand. Describe how the program and/or location will support the state's goals for higher education. Identify similar programs offered by other public or independent institutions in the region, and differentiate it from similar programs. Identify any options for collaboration.*

See program description above for goals and explanation of student demand.

The other four-year Washington state universities offer a variety of degrees in art. As far as we know, none of them are similar to the pattern of learning that this proposal establishes for the UW Seattle campus.

**Format and Articulation:** *Note where and when the program will be offered (day/evening/weekend/campus/distance/etc.) and, for undergraduate programs, the plan for articulation with associate degree programs, including any applicable major-ready pathways.*

There are no proposed changes to where and when the program will be offered- courses will continue to be taught on the UW Seattle campus, in person, AUT/WIN/SPR/SUM, each year. There are no changes to the admission or preparatory process for associate degree programs.

**Students:** *Describe the student population to be served, and project enrollments for five years.*

We do not anticipate that this proposal will change the makeup of our student population. Our goal is to maintain and grow our Art major population which is presently at 350 students. This includes a substantial number of freshmen and a growing number of transfer students. This proposed new BA in Art with four options responds in great part to requests from both freshmen and transfer students. This will allow students to complete a quality art degree while also seeking an additional major and/or minor without extending their graduation date.

**Resource Implications:** *Identify whether the program will be state-supported or, for graduate and fee-based programs, the level of tuition to be charged, and any other significant resource implications.*

There are no changes to the resources utilized.