

BFAR Statements and Rationales

Program: School of Art MFA

Liaison: Grace Nickel

BFAR Category/Broad Area	BFAR Statement	Rationale	Taught	Assessed
Cognition	Students must conceptualize, develop, research, and realize a significant creative project of original artistic work within the context of contemporary art practice and theory, and design and curate its exhibition.	Students need to demonstrate their abilities in executing a creative project, working towards a thesis exhibition and a written thesis statement that demonstrate evidence of a synthesis of research and ideation, coupled to a coherent interrelationship of such within a chosen method and material base.	STDO 7010 Studio Concentration 1 (3 credit hours) STDO 7020 Studio Concentration 2 (3) STDO 7030 Studio Concentration 3 (3) STDO 7040 Studio Concentration 4 (3)	STDO 7010 Studio Concentration 1 (3 credit hours) STDO 7020 Studio Concentration 2 (3) STDO 7030 Studio Concentration 3 (3) STDO 7040 Studio Concentration 4 (3)
	Students must demonstrate a critical understanding of the philosophical, historical, political, social, and economic contexts of art and material culture.	Students need to understand these contexts in order to develop an informed contemporary artistic and/or academic professional practice.	STDO 7110 Graduate Seminar 1 (3) STDO 7120 Graduate Seminar 2 (3) STDO 7130 Graduate Seminar 3 (3)	STDO 7110 Graduate Seminar 1 (3) STDO 7120 Graduate Seminar 2 (3) STDO 7130 Graduate Seminar 3 (3)
	Students must demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and self-reflexive use of critical perspectives and positions within broader critical frameworks.	Students need to be able to analyze their own artwork as demonstrated through self-reflection and criticism, including talking and writing about it, in order to continue a rigorous practice and engage in critical dialogue in the various contexts of the professional art world.	Graduate level (7000) electives (6) [See note*]	Graduate level (7000) electives (6) [See note*]
	Students must demonstrate a detailed knowledge of appropriate research methods used in the acquisition, analysis, and synthesis of source materials.	Familiarity with research methods will allow students to continue studying source material and its potential in an engaged, informed, and inventive manner once in professional practice.		
	Students must demonstrate an ability to investigate, utilize, and evaluate primary sources and secondary sources including written and visual texts to advance perspectives in independently generated research topics.	Students need to be informed of primary and secondary sources in order to continue in-depth, self-directed, independent research once they have embarked on their own professional practice.		

Skills and Abilities	Students must present a thesis proposal at the end of the first year of the MFA program.	Upon completion of the first year of the MFA Program, students are expected to enter into their second year with a well-defined thesis proposal in preparation for their thesis exhibition and thesis defense. Presenting the thesis proposal orally provides practice for their final oral thesis defence and begins to prepare students for publicly speaking about their work once in professional life.	STDO 7010 Studio Concentration 1 (3 credit hours) STDO 7020 Studio Concentration 2 (3) STDO 7030 Studio Concentration 3 (3) STDO 7040 Studio Concentration 4 (3) STDO 7110 Graduate Seminar 1 (3) STDO 7120 Graduate Seminar 2 (3) STDO 7130 Graduate Seminar 3 (3)	STDO 7010 Studio Concentration 1 (3 credit hours) STDO 7020 Studio Concentration 2 (3) STDO 7030 Studio Concentration 3 (3) STDO 7040 Studio Concentration 4 (3) STDO 7110 Graduate Seminar 1 (3) STDO 7120 Graduate Seminar 2 (3) STDO 7130 Graduate Seminar 3 (3)
	Students must communicate ideas and information in real time, in a range of presentation contexts through visual, written, and oral forms in a range of presentation contexts, culminating in a public thesis exhibition, a supporting written thesis statement, and an oral thesis defence, formalizing two years of studio-based research and practice.	Upon completion of the MFA Program, students are expected to be well-prepared to enter into artistic and/or academic life. In professional life they will be expected to create exhibition proposals and grant proposals, exhibit their work publically, and speak and write critically about their practice.	GRAD 7200 MFA Thesis / Studio Exhibition (no credit hours) Graduate level (7000) electives (6) [See note*]	GRAD 7200 MFA Thesis / Studio Exhibition (no credit hours) Graduate level (7000) electives (6) [See note*]
	Students must apply complex practical knowledge of creative processes and materials used in contemporary art at a master's level.	By gaining a broad practical knowledge of materials and experimenting with new processes while in the MFA program, students will be prepared to build and expand upon this knowledge in their own professional practice.		
	Students must be capable of integrating conceptual and practical knowledge through the realization of creative works at a master's level.	Students are expected to develop an ability to integrate concept, material, and process in order to successfully realize their artistic intentions in a professional art practice.		

* Note: Two graduate-level (7000) elective courses must be taken, supporting studio practice and research (3 credit hours each). These elective courses may be taken in another faculty with committee permission. Approved graduate-level elective courses that can be taken in the School of Art may include:

- STDO 7210 Themes in Contemporary Art Studio (3)
- STDO 7230 Contemporary Art Theory (3)
- STDO 7300 Special Topics in Fine Art (3)