

Program Learning Outcomes for the School of Visual Arts in General Education

Program: Bachelor of Fine Arts

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1. List the learning outcomes for the program

The general education component of the BFA provides the intellectual framework of a curriculum in the fine arts. As members of society, artists should have a breadth of knowledge that affords them a well-rounded education, and that lead to successful, satisfying careers and lives. General education courses augment the specialized training students receive in their fine art majors, and cultivates knowledgeable, informed and literate human beings. Students are required to take coursework in the 1) humanities, 2) natural sciences, and 3) social sciences through offerings within the College of Arts and Sciences and the larger university.

The School of Visual Arts general education program is designed to enable students to:

- acquire** and evaluate new knowledge through the introduction of important ideas and themes in human culture and foster an appreciation for varying perspectives and diverse voices.

- analyze** and evaluate and make critical judgments logically and rationally.

- communicate** intellectually, both in writing and orally, using accepted methods of presentation, organization and debate in the particular area in which they study.

- develop** intellectual skill that affords students the dexterity and insights needed to function in a rapidly changing world.

- integrate** knowledge from a variety of sources and fields and implement this knowledge within their major area of learning in the visual arts.

These five learning outcomes constitute an integral part of the overall educational experience at the School of Visual Arts and rely on the particular contributions of each specific discipline within the College of Arts and Sciences. The learning goals set by CAS in the Humanities, the Social Sciences and the Natural Sciences are in step with those expected by the School of Visual Arts. ‘

Humanities studies can include (1) literature, (2) history and culture, (3) advanced language, and (4) philosophy. These courses develop competency in understanding the human condition and to develop insights and critical evaluation and concern for the humanistic values in life. Study in these areas develops an appreciation for reasoning and the aesthetic value of human creativity.

Natural Sciences reveal the order, diversity and beauty of nature and study in this domain enables students a greater appreciation for the world around them. Exposure to the broad divisions of science—physical science, biological science, earth science, and applied natural science—build factual information learning and a scientific methodology that can be utilized in other areas of study.

Social Sciences develop a students' understanding of the diverse societal forces that shape people's lives and an appreciation of the principal methods of studying human behavior. Courses in the social sciences teach students' how to approach these subjects through scientific analysis, as well as economic analysis, and the dynamics of individual and group behavior. These methodologies develop in students' an understanding of the multiple nature of causality in social settings.