

## **ART Program Learning Outcomes Assessment Project 2005-2006**

The California State University Channel Islands Art Major focuses on interdisciplinary studies in fine art, digital art technology, graphic design and art history, emphasizing an innovative approach to artistic process, technique and problem solving through the integration of traditional media and digital technologies. Courses in studio art, art history and interdisciplinary studies focus on developing a solid artistic foundation, leading to advanced work in art media and theory. The studio art option provides in-depth study in the areas of two-dimensional art, three-dimensional art, digital media art, and communication design technology. The art history option provides in-depth study in the history of art and interdisciplinary topics.

Students prepare for a wide range of opportunities in professional and academic fields. Careers include positions in the visual arts, graphic design, Web design, multimedia, computer graphics, computer animation, digital photography, video art, digital filmmaking, visual effects, fine arts, galleries, museums, teaching and numerous other professions in the arts.

### **ART Program Goals and Student Learning Outcomes**

Through coursework required within the Art major, students achieve the following goals:

- Prepare for artistic careers in the expanding fields of traditional art or technological based media.
- Demonstrate methods of critical thinking through the analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of works of art.
- Demonstrate an informed understanding and appreciation of the role of art in contemporary societies as well as historical cultures.
- Through the creation of artwork, express personal ideas and opinions in response to a diverse range of global events.
- Demonstrate the integration of traditional art techniques, materials and processes with emerging digital art technologies.
- Develop written and verbal communication skills needed to articulate their conscious artistic intentions, and express coherent aesthetics.
- Demonstrate their preparation for professional artistic practice through the refinement of artistic concept, narrative and technique.
- Produce in-depth projects, working in specific media, demonstrating competency in advanced artistic production.
- Analyze a diverse range of career opportunities and prepare to work in their selected artistic discipline.

For the 2005-2006AY, the program selected a linchpin learning goal to assess:

- Produce in-depth projects, working in specific media, demonstrating competency in advanced artistic production.

This particular learning goal is among the most important outcomes of the Art Program. The data collected is used to verify that students understand and have learned, in a tangible manner, how to accomplish assigned and personal goals by producing the “product(s)” they have been trained to conceptualize, create and follow through on to completion.

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## Data and Analysis\*

The data compiled to assess the selected learning outcome is as follows:

- Photographic documentation of in-studio working processes and completed projects by seniors and graduates of the CSUCI Art Program. This documentation represents a cross section of students and media from the various artistic specializations, i.e. painting, sculpture, ceramics, graphic design, etc.
- Electronic documentation, interactive CD ROMs, and DVDs of completed multimedia, video and time-based art projects by seniors and graduates of the CSUCI Art Program.
- Art Capstone Projects. The Art Program archives both written and visual documentation of group capstone projects. These projects involve a culminating interdisciplinary experience in which students from various art disciplines work in groups with fellow artists, non-art majors and community members on projects specifically designed to meet a common goal. Activities are supervised by sponsoring faculty are executed on campus and/or on-site in conjunction with other departments (programs), community organizations and/or businesses.
- Annual Student Exhibitions and subsequent photo documentation thereof. Each spring semester a major exhibition is mounted of selected artworks by CSUCI Art majors. Awards for this exhibition are juried by visiting artists, curators and critics which insure the highest level of quality is noted and recognized by non-partial art professionals.
- Art Portfolios. As a requirement in ART 489 Art Seminar, students compile documentation of work they have completed while attending CSUCI. It is presented in a professional portfolio format, appropriate for the media and artistic specialization. This process not only prepares the student to enter the field of art but these portfolios provide an overview of the student's success and a valuable tool for program assessment.
- Art Student Exit Survey. This written survey is given to graduating seniors in the Art Seminar course. The questions presented represent an overall view of the goals of the art program but are mainly directed toward the elements that lead CSUCI graduates to competency in their specific artistic specialization and eminent success in the visual art field.

### ART Program: Student Exit Survey

**SA:** Strongly Agree, **A:** Agree, **N:** No Opinion, **D:** Disagree, **SD:** Strongly Disagree

1. You have received a comprehensive foundation in basic art techniques and skills that have prepared you for courses in the various art studio area(s) you chose to pursue.

SA: 58.5%      A: 33.5%      N: 4%      D: 4%      SD 0%

2. You have a working knowledge of digital art technology (computers) related to the area of specialization (in art) that you have chosen to pursue.

SA: 58.5%      A: 33.5%      N: 8%      D: 4%      SD 0%

3. CSUCI basic and foundation art classes, i.e. drawing, color and design, visual technologies, etc., form a good introduction into the more specialized and advanced art courses.

SA: 63%      A: 29%      N: 4%      D: 4%      SD 0%

4. Prerequisite classes required for an upper division studio have helped prepare you for the level of work required in the more advanced and specialized Art courses?

SA: 62%      A: 29%      N: 4%      D: 4%      SD 0%

5. You have achieved adequate understanding and knowledge of Art History and the role it plays in rounding out your overall education in art.

SA: 50%      A: 42%      N: 4%      D: 4%      SD 0%

**ART Program: Student Exit Survey (continued)**

6. You have received an overview of the historical and cultural importance of art that serves as a platform for your further investigation.

SA: 54%      A: 34%      N: 8%      D: 4%      SD 0%

7. By the time you graduate from CSUCI, you will have developed a competent body of work (or portfolio) that represents your accomplishments in your selected field(s) of (art) study.

SA: 50%      A: 34%      N: 8%      D: 8%      SD 0%

8. You have been adequately prepared at CSUCI to enter your selected field in art and to work toward attaining the professional goals you desire.

SA: 46%      A: 46%      N: 0%      D: 4%      SD 4%

*\* Documentation of all data listed is available in hardcopy or digital format upon request.*

**Conclusions and Implications for Program Modification**

The vast majority of documentation indicates that CSUCI Art majors are capable of producing and do produce in-depth art projects. An overview of the art major reveals that there is a wide range of artistic specializations currently available to the CSUCI art student and enrollment is largely focused in the studio art option as opposed to the art history option. Throughout their involvement in CSUCI art courses, students gravitate towards specific media of their choice in which they will demonstrate competency in advanced artistic production prior to graduation.

The student survey does indicate that there is an element of uncertainty among a very small number of students regarding their readiness to enter the professional field. Data indicates that this is a result of certain students waiting until later in their CSUCI education to develop a personal direction or select a specialized area of study. Therefore do they not spend adequate time concentrating on developing competency in a particular medium. In these cases, it is recommended that such students take additional courses that will lead to artistic competency in a selected media. There is also an extremely slight indication that some students have not realized the importance of the integration of art history and art theory into the artistic process. The art faculty will be investigating methods to close these small gaps within the program.

Overall, the large amount of documentation collected clearly demonstrates proof that the CSUCI Art Program is highly successful in implementing the selected learning outcome: Students produce in-depth projects, working in specific media, demonstrating competency in advanced artistic production.