

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC 48 (ART): Department of Art & Art History Petition for Exemption to SD2015F
UNC Asheville, October 26, 2021
Professor & Department Chair: Tamie Beldue

This petition for exemption concerns one of the three concentrations in the Department of Art & Art History: The Bachelor of Fine Arts degree (BFA). **Our current BFA degree has maintained its 68-hour requirement for ten consecutive years since AY 2011-2012.**

Rationale

A few points should be noted by way of supplement to the rationales already provided:

1. The BFA in Art is one of three degrees in our department. The other two include: BA in Art and BA in Art History. In addition, we work with the education department for K-12 Art Teacher Licensure.
2. As with the other degrees, students who pursue the BFA degree do so by choice. The students seeking the rigor of the BFA degree do so fully aware that alternative degrees with fewer requirements are also available to them at UNC Asheville. As with the BFA in Music, our BFA Art program is largely self-selecting. Among our degree recipients are some of the most ambitious and talented students at UNC Asheville (honors program, valedictorian, Undergraduate Research Scholar, etc.).
3. Unlike the BA Art degree, admittance to our BFA degree involves a competitive application process. Applicants must have (and maintain) a 3.0 GPA within the department. It is by design a rigorous degree that prepares students for the demanding world of art professionalism. In addition, it is most commonly aligned with degree requirements from private art colleges that our students will be competitive amongst for further graduate studies.
4. The BFA degree of 68 hours is composed of 52 hours with the ART prefix and 16 hours with the ARTH prefix.

The Department of Art & Art History concurs with the Music Departments sentiments on such a conversation of credit caps *“One issue that we hope will be addressed in any future incarnation of SD 1814F is the emphasis on justification by way of comparison. What is left out of the document is room for justification by way of uniqueness or strategic vision. While we believe holding departments to standards can be productive, an overemphasis on standardization can drown out those elements that make our university truly unique. This would include not only UNC Asheville’s leadership in what is rapidly becoming a nationally renowned city for music, tourism, craft and creative entrepreneurship, it would also include existing degree programs like Mechatronics, Art, Management, Environmental Studies, and Music Technology that are unique in leveraging distinctive connections to local/state industries and concerns. Our BFA degree is one such degree”.*

Justification

Justification by way of comparison with sixteen UNC Asheville formally, approved peer institutions, (provided by Jeff Konz) includes twelve COPLAC, two public and two private:

1. **No Studio program:** SUNY-Geneseo, Evergreen State College, New College
2. **Institutions with BA art degrees only:** Fort Lewis (**54** credit hours), Univ. of Maine-Farmington (**60** credit hours), Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (**57** credit hours), Univ. of Minnesota-Morris (**52** hours), Ramapo College of NJ (**64** credit hours), St. Mary's College of Maryland (**48** credit hours), Christopher Newport (**48** credit hours), Furman Univ. (**48** credit hours), Rhodes College (**48** credit hours)
3. **Institutions with BFA art degrees;** Keene State (**80** BA hours /**120** BFA hours), Univ. of Montevallo (**79** BA hours /**120** BFA hours), Truman State (**61** BA hours /**125** BFA hours), SUNY Purchase (**82** BA hours /**120** BFA hours)

INSTITUTION	BA CREDIT HOURS	BFA CREDIT HOURS
SUNY Geneseo	No BA degree	No BFA degree
Evergreen State College	No BA degree	No BFA degree
New College	No BA degree	No BFA degree
University of North Carolina Asheville	44	68
Rhodes College	48	No BFA degree
Furman University	48	No BFA degree
Christopher Newport	48	No BFA degree
St. Mary's College of Maryland	48	No BFA degree
University of Minnesota-Morris	52	No BFA degree
Fort Lewis	54	No BFA degree
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	57	No BFA degree
University of Maine: Farmington	60	No BFA degree
Ramapo College of New Jersey	64	No BFA degree
University of North Carolina Asheville	44	68
University of Montevallo	79	120
SUNY Purchase	82	120
Keene State	80	120
Truman State	61	125

As demonstrated above, of the sixteen schools, three programs do not offer a studio art major, while nine institutions only have BA degrees in art, leaving four institutions with both BA & BFA art degrees. Within the thirteen comparable programs, our degree requirements for the studio art BA degree (44 credit hours) is lower than ALL comparable art degrees. Furthermore, within the four comparable BFA programs our degree requirements for the BFA art degree (68 credit hours) is lower than ALL comparable institutions. **The average equivalent credit hours for the degree is 110 hours - a full 42 credit hours higher than the adjusted credit hour degree program we are petitioning for exemption.**

Appendices

Appendix 1 outlines teaching loads by instructor. Courses in bold are our core-concentration courses that are only taught by those faculty listed.

Appendix 2 illustrates our foundation and capstone courses that are taught on a rotating schedule. This table also outlines when a faculty member is able to teach outside our department.

Appendix 3 illustrates our plan for our Art History faculty. This rotation is on a 5-year repetition so it can be assumed that the schedule will repeat itself in Fall 2025. BFA students are required to take 16 credits of ARTH courses.

BFA Graduation Timeline

The following table provides a clear four-year snapshot of how degree requirements fit within the liberal arts core. This pathway to graduation is based on a full time 12-credit schedule. More ambitious students can choose to take electives raising their semester course load to 16-credits. Both semesters of the senior year allow for additional elective classes, including an optional semester of senior capstone; ART492 Senior Exhibitions III.



Pathway to Graduation: Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art

Year One		
Fall Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FYS 178 • ART 122 (For drawing, printmaking, photography, or painting concentration) • ART 133 (For ceramic or sculpture concentration) • ART 144 	Spring Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ART 122 (For ceramic or sculpture concentration; pre or co-req with Level 1 studio) • ART 133 (For drawing, printmaking, photography or painting concentration; pre or co-req with Level 1 studio) • Level 1 studio concentration 	The following Liberal Arts Core courses are recommended in the first year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LANG 120 - HUM 124 - Lab Science - Language 1 (or placement)
Year Two		
Fall Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 2 studio concentration • ARTH 201 • ART 204 / 218 / 234 / 246 / 254 / 264 	Spring Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 3 studio concentration • ARTH 202 • ART 204 / 218 / 234 / 246 / 254 / 264 	The following Liberal Arts Core courses are recommended in the second year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUM 214 • Language 2 • Scientific Perspectives • Social Science
Year Three		
Fall Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 4 studio concentration • ART 204 / 218 / 234 / 246 / 254 / 264 	Spring Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ART 490 • Level 2 studio art course 	The following Liberal Arts Core courses are recommended in the third year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUM 324 • ARTS 310 • Quantitative Literacy
Year Four		
Fall Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ART 491 • ARTH (Diversity Intensive) • ART 3xx – 4xx 	Spring Semester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ART 492 	The following Liberal Arts Core courses are recommended in the fourth year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUM 414 / LA 478