

Photography BFA

Knowledge Of The History Of Photography

Goal Description:

Students in the BFA Photography program will have an understanding of the History of Photography. They will be familiar with contemporary theories, trends and practices in the medium of photography. Students will be able to contextualize ideas in the continuum of this history and understand the relation of their own work to photographic practices that have preceded it.

Providing Department: Photography BFA

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Demonstrate Historical and Contemporary Knowledge

Learning Objective Description:

Students will write papers exploring an artwork, artist, period, group of artists, collection, or theme providing an analysis of the works and their historical significance.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

History of Photography Essays or Research Paper

Indicator Description:

Students in ARTS 4381 The History of Photography, will write an essay or research paper exploring an artwork, artist, period, group of artists, collection, or theme. The paper should include an analysis of the works and their historical significance. The paper may also discuss the formal attributes of the photograph, the style, the social or political influences, the technology use, and the subject matter. The essays will:

- Provide a clear introduction and draw conclusions supported by visual and contextual evidence.
- Describe the works accurately and clearly.
- Use vocabulary introduced in classroom lectures and photography history textbooks.
- Convey a clear and convincing image of their perspective.
- Use external information about the cultural context and photographic techniques gathered from readings and presentations.
- Sum up major ideas and draw convincing conclusions grounded in visual evidence and contextual information

Attached Files

 [SACS PH Hist 22.docx](#)

Criterion Description:

The essays will be evaluated by members of the Photography faculty. The faculty will use a rubric with a scale of 0-100% to evaluate the abilities and proficiencies. It is expected that at least 70% of the students evaluated will score 85% or higher in each aspect of the evaluation. The faculty would like to continue to assess and maintain this objective since the standards and assignments of the class continued to improve last year. The rubric was updated in this cycle by the Photography faculty to better reflect the goals of the program.

Findings Description:

Weakness in all areas of Historical Knowledge particularly in writing conclusions and use of vocabulary.

50% scored above 85 on Clarity of Writing
 25% scored above 85 on Describing Works
 50% scored above 85 on Providing Context
 50% scored above 85 on Vocabulary

50% scored above 85 on Understanding of Works

0% scored above 85 on Conclusion

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

History of Photography Essays or Research Paper

Action Description:

There was a dip in scores from the last cycle. In this cycle there were fewer student papers evaluated, but the largest area of concern, writing a conclusion, remains consistent. The Photography faculty will continue working with art historians and stress the importance of vocabulary as well as writing conclusions and describing art works in context. Students will be encouraged to use the Writing Center to help with essays. More writing assignments will be added to advanced Photography courses. The goal of 70% of students scoring 85 or higher will continue to be used in the next cycle.

Prepare Students For Professional Practice As Photographic Artists

Goal Description:

The BFA in Photography is the professional degree for Photography students in the Department of Art. The BFA Program will provide students with the skills to practice the art of photography at a professional level. The BFA will also qualify students to pursue MFA degrees at graduate schools in the United States.

Providing Department: Photography BFA

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Demonstrate Analog Photography Skills

Learning Objective Description:

Students will create a portfolio of photographs demonstrating proficiency in the use of analog darkroom processes and techniques.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Analog Photography Skills

Indicator Description:

Students in ARTS 3374 Alternative Processes and ARTS 2365 Photographic Visualization will create portfolios of work for the final project using analog darkroom techniques. A committee of Photography faculty will evaluate the samples of work from the portfolios to determine successful demonstration of:

- The ability to create a properly exposed negative for creation of prints.
- Proficiency in producing a positive print using non-silver techniques.
- Proficiency in producing a positive print using silver techniques.
- The ability to communicate ideas through the medium of photography.
- Appropriate choice of materials

Criterion Description:

The portfolios will be evaluated by members of the Photography faculty using a rubric scoring on a scale of 0-100% to evaluate the abilities and proficiencies. It is expected that at least 80% of the students evaluated will score 85 or higher in each aspect of the evaluation. This year, work was evaluated from ARTS 2365 Photographic Visualization and ARTS 3374 Alternative Processes.

Attached Files

 [SACS 2022 Analog .docx](#)

Findings Description:

There is a need for improvement in all areas.

21.43% scored above 85 on Ability to produce a properly exposed negative for print production

50% scored above 85 on Proficiency in producing silver and/or non-silver prints (exposure, contrast, value, etc.)

42.86% scored above 85 on Use of medium and materials to express an idea or theme

35.17% scored above 85 on Composition and aesthetic decisions

28.75% scored above 85 on Appropriate Choice of Materials

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Analog Photography Skills

Action Description:

The goal of 80% of students scoring 85 or higher was not met in any areas in this cycle. The indicator results show lower scores than in the previous cycle. There continued to be many challenges teaching darkroom-based classes this year due to the covid-19 pandemic. The Photography faculty will meet in the fall semester to access work from ARTS 3374 Alternative Processes and in the Spring to review work from ARTS 2365. The rubric was updated this cycle and it better addresses the concerns in the analog area. In the next cycle the goal of 80% of students scoring 85 or higher will be retained. The Photography faculty will meet to discuss ways to strengthen student abilities in the areas of exposure and appropriate Choice of Materials as well as other areas in the Analog Indicator.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Demonstrate Digital Imaging Skills

Learning Objective Description:

Students will create a portfolio demonstrating proficiency in the creation, manipulation, output, and conceptual expression using photographic digital editing processes and techniques.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Digital Portfolio

Indicator Description:

Students in ARTS 3370 Digital Photography II will create portfolios using digital imaging techniques. A committee of Photography faculty will

evaluate the samples of work from the portfolios to determine successful demonstration of:

- Ability to create a properly exposed digital image using manual camera settings and digital processing (awareness of proper color/tone, white-balance, value, contrast, resolution, and artifacts correction., etc.)
- Ability to create and construct complex images that reflect a true photographic reality using digital editing software in multi-step processes – masking, layers, and manipulation, etc.
- Ability to express and communicate conceptually through the medium of digital photography.
- The use of principals of design to create a composition (value, line, shape, space, etc.)
- Ability to successfully remove elements in a photograph using digital editing.

Criterion Description:

The portfolios will be evaluated by a committee of Photography faculty members. The faculty will use a rubric utilizing a scale of 0 -100% to evaluate student abilities and proficiencies. It is expected that at least 80% of the students evaluated will score 85 or higher in each aspect of the evaluation. Based on last year's assessment, faculty felt a need for continued improvement in this area. Last year work was evaluated from ARTS 3376 as an indicator of intermediate level student knowledge. This year work was evaluated from ARTS 3370 Digital Photography II to measure progression. This course has been redesigned by a new faculty member. The Photography faculty agreed upon changes to the past rubric to better evaluate student knowledge of digital editing. The criteria of 80% scoring 80 or higher will be used with the new indicators.

Findings Description:

Weakness in ability to remove items and all other areas need improvement to meet the criteria.

50% scored above 80 on ability to create a properly exposed digital image.

31% scored above 80 on use of principals of design.

25% scored above 80 on digital manipulation and construction of a digital image.

12.5% scored above 80 on ability to successfully remove elements in a photograph using digital editing.

31% scored above 80 on conceptual development and ability to communicate through a digital photo

Attached Files

 [SACS Digital 2022.docx](#)

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Digital Portfolio

Action Description:

The findings show a continued need for overall improvement in all areas of digital imaging skills. ARTS 3370 Digital Photography and Imaging has been taught online for the past 2 years and scores have continued to drop. Faculty will request a face-to-face version in the next cycle. The curriculum will be changed to better meet the needs of the program. A new faculty member will teach the class which may help promote positive change. Photography faculty will continue to meet to discuss ways to bring more digital skills into advanced classes as well as to evaluate new assignments in ARTS 3370. Since the goal was not met in this cycle, it will remain for at least 80% of the students evaluated will score 80 or higher in each aspect of the rubric in the next cycle.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Demonstrate Professional Practice Proficiency

Learning Objective Description:

Students will be proficient in the creation, manipulation, and printing of digital images and demonstrate the ability to use these techniques to create photographic artworks that have a personal aesthetic and are conceptually sophisticated.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Senior Portfolios

Indicator Description:

Seniors in the BFA Photography program will take ARTS 4315 Professional Practices in Art. Portfolios and exhibitions by senior Photography students in this class will be assessed.

The works in the portfolios will demonstrate:

- expression of concept through the medium photography.
- evidence of ability to present a developed body of work showing artistic growth.
- demonstration of ability to express clear goals within a body of photographic work in a written artist statement.
- demonstration of technical photographic skills.
- professional presentation of work.

Note: "use of medium and materials to express concept", "evidence of personal voice", and "expression of concept through art" were combined into one indicator to prevent repetition. "artistic development through the evolution of concept" was replaced with "evidence of ability to present a developed body of work showing artistic growth."

Two new indicators were added: "demonstration of ability to express clear goals of the work in a written artist statement" and "demonstration of technical photographic skills."

Criterion Description:

The portfolios will be evaluated by members of the Photo faculty. The faculty will use a rubric that uses a scale of 0-100% to evaluate the abilities and proficiencies. It is expected that at least 75% of the students evaluated will score 85 or higher in each aspect of the evaluation. Last year, all of the students met the criteria for evaluation, but Photography faculty still saw room for improvement. This year we are maintaining the expected percentage of 75% to score 85.

Attached Files

 [SACS 2022 4315 averages.docx](#)

Findings Description:

The findings show an increase in scores in expression of concept, evidence of ability to present a developed body of work, and photographic technical skills, but a need for improvement in areas of professional presentation and written artist statement.

62.5% scored 85 or higher on expression of concept through the medium photography.

87.5% scored 85 or higher on evidence of ability to present a developed body of work showing artistic growth.

75% scored 85 or photographic technical skills.

75% scored 85 or professional presentation of work.
37.5% scored 85 or higher on written artist statement

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Senior Portfolios

Action Description:

The goal of 75% to score 85% or higher was not met in this cycle for all areas of the indicator. The findings show an increase in scores in expression of concept, evidence of ability to present a developed body of work, and photographic technical skills, but a need for improvement in areas of expression of concept, professional presentation, and written artist statements. Additional focus will continue to be placed on conceptual development of senior projects and written artist statements to continue improvement in this area. This cycle saw the return of face-to-face exhibitions but there was continued disruptions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Photography faculty meet to discuss ways of improving senior exhibitions and final portfolios. The goal of 75% to score 85% or higher will be kept in the next cycle.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

Closing Summary

The Covid-19 pandemic did prevent progress in some areas in the Photography Program. In all areas of digital imaging skills, there continues to be a need for overall improvement. Significant changes were made to the course this year and Photography faculty will continue to meet to discuss ways to bring more digital skills into advanced classes as well as to evaluate new assignments in ARTS 3370. While the scores for conceptual development were lower, greater expectation was placed on students in this area and will continue to be this expectation in future classes. The goal will remain for at least 80% of the students evaluated will score 80 or higher in each aspect of the rubric.

In the area of Analog Photography, a new goal was set last year of 80% of students scoring 85 or higher. Students met this goal in the areas of producing prints, but did not meet the goal in other areas. There were many challenges teaching darkroom based classes this year due to the covid-19 pandemic and students did not have as much access to the darkroom as usual. In the next year, we hope better access will help improve this area. The Photography faculty will meet in the fall semester to access work from ARTS 3374 Alternative Processes and in the Spring to review work from ARTS 2365. The faculty will meet to discuss ways to improve the evaluation rubric to better address the concerns in the analog area. In the next cycle the goal of 80% of students scoring 85 or higher will be retained.

In the area of Historic Knowledge, there was an improvement from last cycle's scores, but more improvement is needed in this area. The Photography faculty will continue to work with new Art Historian teaching the class to make sure all goals are clearly understood and work to update the rubric. The areas of conclusions and vocabulary remain the largest areas of concern. There will continue to be more emphasis placed on vocabulary in advanced Photography classes. The goal of 70% of students scoring 85 or higher will continue to be used in the next cycle.

In the area of Professional Portfolio, a higher goal was set for scores in this cycle and that goal was not met in all areas except for professional presentation. Next year, the Photography faculty will focus on helping students to make the final portfolios more cohesive. The Covid-19 pandemic, cancelation of receptions for senior exhibitions, and health issues of a faculty member negatively impacted ARTS 4315 in this cycle. Additional focus will be continue to be placed on conceptual development of senior projects and written artist statements in order to continue improvement in this area. Last year, all of the students met the criteria for evaluation, but Photography faculty still saw room for improvement. Next year the goal of 75% students to score 85 or higher will be maintained.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

With the return of more face-to-face classes there was less disruption due to The Covid-19 pandemic in this cycle. However, things were not back to normal and student absences continued to be an issue. ARTS 3370 was taught online and improvements were not seen in the scores. The scores were lower in this cycle than in the previous assessment. ARTS 3370 was only offered one a year and only online. This schedule resulted in a larger class and assignments were not significantly changed from the previous cycle. There remains a strong need for evaluation and redesign of the ARTS 3370 course to meet the needs of the program.

In the area of Analog Photography, students did not meet the goal of 80% of students scoring 85 or higher. A new printing class was introduced and with the return to more darkroom access the Photography faculty observed more experimentation in student work but overall lower scores. A new faculty member taught analog skills in this cycle as well. The faculty met to discuss ways to improve the evaluation rubric to better address the concerns in the analog area.

In the area of Historic Knowledge, there was no improvement from last cycle's scores. The areas of conclusions and vocabulary remain the largest areas of concern. New faculty have been hired in the area of Art History for the next cycle and there will be dialog about the history of photography and a member of their faculty will be added back to the assessment committee for this area of the Photography Area assessment.

In the area of Professional Portfolio, the goal was not met in all areas. The Photography faculty met to discuss strategies for helping students to make the final portfolios more cohesive. The return of face-to-face receptions for senior exhibitions had a positive impact on ARTS 4315 in this cycle. Additional focus will be continue to be placed on conceptual development of senior projects and written artist statements in order to continue improvement in this area.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

In the area of Analog Photography, The indicator results show lower scores than in the previous cycle. The Photography faculty will meet in the fall semester to access work from ARTS 3374 Alternative Processes and in the Spring to review work from ARTS 2365. The rubric was updated this cycle and it better addresses the concerns in the analog area. The Photography faculty will meet to discuss ways to strengthen student abilities in the areas of exposure and appropriate Choice of Materials as well as other areas in the Analog Indicator.

In the area of Digital Photography, findings show a continued need for overall improvement in all areas. ARTS 3370 Digital Photography and Imaging has been taught online for the past 2 years and scores have continued to drop. Faculty will request a face-to-face version in the next cycle. The curriculum will be changed to better meet the needs of the program. A new faculty member will teach the class which may help promote positive change. Photography faculty will continue to meet to discuss ways to bring more digital skills into advanced classes as well as to evaluate new assignments in ARTS 3370. Research will be done to evaluate if the program is teaching these skills in a way that benefits the students in advanced classes and the industry.

In the area of Historic Knowledge, the indicator showed a lowering of scores in student essays in all areas. The largest area of concern, writing a conclusion, remains consistent. The Photography faculty will continue working with art historians and stress the importance of vocabulary as well as writing conclusions and describing art works in context. Students will be encouraged to use the Writing Center to help with essays. More writing assignments will be added to advanced Photography courses. In the next cycle, Art History faculty will be added to the committee once again for evaluation of the indicator to promote a better understanding of strengths and areas for improvement.

In senior portfolios, the findings show an increase in scores in expression of concept, evidence of ability to present a developed body of work, and photographic technical skills, but a need for improvement in areas of expression of concept, professional presentation, and written artist statements. Additional focus will continue to be placed on conceptual development of senior projects and written artist statements to continue improvement in this area. This cycle saw the return of face-to-face exhibitions but there was continued disruptions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Photography faculty meet to discuss ways of improving senior exhibitions and final portfolios. The indicators for senior portfolios will be evaluated in the next cycle as well.

Overall, the Photography Faculty observed both strengths and weaknesses in the Photography Program. The coordinator will meet with all faculty in the area to make sure goals are understood and being met in all Photography courses.