

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 artwork, artist, period, genre, 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/context.
- 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:

The findings show a need for improvement in most areas of knowledge of the history of photography.

- 33% of students scored 85 or above in the area of provides a clear introduction and draw conclusions supported by visual and contextual evidence.
- 33% of students scored 85 or above in the area of describing the works accurately and clearly.

- 33% of students scored 85 or above in the area of conveys a clear and convincing image of their perspective/context.
- 33% of students scored 85 or above in the area of use of vocabulary.
- 100% of students scored 85 or above in the area of use of external information.
- 50% of students scored 85 or above in the area of writing a conclusion.

Attached Files

 [Indicator Photo History 23.pdf](#)

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

History of Photography Essays or Research Paper

Action Description:

In this cycle ARTS 4381 History of Photography was taught by a new adjunct in the Photography Program. It did not appear that all students were expected to write a final research paper. Those that were assessed did not show improvement as expected in writing a conclusion and vocabulary. In the next cycle ARTS 4381 will be taught by an Art History faculty member with greater emphasis on writing. The Photography faculty will continue to show examples of historic and contemporary photographers in studio classes and will consider adding additional writing assignments in all levels of the curriculum. The goal of 70% of students scoring 85 or above will be maintained.

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 Photography 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, techniques and exposure.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Analog Photography Skills

Indicator Description:

Students in ARTS 2365 Darkroom will create portfolios of work 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 silver or non-silver techniques.
- The ability to communicate an idea or theme through the medium of photography.
- The use of compositional and aesthetic decisions in photographic images.

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 Darkroom.

Attached Files

 [SACS 2022 Analog .docx](#)

Findings Description:

This year 100 % of the student portfolios reviewed demonstrated proficiency all areas of the rubric:

- **100 % scored 80 or above in ability to produce a properly exposed negative for print production.**
- **100 % scored 80 or above in proficiency in producing silver and/or non-silver prints (exposure, contrast, value, etc.)**
- **100 % scored 80 or above in use of medium and materials to express an idea or theme**
- **100 % scored 80 or above in composition and aesthetic decisions**

Attached Files

 [Indicator Darkroom 23.pdf](#)

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Analog Photography Skills

Action Description:

This year significant improvements was noted by faculty in the analog photography area. Changes to assignments were made in the previous cycle and those adjustments were successful as demonstrated by student work. In the next cycle, the program should maintain this strength and the goal will be set that 90% of students score 90 or above for this indicator.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Demonstrate Digital Imaging Skills

Learning Objective Description:

Students will create a portfolio demonstrating proficiency in 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 and Imaging 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. This year work was evaluated from ARTS 3370 Digital Photography and Imaging to measure progression. This course has been taught 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:

Reviews of student portfolios resulted in the following scores:

- 100% of students scored 80 or above in the ability to create a properly exposed digital image.
- 90% of students scored 80 or above in the use of principals of design.
- 100% of students scored 80 or above in the use of digital manipulation and image construction, however 40% of the portfolios reviewed did not show evidence of this indicator.

- 100% of students scored 80 or above in the ability to successfully remove elements from a photo, however 30% of the portfolios reviewed did not show evidence of this indicator.
- 60% of students scored 80 or above in demonstration of conceptual development and ability to communicate through a digital photo.

Attached Files

 [Indicator Digital Photo 23.pdf](#)

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Digital Portfolio

Action Description:

The area of digital photography remains the area that needs to be monitored, remediated, and enhanced. While the scores met the goals set in the previous cycle, it was not possible to assess each indicator as not all work demonstrated the criteria. ARTS 3370 Digital Photography and Imaging was taught by a new faculty in this cycle and while the goals were communicated it does not appear that the assignments aligned with the indicators. In the next cycle, the course will be redesigned by the tenured and tenure track photography faculty to insure consistency and student skills in the digital photography area. The goal of 80% of students scoring 85 or above will be set for the next cycle with the expectation that all indicators will be measurable.

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:

This year 100% of portfolios that were reviewed showed proficiency in each area of the indicator.

- 100% of student work reviewed scored 80 or above in the expression of a concept through photography.
- 100% of student work reviewed scored 80 or above in development of a body of work showing growth.
- 100% of student work reviewed scored 80 or above in use of photographic technical skills.
- 100% of student work reviewed scored 80 or above in professional presentation.
- 100% of student work reviewed scored 80 or above in written artist statements.

Attached Files

 [Indicator Portfolios 23.pdf](#)

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Senior Portfolios

Action Description:

In this cycle 100% of students met the goal in demonstrating professional proficiency in photography. This is a strength to maintain and the goal will be set at 90% of students scoring 90 or higher in each area of the indicator. The photography faculty would like to see more growth in the area of the written artist statement. In the last cycle more emphasis was placed on writing statements in lower level classes. This change has lead to improvement in the senior statements and will continue in the next cycle. Continued emphasis on professional presentation strategies will be a goal of the next cycle as well.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

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

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.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

In this year's cycle the Photography area demonstrated progress in the analog photography indicators. After reviewing the photography faculty decided to remove the indicator "appropriate choice of materials" as students are given material assignments in each class and do not choose the process they are using on their own. New assignments were added, and past assignments were revised resulting in stronger student work with higher scores.

In the area of Digital Photography, findings show a continued need for overall improvement in all areas of the indicator. ARTS 3370 was taught face to face instead of online, but by a new member of the faculty. The curriculum was changed but does not seem to better meet the needs of the program. The findings and research indicate that the program needs to show significant improvement in this area.

In the area of Historic Knowledge, the indicator showed some improvement of scores in student essays in all areas. The largest area of concern, writing a conclusion, remains consistent. ARTS 4381 was taught by a new faculty member in this cycle and the improvement to scores did not improve as expected. The faculty member is not an art historian and therefore was not added to the assessment committee. In the next cycle ARTS 4381 will be taught by an Art Historian who will be added to the committee to assess the papers.

The findings of the senior portfolios maintained their scores and saw an improvement in the areas of expression of concept, professional presentation, and written artist statements. The addition of more artist statements being required in lower-level classes had a positive impact on senior portfolio statements. This is a strength to maintain in the next cycle.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

In the next cycle, the program should maintain the higher scores in the area of analog photography. Non-silver analog processes will be assessed as well as silver processes.

Photography tenured and tenure track faculty will continue to meet to discuss ways to bring more digital skills into advanced classes as well as to redesign the curriculum of ARTS 3370. There will be continued emphasis on digital skills in all levels of the curriculum.

In the next cycle a plan has been made for ARTS 4381 History of Photography to be taught once again by an art historian. The photography faculty will meet with the instructor to make sure the assessment goals are clear before the course is offered in the spring 2024 semester. There will be a continued emphasis on vocabulary and addition of more short writing assignments in all course levels in the Photography Program.

The faculty would like to see improvement in the area of professional presentation in the gallery and maintain the higher scores in the area of written artist statements in the area of professional practices.