

**REVISION OF THE MAJOR IN ART, B.F.A.**

**CURRENT CATALOG COPY**

**Art Programs**

Degree Offered: B.F.A.

**NEW, REVISED, OR DELETED PROGRAM COVER SHEET  
2001-2002  
University Curriculum Committee  
Undergraduate Programs (Majors, Minors, Sequences)**

DEPARTMENT School of Art DATE 10/2/01

A. **Proposed Action:** (more than one item may be checked if a revision).

- New Major CIPS CODE \_\_\_\_\_ (obtain from Planning, Policy Studies and Info Systems)
- New Minor CIPS CODE \_\_\_\_\_ (obtain from Planning, Policy Studies and Info Systems)
- New Sequence
- Change in requirements for major
- Change in requirements for minor
- Change in requirements for sequence
- Other program revisions
- More than 50% of courses in this program are distance education.
- Program deletion

B. **Summary of proposed action** (see Part A), including title and exact *Undergraduate Catalog* copy for a new or altered program. (See *Catalog* and Program Checklist for format and examples.) Provide a summary of the revisions in addition to the exact current *Catalog* copy.

Revision of the Major in Art, B.F.A. Please see attachment for catalog copy.

C. **Routing and action summary:**

1. _____ Date Approved Department Curriculum Committee Chair	4. _____ Date Approved College Dean
2. _____ Date Approved Department Chair	5. _____ Date Approved Teacher Education Council Chair if appropriate (10 copies to the Dean of the College of Education)

3. _____ _____ College Committee Chair	_____ Date Approved	6. _____ _____ University Curriculum Committee Chair (8 copies to the Undergraduate Studies)	_____12/5 /01_____ Date Approved
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Submit 20 copies of **NEW** Undergraduate proposals to University Curriculum Committee

Submit 8 copies of **REVISED** Undergraduate proposals to University Curriculum Committee

All new and deleted programs (majors, minors, sequences) are routed by the U.C.C. to the Academic Senate. **The Senate rules mandate electronic submission (in MS Word or HTML format) of all materials for Web site posting.**

3/00

The B.F.A. degree program is oriented toward advanced professional study in the studio arts. This program gives students the opportunity to specialize in a particular studio art discipline in preparation for graduate study for the M.F.A. Terminal Degree program.

### **MAJOR IN ART**

- 80 hours in Art required, as follows:
- 15 hours Foundations: ART 103, 104, 109, 155, 156.
- 26 hours required courses: ART 232, 235, 257, 261; 6 hours from 224, 228, 240, 255; 6 hours from 213, 245, 246; 349.
- 6 hours: any two 300-level Art History courses.
- 33 additional hours in chosen concentration selected in consultation with the program sponsor.
- **NOTE:** ART 201, 211, 309 do not count toward the major.

Students may apply to the B.F.A. Degree program during their sophomore year. Requirements for admission are a 3.0 cumulative and major GPA and a portfolio review. Students seeking admission to the B.F.A. program must submit a portfolio of creative work to the Department of Art as part of the admission process. Further information on admission to the B.F.A. program is available from the Department's undergraduate academic advisor. A solo exhibition of student work during the senior year with a written supportive statement is required of all students for graduation from the B.F.A. program. The equivalent of no less than 6 semester hours of directed study will be spent in preparation for the final exhibition.

### PROPOSED CATALOG COPY

#### **Art Programs**

Degree Offered: B.F.A.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) degree program is a highly selective program oriented toward advanced professional study in the studio arts. Students accepted into this program have additional opportunities beyond those of the B.A./B.S. programs to specialize in a particular studio art discipline in preparation for graduate study for the M.F.A., the terminal degree program in this field, and/or for careers in professional art fields. Further information on the B.F.A. program can be found in the School of Art office.

### **MAJOR IN ART**

- 83 hours in Art required, as follows:
- 9 hours Art History Core: ART 155, 156, 257.
- 9 hours B.F.A. Foundations: ART 103, 104, 109.
- 20 hours required courses: 6 hours from ceramics, metalwork & jewelry design, glass, sculpture, wood; 6 hours from drawing, intaglio, lithography, painting, photography, video; ART 349, 363, and 394.
- 12 hours advanced Art History: ART 379 and 385 and any two additional 300-

level

Art History courses, at least one of them in a pre-20<sup>th</sup>-century period.

- 33 additional hours in a specialization in any Discipline Area offered by the

School and selected in consultation with the faculty mentors. (See list of Discipline Areas above, under Major in Art (B.A., B.S.), Studio Arts Sequence, in this Undergraduate Catalog.) A specialization that combines Discipline Areas may also be developed in consultation with and must be approved by faculty mentors and the B.F.A. Committee of the School of Art.

- **NOTE:** ART 201, 207, 211, 307, 309 do not count toward the major.

### **Admission-Retention Requirements for the B.F.A.**

Students may apply to the B.F.A. Degree program beginning in their sophomore year. Students seeking admission to the B.F.A. program must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative and major GPA and must submit a portfolio of creative work to the School of Art for the competitive portfolio review that is part of the admission process. Further information on admission requirements for the B.F.A. program is available from the School's undergraduate academic advisor. Students will be allowed to remain in the program if they maintain a minimum cumulative and major GPA of 3.0.

To graduate with a B.F.A., all students are also required to organize and present a solo exhibition of their work during the final year. This exhibition must be accompanied by a public oral presentation, an exit portfolio and a written supportive statement approved by the student's B.F.A. faculty mentors.

### **SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

- Language changed in introductory paragraph concerning the B.F.A.
- Total required hours in Art increased from 80 to 83
- **Art History Core** established
- **BFA Foundations** program reconfigured and renamed
- Required hours in the BFA reduced from 26 to 20
- Hours in advanced Art History increased from 6 to 12
- 33 additional hours in "chosen concentration" changed to ***a specialization in any Discipline Area offered by the School***; further language added clarifying the "Discipline Areas" and noting the possibility of a specialization that combines Discipline Areas
- References to "program sponsor" changed to ***faculty mentors***
- Addition of **ART 207, 307** to courses that do not count toward the major
- Addition of a statement on **Admission-Retention Requirements for the B.F.A.** that incorporates language currently in the catalog, but also modifies and updates it

### **PART A: PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND EXPLANATIONS** **(REVISED B.F.A. PROGRAM)**

Illinois State University  
School of Art  
Art Programs / B.F.A. / Major in Art  
Date of Implementation: Fall 2002

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROGRAM CHANGES**

Please see “Summary of Changes” above. Each of the changes listed is addressed in the “Rationale for Proposal” below.

## **RATIONALE FOR PROPOSAL**

**Overview:** The B.F.A. is being updated as one element of the larger revision of undergraduate programs in the School of Art (see overall revision of which this is a part). Restructuring of the School’s programs at large affects the structure of the B.F.A., particularly in terms of the new Art History Core and Foundations (see below). Beyond that, adjustments have been made to strengthen the B.F.A. and its special position as a pre-professional degree for students planning to pursue the visual arts through graduate level training.

### **Rationale for Specific Changes in the B.F.A. Program:**

#### **· Language changed in introductory paragraph concerning the B.F.A.**

Adding the full title of the degree, *Bachelor of Fine Arts*, as well as its common abbreviation, B.F.A., identifies the degree fully; the full title does not now appear in the catalog copy for the program. The proposed language identifying the B.F.A. program as *a highly selective program* clarifies this as a very competitive program for which students are carefully chosen (which is further explained in the Admission-Retention Requirements below). New language also explains that *Students accepted into this program have additional opportunities beyond those of the B.A./B.S. programs*. Changing “the M.F.A. Terminal Degree program” to “the M.F.A., *the terminal degree program in this field*,” is more correct language. Addition of the statement, *Further information on the program can be found in the School of Art office*, simply lets students know where to find the particulars on applying to the program.

#### **· Total required hours in Art increased from 80 to 83**

This increase is necessitated by additional hours in a new course specific to the B.F.A. (ART 294, B.F.A. Seminar). As noted in the “Limits of Required Hours” in the *UCC Course Proposal Preparation Package* (2001-2002), the 55-hour limit for a major “does not apply to the B.F.A., the B.M., the B.M.E., and the B.S. of Nursing degrees” (page 6). Guidelines for the B.F.A. from the School’s accrediting organization, the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) call for at least 65% of the total program to be composed of studies in the major area, supportive courses and studies in visual arts histories (NASAD *Handbook*, 1999-2000, page 76). As the B.F.A. will now be a 128-hour degree (up from 125), this means that NASAD recommends a minimum of 83 semester hours in Art (up from 81). The reconfigured degree thus meets accreditation standards.

#### **· Art History Core established**

The **Art History Core (ART 155, 156 and 257)** simply rearranges courses that were already required of all students in the B.F.A. program, as they are currently required of all students in the various Sequences in the B.A./B.S. Major in Art. (ART 155 and 156 are currently part of Foundations, and 257 is among the required courses for the B.F.A.) The new configuration is designated “Art History Core” in the overall revision proposal and will be common to all undergraduate programs in the School of Art.

- **B.F.A. Foundations program reconfigured**

Creating the **B.F.A. Foundations (ART 103, 104 and 109)** again merely regroups courses that were already seen as fundamental and required for B.F.A. students and for all Art majors (B.A./B.S. and B.F.A.) in the current program. Each Sequence in the revised B.A./B.S. Major in Art will have its own group of Foundations courses, labeled with the name of the particular Sequence in question. The proposed changes in the B.F.A. use the same system, so that this group of courses here becomes the “B.F.A. Foundations.” All Sequences in the B.A./B.S. major that focus on Studio art, along with the B.F.A., will share ART 103, 104 and 109 as their Foundations courses, as they do now.

- **Required hours in the B.F.A. reduced from 26 to 20**

This change results from removing three courses currently specified as required for all B.F.A. students (ART 232, Sculpture I; 235, Photography I; and 261, Painting I). The School of Art faculty determined that there was no logical reason to give these courses privileged position over courses in other media and/or disciplines. Their 9 hours of credit have been redistributed in the other categories (advanced Art History and specialization hours) noted below.

The current requirement for 6 hours from 224 (Metalwork and Jewelry Design I), 228 (Ceramics I), 240 (Fibers I) and 255 (Glass I) has been broadened with the substitution of language that identifies all 3-D media as legitimate areas from which students may select coursework, so: ***ceramics, metalwork and jewelry design, glass, sculpture, wood.*** Similarly, the required 6 hours from 213 (Life Drawing), 245 (Intaglio I) and 246 (Lithography I) have been broadened to clarify all 2-D media as legitimate areas from which students may select coursework, so: ***drawing, intaglio, lithography, painting, photography, video.***

**ART 363** (Color Theory) and a new course, **ART 394 (B.F.A. Seminar)** have been added to 349 (Visiting Artist Seminar), the three becoming the only specifically required courses in this group. (Please see attached new course proposal for 394.)

- **Hours in advanced Art History increased from 6 to 12**

Currently, B.F.A. students are required to take any two 300-level Art History courses, which makes their requirement in this category twice that of students in the current B.A./B.S. major in art. The proposed revision of the B.A./B.S. includes raising its 300-level Art History requirement to two courses, specifying that those students must take either ART 379 (Modern Art) or 385 (Recent Developments in Art), in addition to one course in a pre-20<sup>th</sup>-century period. To maintain the distinctions between the B.A./B.S. and the B.F.A., this proposal adds two courses to the B.F.A., requiring its students to take both ***ART 379 and 385, and any two additional 300-level Art History courses, at least one of them in a pre-20<sup>th</sup>-century period.*** This change in the B.F.A. will give students a solid awareness of modern and contemporary art, while also strengthening their understanding of the broader history of art with the two additional courses.

- **33 additional hours in “chosen concentration” changed to a *specialization in any Discipline Area offered by the School*; further language added clarifying the “Discipline Areas” and noting the possibility of a specialization that combines Discipline Areas**

Changing “chosen concentration” to *a specialization in any Discipline Area offered by the School* conforms to the restructuring of the Studio Arts Sequence in the B.A./B.S. major, where the current concentrations are proposed to be replaced by *Discipline Areas* that are more firmly a required part of the Sequence. Since the concentrations are disappearing, the reference here in the B.F.A. must also change. Further clarification for students comes with adding (*See list of Discipline areas above, under Major in Art (B.A., B.S.), Studio Arts Sequence, in this Undergraduate Catalog.*) In addition, the proposed new copy states that, *A specialization that combines Discipline Areas may also be developed in consultation with and must be approved by faculty mentors and the B.F.A. Committee of the School of Art.* The spirit of this statement correlates with another in the proposed new copy for the Studio Arts Sequence in the B.A./B.S. major, which notes that the Studio Arts Sequence “encourages exploration of new genres that break through traditional boundaries between disciplines and media.” In a specialized program such as the B.F.A., the same or greater exploration and experimentation should also be encouraged. Requiring faculty approval of such non-traditional paths allows for checks and balances between student pursuits and faculty oversight.

It should also be noted that NASAD recommends that a BFA program dedicate 25-35% of its total hours to studies in the particular discipline. For a 128-hour degree, that translates to 32-45 semester hours. The 33 hours required here lies within those parameters.

- **References to “program sponsor” changed to *faculty mentors***

The choice of the term “mentors” over “sponsor” is meant to convey more clearly the kind of relationship that students and faculty members develop within the B.F.A. program. Using the plural, rather than the singular, is part of a movement to require B.F.A. students to consult with more than one faculty person for more diversified ongoing discussion and development of the students’ work.

- **Addition of *ART 207, 307* to courses that do not count toward the major**

**Adding *ART 207* and *307* to the group of courses that do not count** toward this major clarifies that *ART 207* (Art for Special Education) and *307* (Art for Atypical Individuals) are not appropriate as electives for students in the B.F.A. program. These courses have also been added to the list of those that do not count toward the B.A./B.S. Sequences in Studio Arts, Graphic Design and Art History.

- **Addition of a statement on *Admission-Retention Requirements for the B.F.A.* that incorporates modifications to language currently in the catalog**

Heading this section *Admission-Retention Requirements for the B.F.A.* more clearly identifies the nature of the information in these paragraphs, as it also draws a parallel with such passages in catalog copy for some of the Sequences in the B.A./B.S. major.

Language in the proposed first paragraph here makes clearer the procedures for consideration for admission to the program, while also stating that students must *maintain a minimum cumulative and major GPA of 3.0* in order to remain in the B.F.A. This retention statement has always been assumed to apply, but it is not stated clearly in the current catalog.

The proposed second paragraph strengthens the current program by noting the requirements to

graduate with a B.F.A., now with more specific directives related to the required solo exhibition. Added to the need to **organize and present a solo exhibition** are requirements that ***This exhibition must be accompanied by a public oral presentation and an exit portfolio.*** And in addition to the written supportive statement currently required; the written statement now must be ***approved by the student's B.F.A. faculty mentors.*** These changes are intended to give students practical experience in preparing and documenting an exhibition of their work, as well as providing an opportunity to express both orally and in writing how they understand themselves and their art in relation to the larger world of professional artists. The exit portfolio provides experience in presenting work in a fashion that is standard in the profession, as it also assures that the School of Art will have appropriate records of the work of students who finish this program. Making these varied elements required for graduation with the B.F.A. degree underscores that students may not graduate until all these tasks are completed.

### **EXPECTED IMPACT OF PROPOSAL ON EXISTING CAMPUS PROGRAMS**

Since this program already exists, the revising of it is unlikely to have any additional impact on other campus programs.

### **EXPECTED CURRICULAR CHANGES, INCLUDING NEW COURSES**

The primary purpose of the revisions to the B.F.A. is to strengthen the program and to provide more thorough training for students pursuing it. The layout of the program has been altered somewhat, but the basic requirements differ only slightly from what is currently in place. The total number of hours in Art has increased by 3 hours; 2 courses (6 hours – ART 363 and 394) have been added to the required courses in the major, while 3 courses (9 hours – ART 232, 235 and 261) have been deleted; and 2 courses (6 hours) have been added to the required hours in upper-level Art History. One new course is being added – ART 394, B.F.A. Seminar (see attached new course proposal). Some categories of courses (the Art History Core, the B.F.A. Foundations) have been renamed in keeping with changes elsewhere in the undergraduate programs in Art, but do not include new requirements.

### **MILNER CONTACTED TO DETERMINE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES**

Except for the new course, ART 394 (B.F.A. Seminar), no additional resources are required at Milner Library, and the ongoing updating of the library's art resources, especially those on contemporary art, is sufficient to support that new course, as well as the B.F.A. program in general.

**ANTICIPATED STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS**

Current staffing is sufficient to cover the proposed changes in the B.F.A. program. The one new course, ART 394, will be taught on a rotating basis by current faculty and does not require new staff.

**ANTICIPATED FUNDING NEEDS AND SOURCES OF FUNDS**

No new funding is needed for this revised program, thus no new sources of funds are required.