

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate

From: Roger Blackman, Chair
Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

Subject: Admission Requirements and Curriculum Revisions
School for the Contemporary Arts
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
(SCUS Reference 04-19 c.ii)

Date: September 16, 2004



Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at the September 14, 2004 meeting gives rise to the following motion:

“that Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board of Governors as set forth in S.04 - 70 , changes to the admission requirements in the visual art studio courses, and the visual art extended minor program.”

For Information

Acting under delegated authority, at the September 14, 2004 meeting, SCUS approved the following curriculum revisions in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

School for the Contemporary Arts – Visual Art Program

- a) change of prerequisite for FPA 160, 260
- b) change of description and prerequisite for FPA 360, 366
- c) change of number, title, description and prerequisite for FPA 163
- d) change of title, description and prerequisite for FPA 262, 263, 265, 269, 362, 363, 364, 365, 369.”
- e) changes to the lower and upper division credit hour requirements for the Major program
- f) transfer of visual art skills courses to methods and concepts courses
- g) changes to the lower and upper division credit hour requirements for the extended Minor program.

Any Senator wishing to consult the full report of curriculum revisions should contact Bobbie Grant, Senate Assistant at 291-3168 or email bgrant@sfu.ca

EXTENDED RATIONALE: CHANGING VISUAL ART SKILLS COURSES TO METHODS AND CONCEPTS COURSES

For some time, the Visual Art area has had scheduling difficulties in offering the required skills courses necessary to complete both the Extended Minor and the BFA major. Lack of teaching support has meant putting these courses into three and four-semester rotation, making it awkward for students (especially in the Extended Minor) to complete the required 4 or 6 courses in the time allocated for the completion of their degree.

A second problem has been the limited range of available offerings. The pedagogic mandate of the program, which is to prepare students for a shifting environment of contemporary artistic practices, has been compromised by this lack of breadth. It has also meant that core faculty are not able to teach inside their areas of expertise.

To alleviate these concerns, the area is proposing to eliminate the present 2-course-per-skill model (one upper and one lower) by collapsing the two together and changing the emphasis of the resultant course to a broad-ranging introduction to all aspects of the given skill, as it pertains to actual contemporary art practice. This serves several functions: it gives students a one-semester introduction to an art practice which can then be taken directly into the core studio courses for further development; it allows the new offerings to be taken either as upper or lower division courses, depending on the student's requirements, and it effectively doubles the number of available skills courses while allowing for more regularized offerings and expedient degree completions.

A second benefit of this reduction is that it allows the existing Selected Topics courses (FPA 269/369) to be used in the same manner, to introduce a repeating range of topics currently unavailable to the students but which are crucial topics for work in contemporary art; these include time-based media, installation practices, performance work and computer-based processes. This will also correspond more closely to the actual research capacities of the current faculty, allowing them to do direct teaching in the areas of their research and expertise.

Under the current model, we are able to offer 2 or 3 skills courses a semester, which will continue under the proposed model; typically this means 5 courses a year. Now, however, students may choose from a possible range of 8 or 9 different topics within a 2-year cycle, whereas previously they had 4 or 5 in a 3 to 4 year rotation.

In conjunction with this change, we are proposing to reduce the current 6 skills-course requirement in the Extended Minor to 4, allowing for more expedient degree completion.

This proposal does not entail adding new courses. Using existing numbers with new course descriptions, it improves the range of course offerings and strengthens pedagogy in the area, eases degree completion, and allows faculty to teach what they know.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Program Change Form

Major in Visual Art

Rationale:

The visual art major program has not been changed for several years, and the following changes are proposed to make the program more efficient and to improve the focus of its pedagogy. Because the program is cumulative, we have changed some prerequisites to ensure that students are properly prepared for advanced courses. Students have encountered certain difficulties completing their degree requirements on time under the current structure, which has led to an adjustment of the skills courses, now called Methods and Concepts, to offer greater variety and to more accurately reflect the pedagogic direction of the program. Changes to the art and culture curriculum are also incorporated into these revisions.

FROM:

Visual Art Major Program

The bachelor of fine arts - major in visual art prepares students to become practising artists. A combination of broad-based practical studio courses in conjunction with theoretical and historical seminars allows students to understand their own production in relation to current developments in visual art and other disciplines. A strong emphasis is placed on developing an understanding of the position and responsibilities of the artist in contemporary society.

Entry to visual art studio courses, and to the visual art major program is by portfolio interview. Contact the general office for further information. Students applying to the major program must have completed their first year requirements or the equivalent.

The attention of students whose interest in visual art is related primarily to its historical, critical, or theoretical aspects, is directed to the art and culture studies major program, leading to a BA degree.

Lower Division Requirements

A minimum of 38 credit hours must be completed including all of

FPA 111-3 Issues in the Fine and Performing Arts
FPA 160-3 Introductory Studio in Visual Art I
FPA 161-3 Introductory Studio in Visual Art II
FPA 167-3 History of Art: 1839-1939
FPA 168-3 History of Art: 1940 - Present
FPA 211-3 Introduction to Contemporary Theory in the Arts
FPA 260-3 Studio in Visual Art I

FPA 261-3 Studio in Visual Art II

plus two of

FPA 163-3 Issues in Spatial Presentation

FPA 170-3 Introduction to Production Technology

FPA 262-3 Drawing I

FPA 263-3 Painting I

FPA 265-3 Photography I

FPA 269-3 Selected Topics in Visual Art I

FPA 290-2 Video Production I

plus nine additional credit hours in lower division FPA courses outside of visual art. One must be a history or theory course, and one must be a studio.

Upper Division Requirements

A minimum of 37 credit hours must be completed including all of

FPA 360-3 Studio in Visual Art III

FPA 361-3 Studio in Visual Art IV

FPA 366-3 Seminar in Visual Art I

FPA 367-3 Seminar in Visual Art II

FPA 460-3 Studio in Visual Art V

FPA 461-5 Studio in Visual Art VI

plus two of

FPA 362-3 Drawing II

FPA 363-3 Painting II

FPA 364-3 Sculpture II

FPA 365-3 Photography II

FPA 369-3 Selected Topics in Visual Art II

FPA 390-3 Video Production II

plus one of

FPA 311-5 Interdisciplinary Studies in the Arts

FPA 313-5 Arts, Audience, Patronage, Institutions

plus six additional credit hours in upper division FPA courses outside visual art.

TO:

Visual Art Major Program

The bachelor of fine arts - major in visual art prepares students to become practicing artists. A combination of broad-based practical studio courses in conjunction with theoretical and historical seminars allows students to understand their own production in relation to current developments in visual art and other disciplines. A strong emphasis is placed on developing an understanding of the position and responsibilities of the artist in contemporary society.

Entry to the visual art major (BFA) program, after completion of 111, 160, 161 and 168 in the first year, is determined by grades and portfolio assessment, usually scheduled at the end of the spring semester. Contact the general office for further information.

Methods and Concepts courses are offered simultaneously as upper and lower division courses; with the exception of FPA 269/369, they may only be taken once for credit, either as a lower division course or an upper division course, but not both.

The attention of students whose interests in visual art are related primarily to its historical, critical, or theoretical aspects, are directed to the art and culture studies major program, leading to a BA degree.

Lower Division Requirements

A minimum of 39 credit hours must be completed including all of

FPA 111-3 Issues in the Fine and Performing Arts

FPA 160-3 Introductory Studio in Visual Art I

FPA 161-3 Introductory Studio in Visual Art II

FPA 167-3 Visual Art and Culture I

FPA 168-3 Visual Art and Culture II

FPA 210-3 Artworks, Theories, Contexts

FPA 260-3 Studio in Visual Art I

FPA 261-3 Studio in Visual Art II

plus three of

FPA 262-3 Methods and Concepts: Drawing Practices

FPA 263-3 Methods and Concepts: Painting Practices

FPA 264-3 Methods and Concepts: Sculptural Practices

FPA 265-3 Methods and Concepts: Photographic Practices

FPA 268-3 Methods and Concepts: Spatial Presentation

FPA 269-3 Methods and Concepts: Selected Topics *

plus six additional credit hours in lower division FPA courses outside of visual art. One must be a history or theory course, and one must be a studio.

Upper Division Requirements

A minimum of 36 credit hours must be completed including all of

FPA 360-3 Studio in Visual Art III
FPA 361-3 Studio in Visual Art IV
FPA 366-3 Seminar in Visual Art I
FPA 367-3 Seminar in Visual Art II
FPA 460-3 Studio in Visual Art V
FPA 461-5 Studio in Visual Art VI

plus two of

FPA 362-3 Methods and Concepts: Drawing Practices
FPA 363-3 Methods and Concepts: Painting Practices
FPA 364-3 Methods and Concepts: Sculptural Practices
FPA 365-3 Methods and Concepts: Photographic Practices
FPA 368-3 Methods and Concepts: Spatial Presentation
FPA 369-3 Methods and Concepts: Selected Topics *

plus one of

FPA 311-4 Interdisciplinary Studies in the Arts
FPA 313-5 Arts, Audience, Patronage, Institutions

plus six additional credit hours in upper division FPA courses outside visual art.

*This course may be taken more than once for credit under a different topic. Topics may change every semester and include, but are not limited to, installation practices, performance practices, digital 2D practices, and time-based media practices. Contact the general office for further information.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Program Change Form

Extended Minor in Visual Art

Rationale:

The visual art extended minor program has not been changed for several years, and the following changes are proposed to make the program more efficient and to improve the focus of its pedagogy. We have increased the history and studio requirements for the benefit of students considering the PDP stream in education. Because the program is cumulative, we have changed some prerequisites to ensure that students are properly prepared for advanced courses. Students have encountered certain difficulties completing their degree requirements on time under the current structure, which has led to an adjustment of the skills courses, now called Methods and Concepts, to offer greater variety and to more accurately reflect the pedagogic direction of the program. Changes to the art and culture curriculum are also incorporated into these revisions.

FROM:

Visual Art Extended Minor

This extended minor may be of interest to students who wish to obtain a BA degree by completing two extended minors. This program offers a balanced selection of studio, history and theory courses in the visual art area, offering students a good introduction to contemporary art issues and practices. Students may use this minor for the purpose of teaching in the schools.

Entry to visual art studio courses, and to the extended minor in visual art, is by portfolio interview. Contact the general office for further information.

Lower Division Requirements

A minimum of 26 credit hours must be completed including all of

FPA 111-3 Issues in the Fine and Performing Arts
FPA 160-3 Introductory Studio in Visual Art I
FPA 161-3 Introductory Studio in Visual Art II
FPA 211-3 Introduction to Contemporary Theory in the Arts
FPA 260-3 Studio in Visual Art I

one of

FPA 167-3 History of Art: 1839-1939
FPA 168-3 History of Art: 1940 - Present

three of

FPA 163-3 Issues in Spatial Presentation
FPA 170-3 Introduction to Production Technology
FPA 262-3 Drawing I
FPA 263-3 Painting I
FPA 265-3 Photography I
FPA 290-2 Video Production I

Upper Division Requirements

A minimum of 17 credit hours must be completed including three of

FPA 362-3 Drawing II
FPA 363-3 Painting II
FPA 364-3 Sculpture II
FPA 365-3 Photography II

FPA 369-3 Selected Topics in Visual Art II
FPA 375-3 Stage Design
FPA 390-3 Video Production II

one of

FPA 311-5 Interdisciplinary Studies in the Arts
FPA 313-5 Arts, Audience, Patronage, Institutions

plus three additional upper division FPA credit hours. An additional visual art course may be used to fulfil this requirement.

TO:

Visual Art Extended Minor

This extended minor may be of interest to students who wish to obtain a BA degree by completing two extended minors. The program offers a balanced selection of studio, history and theory courses in the visual art area, giving students a good introduction to contemporary art issues and practices. Students may use this extended minor for the purpose of teaching in the schools.

Entry to the Visual Art Extended Minor program, after completion of 111, 160, 161 and 168 in the first year, is determined by grades and portfolio assessment, usually scheduled at the end of the spring semester. Contact the general office for further information.

Methods and Concepts courses are offered simultaneously as upper and lower division courses; with the exception of FPA 269/369, they may only be taken once for credit, either as a lower division course or an upper division course, but not both.

Lower Division Requirements

A minimum of 30 credit hours must be completed including all of

FPA 111-3 Issues in the Fine and Performing Arts

FPA 160-3 Introductory Studio in Visual Art I

FPA 161-3 Introductory Studio in Visual Art II

FPA 210-3 Artworks, Theories, Contexts

FPA 260-3 Studio in Visual Art I

FPA 261-3 Studio in Visual Art II

FPA 167-3 Visual Art and Culture I

FPA 168-3 Visual Art and Culture II

two of

FPA 262-3 Methods and Concepts: Drawing Practices

FPA 263-3 Methods and Concepts: Painting Practices

FPA 264-3 Methods and Concepts: Sculptural Practices

FPA 265-3 Methods and Concepts: Photographic Practices

FPA 268-3 Methods and Concepts: Spatial Presentation

FPA 269-3 Methods and Concepts: Selected Topics*

Upper Division Requirements

A minimum of 15 credit hours must be completed including two of

FPA 362-3 Methods and Concepts: Drawing Practices

FPA 363-3 Methods and Concepts: Painting Practices

FPA 364-3 Methods and Concepts: Sculptural Practices

FPA 365-3 Methods and Concepts: Photographic Practices

FPA 368-3 Methods and Concepts: Spatial Presentation

FPA 369-3 Methods and Concepts: Selected Topics*

one of

FPA 311-4 Interdisciplinary Studies in the Arts

FPA 313-5 Arts, Audience, Patronage, Institutions

plus additional upper division FPA courses to total of at least 15 credit hours. An additional visual art courses may be used to fulfill this requirement.

*This course may be taken more than once for credit under a different topic. Topics may change every semester and include, but are not limited to, installation practices, performance practices, digital 2D practices, and time-based media practices. Contact the general office for further information.