

**Program Name:** Department of Visual Art

**Rating:** Good

### **Instructional profile and productivity**

Program size: This department has 25 tenured/tenure-track faculty and offers two graduate degrees, a Master of Fine Art degree in Visual Art (MFA) and Master of Art in Visual Art Education (MA). The department does not support a PhD. program. Currently there are about 50 students in the department's graduate program (MFA-34 & MA-17). The department's Master's programs are of an appropriate size.

Admissions: The program admits about 40% of the applicant pool.

Program Completion: The graduation rate and time to degree (at about three years) are acceptable.

Appropriateness of Instructional Methods: The material provided does not discuss the diversity of its student body, mentoring, or instructional methods at the graduate level.

### **Instructional quality**

Student Perceptions of Program: Generally the students seem satisfied with the program.

Professional Development for Students and Student Placement: Graduates from the program are finding appropriate positions, e.g., as professional artists and in the fine arts in general.

### **Faculty quality**

Diversity: The material provided does not discuss the faculty mix. The summary mentions the exhibition activities and scholarly publications/presentations of the faculty, but details are not provided.

Faculty Profile: Given the nature of the department's activities as expected, more information about its awarded grants and contracts should have been reported.

Faculty Professional Engagement: The faculty appear to be active in their respective fields.

Graduate Training: There is little information in the report about mentoring graduate students.

### **General program quality indicators (rankings, awards, comparisons to peers)**

Accreditation: The Department of Visual Art has been continually accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art & Design (NASAD) for over fifty years. The department was visited for accreditation in 2012 and expects a positive result in December of 2012.

National Ranking: The MFA is ranked in the top 40; the Printmaking program was ranked 15th; and the Metalsmithing and Textile MFA programs was ranked in the top 10 – all by US News and World Report.

Faculty Awards at national and international level:

### **Plans for future (opportunities and challenges)**

Initiatives, Future Planning: To maintain accreditation the department regularly conducts a self-study. The material provided does not discuss future plans.

Evaluation:

**Concerns:** The graduate executive council review members did not have access to the depth of information provided by other programs. It is difficult to know if this is the fault of transmission processes from the College or of some other factors in the process.

**Overall comments:** The department is an important component of a comprehensive research university. Its programs have been continuously accredited and have achieved notable national rankings. The graduates of the program are well equipped for careers in the arts, including teaching at the university and college level. Future reports should provide more of the kind of information required for the type of review we are conducting in this instance.