

Visual Arts Foundation

Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary

Watkins College of Art, Design & Film is a four-year college offering Bachelor of Fine Arts in film, fine art, graphic design, interior design and photography, and a Bachelor of Art in Art. The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) will restructure the current four-class foundation core, with each class comprised of three-credits each, into two interdisciplinary, visual arts foundation courses, comprised of six credits each.

The current foundation core is comprised of segregated, genre-specific courses in four areas: drawing, 2-d design and color fundamentals, 3-d design, and 4-d design. Faculty expressed the need for blending principles and components of art making to reflect current trends of foundation pedagogy. The QEP for the Visual Arts Foundation framework presents two interdisciplinary, non-genre specific courses that promote collaboration among genres that will increase the knowledge and application of critical analysis at the freshman level, leading to greater creativity and critical analysis in upper-level cohorts.

Each Visual Arts Foundation course is structured to meet four days a week, three hours a day. The rigor, intensity and structure of this program builds relationships that enhance student collaboration across all disciplines beyond the freshman year, thus creating opportunities for increased student learning experiences.

Foundation I introduces students from all majors to the formal elements and principles essential to visual thinking. Coursework will provide technical skills, experience with visual form, and introductions to creative processes including research, analysis, criticism and concept building.

Foundation II introduces students to specialized coursework through projects that allow for application, editing, synthesizing and refinement of the broad, general language and processes developed in Foundation I. Further, this course will place a greater emphasis on peer interaction and critique that begins with individual solutions and evolves into more complex, refined and collaborative solutions.

The Visual Arts Foundation offers further benefits in creating on-going faculty dialog about goals, purposes, content and teaching methods of the Visual Arts Foundation. Together, the benefit of increased student collaboration and on-going faculty dialog creates a continuously improving student learning environment and a visual arts community.