

Southern Utah University
MFA Arts Administration
Unit Assessment Plan
2002-2003

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Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose:

The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program in arts administration seeks to provide a practical interdisciplinary education that develops well-rounded generalists, employable in any of the arts disciplines as professional arts administrators. The MFA program provides a solid curriculum of national standard which focuses on practical applications and philosophies of nonprofit management.

Professional assistantships, individual tutorials, and direct access to master teachers are combined to create a practical learning methodology that is consistent with Southern Utah University's mission of providing scholarly activities, personal service, and a personalized learning environment. The MFA program aligns itself well with Southern Utah University by utilizing faculty and professional guests who exemplify excellence in teaching, scholarship, and professional contributions to the field of arts administration. This creates an exhilarating environment which enhances learning, stimulates and enriches faculty and students, and provides a pathway for the continuance of lifelong learning.

As a regional university with a service-learning component, Southern Utah University's mission is aimed at creating partnerships with public and higher education, government, business and industry. The MFA program provides services to both the public and private sectors through professional assistantships with the College of Performing and Visual Arts as well as with affiliates such as the Utah Shakespearean Festival, the American Folk Ballet, and the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery. These partnerships, in addition to other local and regional opportunities in the arts, enable students in the MFA program to apply their scholarship first hand in a professional working environment. Contributions made by students of the MFA program significantly benefit Southern Utah University and the region through service activities which link the campus with its community.

Goal Statement:

The educational objective of the MFA program is to develop graduates who can balance administrative structure with artistic process in an effort to ensure artistic integrity and fiscal responsibility of arts organizations.

Intended Outcomes/Objectives:

The MFA Arts Administration Program objectives are:

1. MFA courses will be taught by faculty members with expertise in their areas of teaching.
2. Assistantship supervisors will be chosen to mentor MFA students based on expertise and qualifications in their areas of professional service.
3. Students will be offered professional practicum experiences by faculty and/or assistantship supervisors in a variety of arts administrative capacities.
4. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the principles and practices of arts administration.
5. Students will successfully apply critical and analytical thinking to practical problems in arts administration.
6. Students will research past and current events to formulate opinions and potential solutions to problems within the field of arts administration.
7. Students will meet with a committee of faculty, staff and assistantship supervisors to receive feedback on their performance in the program and their ability to evidence that course work is being related to their duties in a professional working environment.
8. Students will present and defend their final rotation internship experience through demonstration of the fulfillment of a substantive work experience as evidenced by a professional capstone portfolio of accomplishments.
9. Students will find jobs relating to their degree and focus of study upon completion of the program.

Assessment Criteria and Activities:

1. The MFA program will hire, promote, and tenure faculty members who are qualified and demonstrate teaching excellence.
2. The faculty of the MFA program meet annually to discuss each course regarding the learning outcomes expected of a Master of Fine Arts graduate in the department.
3. Faculty assessments are conducted based on student and peer evaluations.
4. The MFA program reviews and insures that curriculum offerings fit with current faculty resources by analyzing load and preparations of faculty in compliance with institutional policy.
5. The MFA program insures faculty development resources to provide each faculty member with the ability to stay current and relevant within the field of arts administration.
6. The MFA program will assign faculty and assistantship supervisors with expertise to offer professional practicum opportunities to students. The MFA program will encourage faculty to be involved in professional activities.
7. Graduating MFA students will successfully complete six semesters of practicum as assigned through professional assistantships.
8. Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 for all graduate courses to graduate.
9. Students must receive a grade of C or higher in each of the MFA Arts Administration courses to graduate.
10. Student assessments are conducted based on evaluations by faculty, staff and assistantship supervisors.

11. Students and faculty assess that core instructional information is being put into practice through professional assistantships.
12. A mid program evaluation will be conducted with each student to chart progress from the point of admission and provide feedback and goals for future performance.
13. Graduate Committees will assess each student following the successful completion of a final rotation internship and the presentation of a professional capstone portfolio.
14. All students will be surveyed upon graduation to provide feedback on the curriculum and program design.
15. All students will be surveyed upon graduation to determine job placement and degree of preparation.
16. The MFA program will document demand evidenced by inquiries and applications to the program as relevance of market responsiveness to the field of study.

Process:

This assessment plan was based on already-existing components and requirements, including the original Regents' Proposal and the Departmental Self-Study required by the accreditation process of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges.