EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, & SOCIAL SCIENCES
REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION
February 15, 2011

To be adopted:

Proposed Changes to Art Department Major

PRESENT:

The Department of Art offers a B.A. degree in an interdisciplinary program that emphasizes a critical approach to artistic production. Courses are offered in the following curricular areas: Photography, digital art, video, two- and three-dimensional media (painting, drawing, sculpture, installation), and critical theory. The program is designed primarily for students preparing for graduate study and those who plan to continue professionally as artists. However, the department welcomes the participation of nonmajors and nondegree students.

Non-major students who wish to declare a major in Art must electronically submit a portfolio consisting of ten (10) images of your original work and/or three (3) clips of moving images or sound work. Guidelines for the portfolio and a link to the site for submission can be found on the art department website at http://www.art.ucr.edu/. Students whose portfolios are approved will be admitted to the major. Guidelines for submission are also available from the Department of Art.

Major Requirements

The major requirements for the B.A. in Art are as follows:

1. Lower-division requirements (24/26 units)
   a) ART 006/MCS 006 and ART 008 (must be taken during first year of residency in the department)
   b) Three additional lower-division Art courses: ART 001, ART 002, ART 003, ART 004/MCS 004, ART 005, ART 009, ART 065, ART 066
   c) One of the following Art History courses: AHS 008, AHS 017A, AHS 017B, AHS 017C, or AHS

PROPOSED:

The Department of Art offers a B.A. degree in an interdisciplinary program that emphasizes a critical approach to artistic production. Courses are offered in the following curricular areas: Photography, digital art, video, two- and three-dimensional media (painting, drawing, sculpture, installation), and critical theory. The program is designed primarily for students preparing for graduate study and those who plan to continue professionally as artists. However, the department welcomes the participation of nonmajors and nondegree students.

Admission: Admission to the Major in Art requires electronic submission of a portfolio consisting of ten (10) images of your original work and/or three (3) clips of moving images or sound work. Guidelines for the portfolio and a link to the site for submission can be found on the art department website at http://www.art.ucr.edu/. Students whose portfolios are approved will be admitted to the major. Guidelines for submission are also available from Undergraduate Admissions and from the Department of Art.

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   a) ART 006/MCS 006 and ART 008 (must be taken during first year of residency in the department)
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   c) One of the following Art History courses: AHS
2. Upper-division requirements (48/49 units)

a) ART 160

b) One of the following Art History courses:
   AHS 135, AHS 136/MCS 137, AHS 176/MCS 176, AHS 175, AHS 179, AHS 180, AHS 181, AHS 182, AHS 184/URST 184, AHS 185/URST 185, AHS 186, AHS 188, AHS 189E-Z or any other upper-division Art History course that covers the period 1945 to present

c) ART 180

d) A minimum of 32 additional units of upper-division Art course work

e) ART 195 (Senior Thesis) or ART 185 (Senior Thesis Seminar)

To fulfill ART 195 or ART 185, students must complete a preliminary review of work with a formal presentation of a thesis project to a faculty committee two quarters prior to actual enrollment in ART 195 or ART 185. Students graduating in Spring must take ART 185. Students graduating in Fall or Winter must take ART 195 to fulfill their senior thesis requirement. Students will be assigned a faculty thesis advisor by week three of the term in which their preliminary review takes place. Students enroll in ART 195 or ART 185 during their final term before graduating.

Note A maximum of 12 upper-division transfer units of established equivalency in Art courses is accepted for credit. Equivalent transfer units in lower-division studio art course work and lower- and upper-division Art History course work is also accepted for credit toward the major in the respective lower- or upper-division category.

A minimum of 36 units of Art must be taken in residence (UCR Department of Art) to fulfill this major.

JUSTIFICATION:
The Art Department is a small department with only 8.5 FTE’s. With the growth of the campus, our number of majors has been steadily climbing. We have reached the limit of our resources. Our curriculum requires close supervision of our students’ artistic progress culminating in the Senior Thesis review. Each faculty member mentors students through this review process of the final presentation of the students’ Senior Thesis via our course entitled Art 185. This system has benefitted our majors significantly, but we will be unable to provide this kind of one on one education with the continued uncontrolled growth of majors.

We are also encountering another problem. We have found that many students transfer from other majors within UCR into our major because of various reasons. Many of them have no real interest in the arts and are often under the mistaken impression that an art major will be an easy way to complete graduation. Many of these students do not pass their Preliminary Thesis review their first chance. This means that the faculty must put enormous energy into reviewing them again the following quarter. The Preliminary Review must be passed before the Senior Thesis course can be taken.

Many of the Fine Arts departments on other UC campuses have instituted review processes for artistic aptitude for students entering the major. UCLA requires a portfolio review. The Art Department had a portfolio requirement up to three years ago and now must return to this system for our applicant process. The portfolio requirements; at this time is for students submitting Change of Major Forms. By requiring portfolio submissions the department will be able to better track the amount of incoming majors, thus limited the size of graduating classes to accommodate both course section offerings and thesis reviews held within the department.

We intend, with this change, to set a minimal standard for acceptance into the Art Department major. The Art Department would like this to be effective, Fall 2011.

**APPROVALS:**

Approved by the Faculty of the Department of Art: September 21, 2010
Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities: September 29, 2010

Per Director of Admissions, Effective date for Freshmen - the soonest it can be implemented is for the Fall 2012 term (the application filing period ends November 30, 2011) and 2) Transfers - the soonest it can be implemented is for the Fall 2013 term due to catalog rights (November 30, 2012 filing period ends).

Approved by Undergraduate Admissions: 1/12/11
Approved by Committee on Educational Policy: 10/12/10