



Date: February 21, 2020

To: John Stalvey, Interim Provost

From: John Petraitis, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Cc: Garry Mealor, Associate Professor; Chair, Department of Art  
Herminia Din, Professor  
Steve Godfrey, Professor

Re: AY20 Expedited Program Review Findings

**Program/s in this review:** Art BA

**Specialized accrediting agency (if applicable):** National Associate of Schools of Art & Design (NASAD)

**Campuses where the program is delivered:** Anchorage

**Members of the program review committee:**

Garry Mealor, Associate Professor and Department Chair  
Herminia Din, Professor  
Steve Godfrey, Professor

### **Centrality of Program Mission and Supporting Role**

UAA's mission is to discover and disseminate knowledge through teaching, research, engagement and creative expression. UAA is committed to serving the higher education needs of the state, its communities and its diverse peoples. It is also committed to instruction at multiple academic levels, success of all students regardless of their higher education goals, and service to the diverse peoples and communities of the state. UAA's core themes are (1) Teaching and Learning, (2) Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity, (3) Student Success, (4) UAA Community, and (5) Public Square. UAA values international and intercultural education, diversity of experiences and perspectives, and the diversity of our unique location in Southcentral Alaska that comes from the Alaska Native peoples of this area.

The College of Arts and Sciences contributes to UAA's mission with a suite of programs that provide, among other things,

1. general education courses for undergraduates in CAS and other Colleges,

2. opportunities for undergraduates to pursue majors in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and the arts, and
3. opportunities for faculty and students to pursue research and creative activities in CAS's academic disciplines,
4. graduate programs for advanced studies.

Given decreased enrollments across UAA and significant budget cuts to CAS, the challenge is to serve UAA's and CAS's missions with only 75% of the funds it had in 2018-2019. CAS's shrinking budget is especially challenging for programs that rely on state financial appropriations through CAS because the programs have a gap between (a) the total costs of everything the program does and needs, and (b) the tuition CAS receives to cover those costs. This describes most programs in CAS: most rely on state appropriations and CAS has 30% less than it had two years ago.

The CAS's Department of Art BA contributes to CAS's and UAA's mission by providing general education instruction with courses in art appreciation and art history, allowing Art majors to select from a range on studio-based offerings (including Ceramics, Drawing, Illustration, Painting, Photography, Printmaking and Sculpture), and giving program faculty the opportunity to pursue their own research and creativities as professional artists. When compared to the BFA in Art, the BA has no specialized admission standards, suits UAA's open-enrollment roots, and requires – among other things – fewer studio-based courses. Both the BA and BFA are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD), an optional accreditation that is not required for training or employment in art.

#### **Program Demand (including service to other programs), Efficiency, and Productivity**

ART courses are in high demand, producing 50% more student credit hours than the average in CAS, with 55% of the student credits hours coming from non-Art majors (a number just below the CAS average). During the years under review, 22-23 incoming students on average declare Art as their major, putting it behind only Biology and Psychology as the majors most in demand by high-school students. Most of those majors end up in the BA program, rather than the BFA program. Although demand for ART courses is strong, program efficiency is a challenge. Certainly, the Department's general education courses can accommodate 40-75 students per section, but its studio-based classes must be small because of limit on the studio size and safety considerations. This is less challenging for the BA than the BFA because the BA requires fewer studio-based courses. As a result, for every year under review, the instructional costs to deliver all ART courses (including general education courses, and courses for Art majors) exceeded the revenue that CAS received to cover the courses. Furthermore, when the costs of everything faculty and department-specific staff do (including, teaching, research, service, and safety-related tasks), the Department as a whole ran a steep deficit in 2019, exceeded by only 4 of CAS's other 18 undergraduate programs. To its credit, the BA program produced an average of 20 graduates per year since 2013, putting it squarely in the middle of CAS's undergraduate programs.

#### **Program Quality, Improvement and Student Success**

The program's quality is strong and students benefit from small studio-based classes with professionally accomplished faculty. Compared to the BFA, BA students have fewer required studio classes so their path to graduation could be smoother. Although studio-based classes cannot be offered through distance, the Department faculty do offer their general education classes online.

#### **Program Duplication / Distinctiveness**

Like UAA, UAF offers a BA and BFA in Art. Given that studio-based art instruction must be delivered face-to-face, there is minimal concern about direct competition. If one of the BFA programs were deleted, students from either Anchorage or Fairbanks would have to relocate and the studio facilities might not be big enough for the combined group of students.

**Commendations and Recommendations**

The faculty in the program are commended for the intense work and long hours in the studios that routinely stack/combine 300-level courses with 400-level courses to improve efficiency. The faculty should also be commended for the hard work they put into their expedited program review submission.

**Decision****Continuation.**

Although less selective than the Art BFA, the Art BA provides excellent instruction and the more often chosen path to graduation for the students who come to UAA to study art. It is unclear, however, if the benefits of NASAD accreditation outweigh the institutional costs for to train BA and BFA students.