

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

Master of Arts in Art Education

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATION

This program clearly meets Regents' standards for graduate degree programs. The Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study voted unanimous approval for the new program. There were no serious concerns raised in the review.

Request: The Department of Art in the College of Fine and Performing Arts at Youngstown State University seeks approval for a new Master of Arts degree program in Art Education.

Program Purpose/Mission: The proposed Master of Arts in Art Education is designed for art educators who want to develop their artistic, pedagogical, scholarly, research and leadership capabilities through advanced study in studio and art education theory. It is designed to provide a cutting edge program in the northeast Ohio region that blends the making of art with the practice of art education. The principal mission of the program will be to assist students in the realization of their studio and academic potential through effective mentoring to nurture professional, creative and intellectual growth. The program provides solid scholarly and studio preparation for practicing teachers seeking professional development opportunity through art education and individuals interested in pursuing a doctoral degree in art education. The Master of Arts in Art Education is distinct from other graduate programs in art education in the northeast Ohio region with its unique focus on studio practice. As a practice-oriented program, the emphasis is on the extension of specialized studio experiences for art educators. The program will, however, combine studio practice with theoretical studies and research through an integrated approach to the exploration of studio, arts-based educational research, technological, historical, socio-cultural and contemporary issues in art and art education.

Enrollments: A selected cohort of 10-12 students will initially be admitted into the Master of Arts in Art Education, in addition to the MS in Education (Secondary Visual Arts) degree students, who currently are enrolled in studio art graduate courses in the Department. It is anticipated that this number will grow to 20-25 within five years. Currently, the Department enrolls 6-8 students pursuing the MS in Education (Secondary Visual Arts) degree each semester in studio art graduate courses.

The primary source of enrollment will come from the pool of art teachers from the northeast Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania regions. While the degree program targets more experienced art teachers who are employed in northeast Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania, it will be opened to all teachers including beginning art teachers with, preferably, two years of teaching experience. It is anticipated that newer teachers with provisional licensure will form the majority of applicants owing to the new demand for professional development. The program meets the needs of graduates of the BS in Education in Pre-K-12 Visual Arts Education whose studio skills may be less developed. To accommodate the needs of prospective students who may be full-time art teachers, enrollment will be both on a part-time and full-time basis during the fall, spring, and summer sessions.

Curriculum: The proposed program will provide advanced level studio research and art education theory through in-depth immersion in studio and intellectual processes. The program will require 36 semester hours of graduate level study with significant concentration in the studio areas: 18 hours may be taken in studio art; 9 hours are required for graduate art education taught by art education faculty; 3 hours of advanced course in art history, 3 hours for a written thesis or final graduate project; and 3 hours for graduate studio/art education seminar. It is anticipated that most of the prospective students in the graduate program would be practicing art teachers.

Faculty, Facilities and Resources: The core faculty members who will serve the program consist of two who are full-time in art education – one tenured and one tenure-track. The program is focused on both art education theory and studio, and the graduate teaching staff for these areas will include 12 tenure and tenure-track faculty from the Department of Art. The Art Education program eventually will add an additional tenure-track faculty member. Five graduate assistantships will help offset any shift in full-time faculty instruction. As the program grows to its full potential, it is anticipated that an additional faculty member and a separate budget, particularly for advertising, will be necessary to meet the expanded needs.

The Department of Art is housed in the College of Fine and Performing Arts in Bliss Hall, with excellent facilities and resources to include computer graphics and animation labs, photography labs and studios for painting, drawing, printmaking and art education. The recent expansion of Bliss Hall provides new and additional space for the ceramics and sculpture wing. While the facilities in the Department are, for the most part, state-of-the art, additional space and facilities will be needed to augment existing resources in the Art Education program.

Art Education library resources with the Maag Library are underway to provide essential materials and resources, and OhioLink provides a strong foundation for faculty and entry-level master's degree students' scholarly endeavors. Financial support, learning resources, exhibition outlets and personal development

opportunities are among the numerous offerings for future graduate students in art education. There is a vast array of opportunities for the MA in Art Education faculty and students to embark on collaborative activities with the Beeghly College of Education as well as faculty members at Kent State University for the benefit of the entire university community.

Evidence of Need: Currently, students in the MS in Education (Secondary Visual Art) program at YSU who are interested in art education theory take their courses at Kent State University or elsewhere. Although the MS in Education (Secondary Visual Art) program at YSU offers art teachers an opportunity to engage in 17 semester hours within some selected studio areas, it neither provides the depth in studio nor the immersion in art education theory and research that is embedded in the proposed new YSU Master of Arts in Art Education degree program. Evidence of need for the MA in Art Education degree was further confirmed through recent formal and informal surveys of alumni of YSU's art education program and area teachers, who consistently indicate a high level of interest in the graduate degree program.