

Proposal to Change Admission Requirements for  
 All Applicants to the M.F.A. in Visual Arts degree in the  
 Department of Visual Arts and Art History  
 Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters  
 March 10, 2012

Graduate faculty members in the Department of Visual Arts and Art History are recommending the elimination of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) admission requirement for all applicants to the M.F.A. in Visual Arts. The rationale for this recommendation is based on several factors. Our primary goal is to have admission requirements that are effective in helping us select students who will thrive in our program, as well as be competitive with other respected programs. We believe that the most effective means for selecting successful M.F.A. students is through review of the portfolio of artistic works that each applicant submits as part of the application process. In addition to a strong portfolio we look to excellent letters of recommendation and a transcript showing success in advanced undergraduate studio art or design course work as a predictor for success in a graduate visual arts program. While the GRE may be a reliable predictor of student success in the other disciplines, it is an unreliable predictor of student success in a studio art program.

Our current admission requirements are:

1. Bachelor of Fine Arts or Bachelor of Arts degree from an accredited institution
2. GPA of at least 3.0 in the last 60 hours of bachelor's degree
3. GRE of 1000
4. Three letters of recommendation
5. Statement of Intent in which the student describes his/her reason for pursuing a graduate degree in the concentration that they are applying and their long-term professional goals.
6. Portfolio on CD with 20 images of recent art or design work.
7. Description sheet to accompany the Portfolio, including title of work, medium, size and date completed.
8. For international applicants: TOEFL score of 500, or CBT score of 173, or IBT score of 61

The rationale for the elimination of the GRE requirement is that we believe that a successful portfolio and undergraduate record is a better predictor of success in the M.F.A. in Visual Arts program than is the GRE.

<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	
Department Chair: <u><i>Sandra K. Johnson</i></u>	<u>3/15/12</u>	
College Curriculum Chair: <u><i>Nancy Kasin Porter</i></u>	<u>3/16/12</u>	
College Dean: <u><i>Heather Beltman</i></u>	<u>3-16-12</u>	
UGPC Chair: _____	_____	
Dean of the Graduate College: _____	_____	