

## VAAH Departmental Justification for 3 Credit Transition

The Department of Visual Arts and Art History proposes changing all of its upper-division courses from 4 credits to 3 credits. This change is intended to enable student success by easing scheduling issues and enabling students to take more courses per semester. Additionally, these changes will bring our program into alignment with other universities in the State University System in Florida and across the country. It should be noted and stressed that this change in no way reduces the number of classes students have to take, nor does it materially alter the material they will have to learn – the rigor of our departmental majors will remain intact.

### GRAPHIC DESIGN

The current graphic design courses are 6 hour per week studio courses that reduce to roughly 4 hours per week. The traditional model requires students to work on site with access to provided equipment. Most of our students are equipped and prefer to work in their own environments creating less demand for supervised studio time. The reduction in credit and contact hours will allow faculty to use class time in a more focused manner for lecture, demonstration, and critiques. The rigor of the classes will not change, only the supervised work times.

Students are currently denied the opportunity to choose the Graphic Design major because our high number of required credits force them into excess credits and semesters. Advising simply will not permit students in this position to choose the major. Reducing the credit hours per course creates more room for students to enroll in the Graphic Design program of study and avoid overages. This change is part of a larger effort to revise our curriculum to better accommodate student and curricular needs.

### ART HISTORY

Art History does not feel that this drop in credit hours will materially affect the content of the courses. If anything, we feel that we are padding the courses in order to meet the current time requirements in the classroom by showing movies or overloading students with more information than they really need. We may ask students to screen films outside of class that were once screened in class. The content and rigor of the courses will not change. Reading and writing assignments, as well as content covered, will remain unchanged.

Students in Art History will still be required to take 120 credits to graduate, but will have greater flexibility to choose elective credits that will complement their majors. For example, Art History students who would like to pursue graduate work will have more time to take the foreign languages courses and acquire the proficiency in these languages that will be required for graduate level study in the discipline.

### STUDIO ART

The current Studio Art courses are 6 hour per week studio courses that reduce to roughly 4 hours per week. The traditional model requires students to work on site with access to provided equipment. Most of our students are equipped and prefer to work in their own environments creating less demand for supervised studio time. The reduction in credit and contact hours will allow faculty to use class time in a more focuses manner for lecture, demonstration, and critiques. The rigor of the classes will not change, only the supervised work times.

Students are currently denied the opportunity to choose the Studio Art major because our high number of required credits force them into excess credits and semesters. Advising simply will not permit students in this position to choose the major. Reducing the credit hours per course creates more room for students to enroll in the Studio Art program of study and avoid overages. This change is part of a larger effort to revise our curriculum to better accommodate student and curricular needs.