

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO REINSTATE PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA:  
MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM IN ART EDUCATION**

**Action Requested:** Consider approval of the request by the University of Northern Iowa to reinstate the Master of Arts Program in Art Education in the Department of Art in the College of Humanities, Arts, and Sciences.

**Executive Summary:** The proposed reinstatement will provide an additional graduate program option for students. This proposal was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. The proposed program addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priorities to “provide educational excellence and impact as well as economic development and vitality” and Goal #8 – “Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and productive.”

**Background:**

- ◇ History of program. Admissions to the Master of Arts Program in Education were suspended in March 2012 (ESAC 2) as a result of changes in Art Education faculty in the Department of Art as well as budgetary constraints. Within a one-year period, both full-time faculty members in Art Education resigned. A search for permanent replacements was not possible due to budget limitations. However, recently, a full-time tenure-track Art Education faculty member was hired; therefore, the Department began discussions to determine the viability of reinstating the Master of Arts Program.
- ◇ Description of proposed program. The reinstated program will have a non-thesis option and will be oriented toward models of inquiry and practice that will help members of the preK-12 art education community establish stronger links between educational practice and theory. While admissions were suspended, the Department of Art explored the possibility of providing a comprehensive online graduate program in art education recognizing that traditional modes of instruction do not fit within the schedules of working teachers.  
  
Previously, the program was delivered through a face-to-face model. The change in delivery from face-to-face to online required extensive re-writing of the program curricula. The new curriculum provides members of the art education community with a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, historical, and contemporary orientation to the study and practice of art education. Two of the courses of the new curriculum were previously offered using the traditional model (Seminar in Teaching Art and Research); they will be redesigned for online delivery. The course Readings in Art Education will also be used in the new delivery model. Four new courses will need to be developed and initially taught as experimental offerings – Themes of Art Education; Theories of Children’s Art and Culture; Curriculum and Pedagogy in Art Education; and Research Methods in Art Education.
- ◇ Need for proposed program. Inquiries from prospective students and feedback from education stakeholders have affirmed the need for the program. During the past two years, the Art Education unit received 38 inquiries about the status of the Master of Arts program in Art Education. Reinstating the program and providing an online delivery model is likely to increase enrollment and provide greater consistency for future recruitment.

- ◇ Link to institutional strategic plan. Reinstatement of the program addresses Goal 2 of the University's Strategic Plan – Provide rigorous and relevant graduate education that meets the needs of graduate students, the university, and the community – as well as Objective 2 – Develop select graduate distance-education programs to meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century alternative and distance learners. It also addresses Goal 3 – Lead the state and nation in PreK-12 education.
- ◇ Relationship to existing programs at SUI. The courses that will be developed for the online program will also be available for graduate students enrolled in other academic units and programs. The courses will be of particular interest to students in the College of Education in early childhood, elementary education, and secondary education.
- ◇ Unique features. As the largest Art Education certificate program in the State of Iowa, the department is well positioned to “re-recruit” the graduates from the Bachelor of Arts program. The size of the program, as well as the University's education tradition, will allow the program to be a signature destination for graduate study in Art Education in the state. The plan is to admit a cohort of students every two years. Doing so allows the department to spend more time with students and ensures that there is a larger pool of prospective students to select for admission. The department plans to visit the schools and districts to develop better partnerships with alumni, current enrollees, prospective students, and professionals working in the communities. The visits will facilitate a better program and will be instrumental to future undergraduate and graduate recruitment.
- ◇ Duplication. There is one Master of Arts program in the state. This program, offered through the College of Education at the University of Iowa, uses a traditional delivery mode. There are currently three students enrolled in the program.
- ◇ Student demand. A survey conducted in July 2014 indicated that 22 potential students were interested in applying to the reinstated program if the department began accepting applications for Fall 2015.
- ◇ Workforce need/demand. The placement of Art Educators in public and private educational settings in the state has been consistently high. Students receive an education that prepares them to work in traditional and non-traditional settings, such as public and private schools, community organizations, museums, and other cultural institutions. The Master of Arts Program in Art Education will enhance the workforce and provide leadership to those in the workforce.
- ◇ Resources. To successfully develop and maintain the online program, the Department of Art will need to conduct a national search for a tenure-track faculty member in Art Education. The faculty member will need to have the educational and professional background that enables him/her to successfully build and facilitate the online program.
- ◇ Cost. The three-year cost will be approximately \$220,000 for salary and benefits. All other necessary components to reinstate the program are in place. The new faculty member in Art Education will also share responsibility for teaching and advising the current 73 undergraduate majors in Art Education.

- ◇ Projected enrollment. Initially, the projected enrollment is one cohort of 10 students every other year. The department will evaluate the optimal size for the program after its reinstatement.
  
- ◇ Date of implementation. Reinstatement of the Master of Arts Program in Art Education will become effective upon approval by the Board of Regents and will be included in the University's General Catalog. The anticipated implementation date is August 2015.