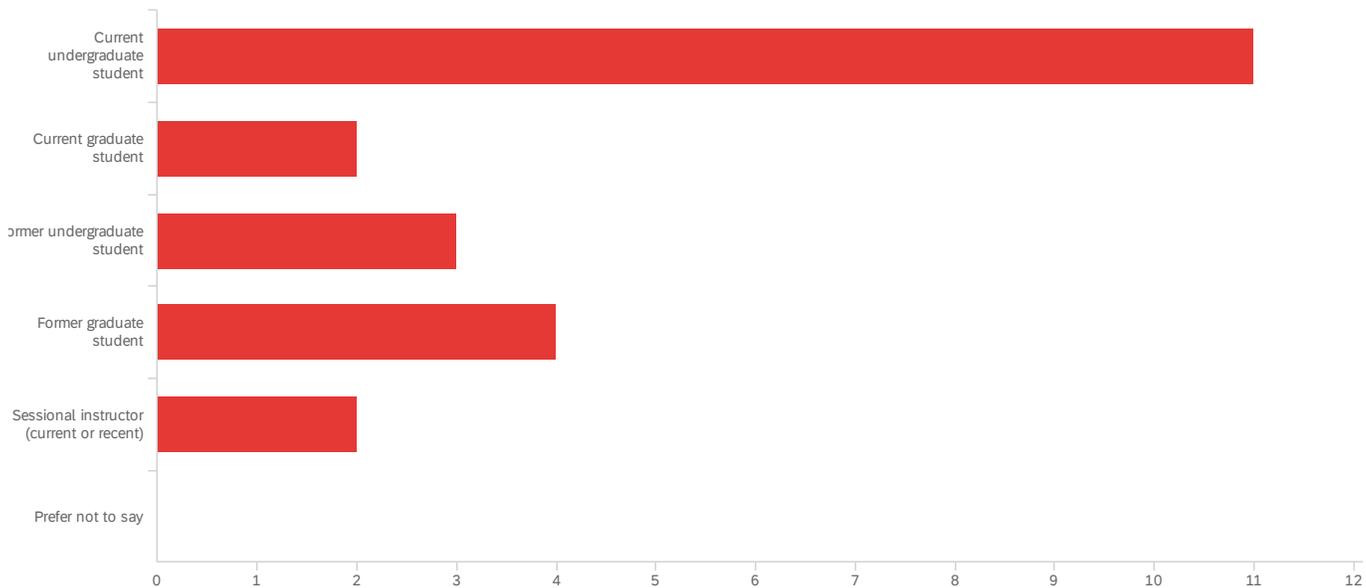


Default Report

U of R - Visual Arts - Unit Review Survey 2020

November 13, 2020 10:12 AM MST

Q2 - What is your affiliation with the Dept. of Visual Arts?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	What is your affiliation with the Dept. of Visual Arts?	1.00	5.00	2.27	1.45	2.11	22

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Current undergraduate student	50.00% 11
2	Current graduate student	9.09% 2
3	Former undergraduate student	13.64% 3
4	Former graduate student	18.18% 4
5	Sessional instructor (current or recent)	9.09% 2
6	Prefer not to say	0.00% 0

Q3 - From your perspective, what are the STRENGTHS of the Dept. of Visual Arts?

From your perspective, what are the STRENGTHS of the Dept. of Visual Arts?

The amenities - both printmaking and ceramics facilities are top notch. Some of the best if not the best I've seen. Access to artists in residents and professors with passion really helped me feel inspired to continue with art after graduating.

There are strengths in the connections most folks in the Dept. have to creative communities both on and off campus.

Diversity Is seem all throughout the program, that can bring unique skills into frame that we didn't have before.

Excellent instruction, studio space is excellent, having work space for upper year students is great, Love the Art Store.

Definitely the teaching staff. Particularly having Indigenous professors.

The relatively small size of the faculty allows for manageable class sizes while still offering a good variety of programs. There were a good variety of courses and paths when I attended. The facilities and studio spaces were quite well-sized and easy to access. The staff and faculty were friendly and had a fairly tight-knit community. The Fifth Parallel Gallery is theoretically a good resource for exhibiting student work and is quite centrally located. There are some excellent art history instructors and a variety of paths in that department. The printmaking department was wonderful, certainly the best part of the faculty- it really showed the holes in other departments.

I can't say much as I'm just dipping my toes in. Everyone seems really nice

Painting

Fantastic faculty staff that's always available to help students achieve their artistic goals. Particularly the woodshop and metalshop technicians (Jesse and Darcy) who are often able to give a hand even when they are not on the clock. Makes the learning environment and the studio atmosphere enjoyable and comfortable to spend lots of time in to have staff so dedicated to their students succeeding.

Connected and open to creative expression community Extensive overview of the opportunities art presents past post-secondary

Encouragement of critical thinking and clarity in writing, constant evaluation of artwork, camaraderie between graduate students, grants that are within reach, knowledgeable instructors that are in touch with the art world, building towards a concrete exhibition at the end, expectation to attend many art events in the community, art work evaluated by several people.

Well organized, small program made the experience more personal, dedicated and knowledgeable faculty, strong focus on student support, excellent facilities. Art for Lunch talks help to expand the program beyond the local to include wider range of artistic and professional exposure

Amazing art professors/instructors, collegial atmosphere, variety of course offerings and departments, ample studio space, updated presentation equipment, smooth running department with competent and compassionate heads and staff, AFL presentation series, Art Store in building, adaptation to pandemic crisis.

Community oriented (effort in developing nurturing relationships with students and each other) Flexible and supportive environment (compassionate faculty) Facilities and generous studio space for students Large department (space) Quality studio instruction, very knowledgeable in wide range of studio based practices Small class sizes and independent attention, nurturing of individual interests Strong level of emotional support between faculty and students (rare in "professional" environments, necessary in visual arts... important to maintain and enhance moving forward)

The strength is definitely the staff. The professors are knowledgeable. They go the extra mile to assist their students. Also, at least in the area I have taken classes, there is a sense of community that has developed and extends from the university into the community. Former, successful graduates do workshops, presentations and help current students.

One on one time with profs, opportunity for lots of assistance and guidance. Good facilities, laid back energy

From your perspective, what are the STRENGTHS of the Dept. of Visual Arts?

The people and the facility.

Very good teaching staff

Staff! Incredible staff. Studio space access

Q4 - From your perspective, what are the WEAKNESSES of the Dept. of Visual Arts?

From your perspective, what are the WEAKNESSES of the Dept. of Visual Arts?

Too many administrative and institutional demands on too few permanent faculty.

Prerequisite classes in the fall could be offered in winter as well.

Not enough business courses are offered for artists. It is great to teach the studio work and concept development, etc, but artists must also be proficient business people.

I found the level of the instruction in first and second year courses to be not ideal. For example, students that took AP art in high school were essentially re-learning high school level material for the first year, which I found quite annoying and disappointing. Although the students are let in contingent on portfolio reviews, the standard of work seemed very low. There seemed to be very little collective agreement on the theory and direction of the department and the department's goals for the students. Each professor had their own dogma and I didn't feel that there was a lot of compassion or personal investment by select professors in the success of their students. In several cases, I took visual arts or theatre classes with professors who essentially never showed up, and had nothing at all prepared for their classes. Now that I've worked in instruction this seems all the more troubling to me. Sessional professors were paid miserably and overworked (which I assume is a university problem in general, but still didn't feel wonderful). There was a very limited understanding of and focus on digital media among the instructors when I attended- there are all of these film photography and traditional animation courses, but nothing useful as related to digital media. Perhaps this has improved since I attended? At the time, this was quite frustrating, as graduates seemed terribly prepared for any kind of actual technical arts or design job. I frequently had conversations with faculty about this problem. Generally, what I heard was that it is not the University Fine Art program's responsibility to prepare grads for employment- but to teach them about art. I've always found this to be an incredible cop-out, and as someone who is now several years out of my program and gainfully employed in the arts, I've seen very few classmates be able to do the same. This is a massive waste and more paths should be offered to students who have goals in either commercial arts, not-for-profit and gallery settings to provide more meaningful technical training.

It's only been my first semester and I've noticed a lot of lack of communication between student and professors... some online classes I didn't even know had zoom calls until half way through and I'm still struggling to meet them as I never knew they were happening...

I would like to see real profs in classes, rather than teacher assistance.

The Visual Arts store hours (during non-covid times). It's only open 4 days a week, and only for a short window earlier in the day and afternoon. This makes it difficult for students who are nightowls (and many in vis arts are!) who tend to spend their entire nights in the studio, or often enroll in evening classes and cannot make it to campus often during regular business hours. It would be amazing if there were 2 staff running the store, perhaps one for later in the day, one or two nights a week...

Heavily limited now due to Covid-19 (Many projects that would have been interesting (printmaking, clay, etc.) cannot be done virtually)

Not a lot of time to actually make art, with all periphery course work, and commitments- studio time would get eaten up with other requirements.

Small program could be considered a weakness. For instance, fewer opportunities to connect with artworks and galleries just due to relatively small and isolated location of U of R.

Not enough funding for supplies. Would be nice to have basics such as paper, brushes, pencils and conte free for students. But this isn't a weakness, just a financial deficit.

Potentially overworked faculty and staff? (COVID specific, but perhaps beyond) Lack of intervention in Fifth Gallery space (potentially need for more authority to reduce practices of nepotism within the gallery) Need for more art theory courses at undergraduate level in preparation for masters level to make transition easier

Perhaps funding for equipment and maintenance.

Sometimes poor communication, undergrad 401 classes being too large, arrangements not made to accommodate graduating students exhibitions

From your perspective, what are the WEAKNESSES of the Dept. of Visual Arts?

Silo nature of departments and sub-departments (this also goes outward to MAP as well)

Very little photography amenities

Drawing classes as technical development

Q5 - From your perspective, what OPPORTUNITIES do you see for the Dept. of Visual Arts?

From your perspective, what OPPORTUNITIES do you see for the Dept. of Visua...

When I was doing my undergrad, Jack Sures was working at the university and he inspired me and taught me a lot. I still value that time with him and therefore I would say giving students the opportunity to work with, be taught by or interact with working artists is among the most important lessons in continuing on with art.

There are opportunities to capitalize on the expertise and ongoing contributions of contract faculty to the benefit of students and the Department. There are also opportunities to build collegiality between permanent and contract faculty members.

It gives people the opportunity to express themselves fully in whatever form they choose.

I love that the department continues to look for and deliver new courses and/or new techniques within disciplines. There are always opportunities to stretch within a discipline, so looking for ways to do that would be an asset.

It is a great time to start thinking about the waste that comes from the Dept. of Visual Arts and how it can be reduced or reused. Maybe a course on turning studio waste into new art?

I feel that offering a design path, or an animation / illustration path similar to AUarts would really help out the faculty and the Regina arts community in general. In Calgary, for example- due to AUarts having an animation and illustration path- there are SO many excellent technical artists and it is obvious how those folks are able to contribute to the city culturally. There are several organizations which have popped up adjacent to the university as a direct result of those programs existing. It's no use having a bunch of technical painters or conceptual artists who graduate and then never paint again or do anything with it. Training wave after wave of artist is an opportunity to encourage cultural exchange, not just in gallery spaces (which are biased and inaccessible to the general public). Faculty also make SUCH a big difference for the quality of student experience and as faculty turns over it is essential to hire instructors not only for their work, but for their personalities and strengths specifically as instructors.

I am really excited for when the student run art gallery opens up again! I am excited to get my own art in there!

Perhaps some sort of partnerships with the larger arts community in the city... Students in some courses are encouraged (and some required) to join the Regina Art Gallery (and other art organizations) and to submit works to member exhibitions when possible. It would be amazing to see this expanded into other gallery or arts events through a more solid form of partnership... The rupture between the MacKenzie Art Gallery and the UofR in terms of having student graduation exhibitions there was a great disappointment to learn about upon entering my first year. Seeing something like this be restored or negotiated at another professional exhibition venue would be amazing.

Polish my craft and discover new visual artforms Find other like-minded people who can help broaden my perspective

-spend energy recruiting grad students, advertise your wonderful program widely, keep up the website with many examples of past graduate study work for prospective students. -to stress studio work and hands on artwork as well as new media and popular trends, and find ways to students to blend these together for exciting art experiences. -to build confidence in each student that lasts beyond getting the final exhibition up

There are already some wonderful partnerships in place with local galleries. Could this be expanded to include partnerships with former students who are now practicing or teaching in other communities across Canada?

The pandemic has altered how we teach at the moment and I would say there is an opportunity to change how students participate. Students, who live elsewhere, or are sick at home, could attend classes online synchronously, once we go back into the classroom. Perhaps a computer in the space allowing some to join through zoom. It would make it easier for students with disabilities, illness, options instead of driving in a snowstorm, etc.

From your perspective, what OPPORTUNITIES do you see for the Dept. of Visua...

Slightly unclear whether the question refers to 1) opportunities for students within the department or 2) opportunities for the department moving forward) 1) Many! Gallery exhibition, community involvement, plenty of teaching assistant/instructor opportunities for grad students (very pleased with professional development opportunities, funding support)

The University has great staff so if there was more equipment such as computerized kilns, printers etc... it should be the first choice for students who want to study in the Visual Arts.

Better grad shows, minor fix ups to facilities (brush cleaner in main painting room) perhaps appropriate ventilation in each room to accommodate all mediums in each room. Keeping class sizes limited, including graduating classes (401)

The opportunity to strengthen the craft of students and offer a way to enhance abilities.

Students have a great amount of flexibility with personnel and equipment. Cohorts could be formed around interests not already addressed in departments/sub-departments. Examples could include textiles, knitting, performance, community based practice, and other contemporary industry based output.

Work with current events to show and teach more about minority arts

Take the fifth Parallel out of the uni! But ran by uni members at a more public location.

Q6 - What THREATS do you see for the Dept. of Visual Arts?

What THREATS do you see for the Dept. of Visual Arts?

Interesting question! It would be great to know more about the context for the ask.

Not everyone thinks these kind of classes or programs are important.

Covid 19 has been a threat for many programs and the modes of course delivery under the existing restrictions are not ideal. This could become a threat as students may find this impacts their learning. Inadequate funding is always a threat and if tuition costs continue to rise this could impact on student's ability to continue higher education.

Since becoming an artist is not particularly lucrative for most, courses must also appeal to other students looking for electives, or as mentioned above, help budding artists better prepare for the real world of marketing themselves.

I believe that Gen-Z'ers are going to be more guarded about attended non-career-focused university programs after watching us millennials bury ourselves in debt doing so. I think that faculties are going to need to be more conscious of actually providing practical usable skills. This is definitely not just a problem with visual arts- most if not all university programs suffer from the same issue.

The lack of communication can lead to people falling behind and I'm afraid I might be one of them even though I'm trying so hard.

I do sometimes feel that the Vis Arts Dept is in a world of it's own/is very separated from the going ons of the rest of the University departments. This is actually mostly a plus (from the inside looking out), as I quite enjoy the tight knit community that we are. But I worry about students in other fields who, when it comes time to voting for URSU representatives or who may be involved in discussions and decisions about continued funding to the vis arts gallery space (which is critical to our studies/experience as students learning to become professional artists), that this disconnection could have an impact on their decision making.

A lack of funding, since this faculty is very niche/ small it could be overlooked as being useful or worth the time and money

getting rid of equipment because of the cost of doing art- closing offerings/courses due to cost constraints- losing unique qualities

Competition from bigger/ more "prestigious" arts programs, e.g. at U of Alberta. Also, larger institutions are sometimes able to offer larger funding packages to grad students; this is a major consideration for potential students and could draw students away from U of R

None that I'm aware of.

Burnout for students and teachers (COVID) is an extremely urgent matter that needs addressing. I see compassion fatigue amongst faculty and students... huge threat to community centered approach to learning (that sets university apart from other institutions). I don't believe the answer is for faculty to do more... as the burnout is amongst the entire community. How do we sustain this?

The biggest threat would be if the Dept. does not have the funding they need.

-

Lack of communication in working with early undergrads. Covid....

Losing funding due to current events, less tools for student. Also cuts to teaching

Art history department is lacking diversity in study

Q7 - Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

The majority of Visual Arts graduates aiming to build professional careers in the field will not have access to permanent faculty positions. Contract faculty have practical knowledge of current professional contexts that can be better utilized to contribute to building graduate success.

I chose to enroll at the UofR to do my visual arts degree because it is in my honest opinion, one of the best art schools in the country. Amazing staff, facilities and courses offered that aren't/cannot be offered at all art universities (Bronze casting sculpture classes). Another amazing aspect is the degree requirement art history courses in Indigenous Art History. To my understanding, the UofR is one of the only art schools in Canada that has a requirement to take such courses in order to acquire a degree (other schools might have similar options for electives but are not mandatory). Any and all university vis arts degree holder working within the field of vis arts in any capacity in Canada should be required to have some educational background about Indigenous art. So props to the UofR Department of Vis Arts!

I value the rounded education that I received from the U of Regina and hope that it continues to promote hands-on art making with excellent studios and equipment.

I enjoyed my graduate experience tremendously. Keep up the outstanding work!

Overall, I'm very satisfied with the department! I'm impressed by the dedication of faculty to their roles and ability to adapt to changes and consider the holistic health of the department (consulting students and each other, growing and nurturing, taking care of each other) at all times. The "issues" that I see within the department are predominantly within the context of COVID 19 with of course, a lacking of community because of online courses and little face to face interaction. Loss of Leesa Streifler leaves a bit of a hole in the department in terms of research interests and expertise (I felt she brought an emotionality/mothering/obviously feminist based perspective to teaching and learning that rounded out the perspectives and expertise of faculty members, an important consideration to reach all types of learners, student interests, etc in such a diverse community...)

Strong recommendation for more emphasis on technical skill. Many students practicing art have spoken amongst each other on how conceptual/philosophical ideas are valued over actually having real drawing/painting skills. Philosophical/conceptual needs to balance with technical skill, especially since technical skills are more likely to be of use in an art based career.

Very good job mentoring students that have a future in visual Arts

Studio classes should be two classes a week of 3 hrs!

End of Report