1. What student learning outcomes were assessed this year, and why?

The Department of Art offers the Master of Fine Arts Degree (MFA). The MFA is a 90-credit terminal degree program providing students with professional levels of competency and experience in studio art.

The department assessed the following three student learning outcomes.

- Creation of artwork at a professional and innovative level of expertise.
- Create and install a public terminal-degree MFA thesis exhibition.
- Completion of a written thesis, and visual documentation of thesis work and exhibition.

These learning outcomes were assessed because they are related directly to the Department’s goal:

- “To prepare students for significant roles in society as professional practitioners of visual arts, art educators and designers of visual art and associated media.”

These learning outcomes were also assessed because:

In regards to the written thesis: In the candidates thesis year a written thesis is to be produced with critical review from the candidate’s committee and revisions are made based on the validity of content in respect to the candidate’s visual output.

In regards to the thesis exhibition: The exhibition is the main culmination of the candidate’s three years of research expressed in visual artifacts, i.e. paintings, drawings, sculptures, ceramics, metals, performance, or installations.
2. How were they assessed?

A) What methods were used?
All MFA students are assessed through their final oral examination, their work included in their thesis exhibition and their written thesis. The oral exam occurs in their exhibition and is signed by their committee members.

The grade earned in their 12 credits of ART 700 Thesis course is also utilized. The grade earned is either satisfactory or unsatisfactory. In the case of our one graduate student who earned a degree during the assessment period it was satisfactory

B) Who was assessed?
We had one MFA candidate receive her degree. Her name is Naomi Smith.

C) When was it assessed?
An oral defense, written thesis and thesis exhibition all culminated in the final spring quarter of the candidates third year.

See attached Report of Final Examination.

3. What was learned?
The student was in full compliance with departmental and Graduate Office guidelines.

4. What will the department or program do as a result of that information?
The department feels it necessary to create a rubric for both the student’s exhibition and an exit survey. The exit survey will contain questions relevant to thesis exhibition and career objectives that were focused on during the candidate’s time as a student.

5. What did the department or program do in response to last year’s assessment information?
The department has created a third outcome to assess. A mid-thesis exhibition has been created. We are presently working on a rubric to assess the mid-thesis exhibition. This is going to give us the ability to assess the program and the student’s progress. We will develop a rubric for faculty to review the exhibition and for the student to assess the mid-thesis exhibition.

6. Questions or suggestions concerning Assessment of Student Learning at Central Washington University: