

March 25, 2008

To: St. Olaf Faculty  
 From: Curriculum Committee  
 Re: Proposed Revision to Major in Studio Art

At the April Faculty Meeting the Curriculum Committee will move that the faculty approve the following revisions to the major in Studio Art.

Proposed Catalog Description of Revised Major

**Requirements for a Studio Art Major**

Students majoring in studio art must earn a minimum of ten credits including two art history and eight studio courses. Majors must take three foundation courses (102, 103, 104) and Art 343. Foundation courses may be taken in any order. The department strongly recommends Art 252 or 253 as part of the art history taken. One 200 level course must be selected from each of three different Areas listed below:

Two-Dimensional Media	Drawing Painting Photography Printmaking	225, 232, 233 221, 222 205, 238 226, 227
Three-Dimensional Media	Ceramics Sculpture	207, 234 223, 224
New Media	Interactive Image Animation Digital Video Performance	228 230 229, 239 240

Majors must participate in the annual juried show. To fulfill the requirements of the studio art major and studio art education major, each student must enter at least two juried art exhibitions on or off campus by the beginning of their senior year. Students unable to meet this requirement must speak with their advisor or the department chair.

**Summary and Rationale:**

New Foundation Courses: The revised major in Studio Art will require three 1.0 credit foundation courses in three areas: two-dimensional media, three-dimensional media, and new media. These will replace the current half credit introductory courses. This change offers many benefits. Half credit art courses are known to require more than a half credit of work from students and faculty. The number of half credit courses has become unwieldy. Full credit courses cover more material in greater depth and provide longer blocks of studio time for creative work and individual attention from faculty members.

In addition, the new foundation courses fully integrate new media into the curriculum. Thus they offer better preparation for upper-level inter-media work, and they better reflect how digital media have transformed the art world. The new foundation courses will offer ALS-A. They will serve as prerequisites for many upper-level studio art courses, but they will also provide opportunities for non-majors. Half credit foundation courses will not be offered after 2008-2009.

**Change in Level for Photography and Ceramics:** With the change to three required foundations classes that cover a wide variety of materials, forms, fundamental concepts, and techniques in each area, Art 124 (Foundation Photography) and Art 121 (Foundation Ceramics) no longer fit in the foundations program. These will become Level II courses (Art 205: Photography and Art 207: Ceramics). The new foundation courses (102, 103, and 104) will be recommended but not required prerequisites for these two courses. The course content for 205 and 207 will be changed to emphasize concepts that are more specific to each medium rather than the more general fundamental visual concepts covered at the foundation level. This will allow time to delve into each medium in more depth.

**Change in Overall Size:** The requirement for upper level classes remains the same. The total number of required courses will increase from 9 to 10. This change accommodates the added foundation credit and allows for students to develop more breadth in upper-level courses. It is also closer to the actual number of credits most students take in the major.