

Notice of Intent to Rename a Department or College

This Notice should be filed with the Office of the Provost, mail stop 1046.

Current name *Department of Fine Arts*

Proposed Name *Department of Art*

Justification for the change of name

A change in nomenclature to Department of Art will provide clarity of what we offer. This will make branding cleaner and grant a greater degree of access to students. ART will afford us an opportunity to better promote what is at the heart of our discipline. Our title would rise in catalog copy which also aids in visibility. New opportunities for design and outreach would also become available as the term ART is much more flexible in design options.

In contrast, Fine Arts is an antiquated term that in its use of “fine” reflects a narrow and often elitist understanding of art that does not reflect the diversity of the department’s interests or its role in a public, land grant university. The term also does not reflect the increasing openness of artistic disciplines nationwide. As such, it has proven especially intimidating for new students and does not align us with contemporary trends in the discipline nor departments across the country.

We would change our prefix to ART XXX as opposed to FA XXX. Degree options would be BA ART, BFA ART, and MFA ART. (BFA and MFA are formal degree titles in alignment with CAA that would need to be retained)

Description of the process used to arrive at the new name, including the process of consulting the affected faculty and other affected administrative units

For many years the department has discussed that the department identity does not align with the values inherent. We took many suggestions and put forth Department of Arts for review by faculty on all campuses in the spring of 22.

Do the faculty and other affected units, if any, approve? If not, explain why the unit should be renamed over these objections.

More than 90% of current unit faculty voted for redacting the word “fine” from our identity. We do not expect other units will be directly affected by thus change.

Timeline

This change should be reflected as soon as possible within WSU procedure.

Name and contact information of the person filing this Notice

Squeak Meisel

Date of filing

8.26.22