



MEMORANDUM

TO: Registrar's Office - Curriculum

FROM: Samantha Swindell *SS.*  
CAS Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies

DATE: 2.2.2023

SUBJECT: Conversion of FINE ART prefix to ART

In December 2022, the Faculty Senate recommended, and Board of Regents approved, that the Department of Fine Arts be formally renamed the Department of Art. Consistent with this change, the College of Arts and Sciences and Department of Art requests that the current "FINE ART" prefix for all courses be converted to the new prefix "ART", effective Fall 2023.

The FINE ART prefix will be retired.

Thank you.

Cc: Todd Butler, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
Squeak Meisel, Chair, Department of Art  
Renny Christopher, VCAA Vancouver  
Kathleen McAteer, VCAA Tri-Cities

November 17, 2022

Dr. Elizabeth Chilton  
Provost and Executive Vice President  
Washington State University  
Pullman, WA 99164

Dear Provost Chilton,

On behalf of the Faculty and Staff in the Department of Art (soon to be known formerly as the Department of Fine Arts) and the endorsement of Dean Butler, College of Arts and Sciences. I am writing to formally request Provost approval for a change to the Course Subject (formerly "Course Prefix") for the Program in the Department of Art from

"Fine Arts" to "Art," effective fall 2023.

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.

I now write to complete the process of aligning program name, curriculum, degree name, and course prefix so that they all accurately reflect the updated range of courses that are offered through the Art Department, including both those parented in the Department of Art and those that are cross-listed with other units.

Thank you, and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [squeak.meisel@wsu.edu](mailto:squeak.meisel@wsu.edu).

Thank you and ok,



Squeak Meisel

Chair and Associate Professor