




MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Elizabeth S. Chilton, Provost and Executive Vice President 

SUBJECT: Rename the Fine Arts Degrees

DATE: March 6, 2023

The attached proposal from the College of Arts and Sciences to rename the Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art (studio), Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art (Art History), BFA Fine Arts, and MFA Fine Arts has been reviewed by the Provost's Office. We have no concerns about the proposal.

The College of Arts and Sciences conferred with the WSU Tri-Cities and Vancouver campuses on this matter. Neither campus expressed concerns.

We judge the proposal ready for the Senate review process.

PROPOSAL TO RENAME A DEGREE PROGRAM

Proposals will only be accepted electronically as a Word document to the Office of the Provost when submitted to provost.deg.changes@wsu.edu

Current Degree Title:	Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art (studio), Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art (Art History), BFA Fine Arts and MFA Fine Arts
Proposed Degree Title:	Bachelor of Arts in Art (studio and art history options). BFA Art and MFA Art
Academic Program:	P0075, P4515, P7025
Academic Plan:	P0075-0005, P4515-0005, P7025
Number of Credits:	48 credits (proposal to reduce credits to 39 credit already submitted to Senate for review, BFA- 72 credits)
Department(s) or Program(s):	Fine Arts (up for review to change to Art)
College(s):	CAS
Campus(es)	Pullman, Tri-Cities, Vancouver

Contact Name:	Squeak Meisel	Email Address:	Squeak.meisel@wsu.edu
Contact Phone:	509.335.7639	Proposed start date:	August 2023

Rationale for proposed name change:
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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)</p>
Implications for currently enrolled students:
None, Degree remains the same
Describe the process by which current faculty and staff were consulted about this change and summarize the response:
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. 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.


Describe the process by which other degree programs, departments, colleges or campuses were consulted about this change and summarize the response. Letters of support regarding the change from respective academic leaders are required.


All faculty in the unit on all campus were given an opportunity to vote. The Dean of CAS was consulted. There are no concerns with any other units.

If applicable, describe the process by which other stake holders (e.g., advisory or alumni groups) were consulted about this change and summarize the response:

N/A

SIGNATURES: The names typed below certify that the relevant academic and campus officials have reviewed and approved this proposal:

Chair or Director Signature:	Squeak Meisel 	Date:	11.17.2022
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Dean Signature:	 Samantha Swindell – for Dean Butler	Date:	11.18.2022
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Signatures are required from the Chancellor(s) if the degree will be offered and/or impact the respective campus:

Everett Chancellor Signature:		Date:	
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Global Chancellor Signature:		Date:	
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Spokane Chancellor Signature:		Date:	
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Tri-Cities Chancellor Signature:	 VCAA	Date:	Feb 1 st 2023
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Vancouver Chancellor Signature:		Date	2/1/23
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Comments regarding abstention of signature(s)

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Submit completed form as a Word document to the Provost's Office at provost.deg.changes@wsu.edu

For Registrar's Office Use Only:

Current CIP Code:	<input type="text"/>	New CIP Code:	<input type="text"/>	Date:	<input type="text"/>
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