

ACTION ITEM #12(d)
Extension of Bachelor's Degree
(Erica Weintraub Austin)

May 6, 2016

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

SUBJECT: Extension of Bachelor's Degree

PROPOSED: That the Board of Regents approve extension of the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree to the WSU Tri-Cities Campus

SUBMITTED BY: Erica Weintraub Austin, Interim Co-Provost

**SUPPORTING
INFORMATION:**

The Department of Fine Arts proposes to extend its Bachelor of Fine Arts degree to the WSU Tri-Cities campus.

The Fine Arts program fosters student's abilities in a number of media, enabling them to become visually literate and responsive to the world in which they live. Students develop creative problem solving skills where the integration of cultural, historical, and conceptual issues are examined. Students are encouraged to develop their own personal ideas and aesthetic expression in light of contemporary issues and practices.

Students will begin their studies on campus in Fine Arts or Digital Technology and Culture with courses introducing them to a range of materials and concepts in two and three-dimensional media as well as the history of art in Western and non-Western civilizations. BFA students will focus in both digital and experimental media and its close relationship to established art making practices, studio techniques and communication technologies.

This program will share the same requirements as the degree currently being offered on the Pullman campus. Due to the current research interests and expertise of the existing faculty, students will be able to initially focus in digital and experimental media, with the addition of other concentrations in subsequent years.

WSU Tri-Cities will initially focus on the development of a BFA in digital and experimental media through onsite education and close involvement with the Fine Arts Department in Pullman. The degree will

assume a more interdisciplinary focus as new resources are brought to campus and our community including our new enhanced media lab with an adjoining studio space, where students are able to work and assemble projects utilizing a wide variety of art materials for extended periods of time. The BFA will be recognized for the study and use of digital and experimental media, the convergence of art, art history, science and technology, and it will emphasize historical precedents and conceptual underpinnings of core art-making and studio practices. The BFA will provide an avenue, where none currently exists in the Tri-Cities, for those students interested in earning a degree in art as well as serving as an advanced degree option for those earning a BA in Digital Technology and Culture. It may eventually be a natural feeder into an on-site graduate program currently being developed by DTC faculty.

At a meeting on February 16, 2016, the Academic Affairs Committee approved the proposal to extend the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree to the WSU Tri-Cities campus with an effective date of fall 2016.

The following were noted and addressed during the review process:

- No changes were made to the existing curriculum

The proposal has support from the Provost, Budget Committee, Catalog Subcommittee, and the Library Committee. This recommendation was passed by the Faculty Senate on March 10, 2016.