

Philosophy of Effective Teaching in the Department of Art & Design

Excellence in teaching is crucial to the mission of the Department of Art and Design. Among our students we concentrate on stimulating creativity, fostering critical thinking, developing aesthetic sensibilities, and mastering the language and history of visual imagery. Each of our colleagues brings considerable knowledge and experience to teaching and a distinctive understanding of the visual world.

Within this framework, an effective teacher in Art and Design challenges students to acquire knowledge, to articulate, and to write about art and design. Instruction varies, depending upon the specific methods and processes required in a discipline, and upon individual teaching philosophies. The following objectives are common to all of our teaching approaches: keeping abreast of and integrating intellectual and artistic developments in the discipline; emphasizing the vocabulary, methods, processes and skills needed in the practice of each discipline; a dispassionate and encouraging evaluation of student work; emphasis on the history of art and design and on being part of an aesthetic continuum.

Measures for Assessing Teaching Effectiveness

Measures for evaluating teaching effectiveness include, but are not restricted to: peer reviews; student evaluations; analysis of student work; engagement of students in artistic/academic activities outside of the classroom; publication and presentation of work in regional, national, and international arenas; mentoring students during their degree progress; and, as needed, revision of course content and teaching styles.