Curricular Change Narrative:

Proposed:

1. The minimum grade that will be accepted for credit within the B.A. in Art History (CIP=50.0703) is to change from a “C-“ to “C,” effective fall 2014. Tracking # 259.

2. The minimum grade that will be accepted for credit within the B.A. in Studio Art (CIP=50.0701) is to change from a “C-“ to “C,” effective fall 2014. Tracking # 260.

3. The minimum grade that will be accepted for credit within the B.F.A. in Studio Art (CIP=50.0702) is to change from a “C-“ to “C,” effective fall 2014. Tracking # 261.

4. The Studio B.A. will add two Intermediate Studio courses, changing the B.A. Intermediate Studio requirement from 6 total hours to 12 total hours. The total hours in the major will change from 50 to 56. The category of free electives will change from 14 hours to 8 hours. Total elective hours will change from 37 hours to 31 hours. Tracking # 260.

5. The Studio B.F.A. will add as a requirement ART 3838 “Technology Essentials for Artists,” (this course already exists and is offered but not required) increasing the category “Additional Requirements” from 10 hours to 13 hours, and the total hours in the major from 79 hours to 82 hours. This will also result in a change in the category of free electives, reducing them from 8 credits to 5 credits. Tracking # 261.

6. ART 3939 “The Real World” will change its title to “RealWorld” and add “ART 3838” as a prerequisite course. Tracking # 321.

7. ART 3939 “RealWorld” will be added as a prerequisite to the following advanced studio courses: ART 4320C Advanced Drawing (Tracking # 322); ART 4402C Advanced Printmaking (Tracking # 323); ART 4520C Advanced Painting (Tracking # 325); ART 4614C Advanced Video, Animation and Digital Arts (Tracking # 326); ART 4710C Advanced Sculpture (Tracking # 327); ART 4782C Advanced Ceramics Tracking # 328); PGY 4420C Advanced Photography (Tracking # 324).

8. ARH 4450 “Twentieth Century Art History” will be added as a prerequisite to the following advanced studio courses: ART 4320C Advanced Drawing (Tracking # 322); ART 4402C Advanced Printmaking (Tracking # 323); ART 4520C Advanced Painting (Tracking # 325); ART 4614C Advanced Video, Animation and Digital Arts (Tracking # 326); ART 4710C Advanced Sculpture (Tracking # 327); ART 4782C Advanced Ceramics Tracking # 328); PGY 4420C Advanced Photography (Tracking # 324).

9. ARH 4475C “Contemporary Issues in Art” will be added as a prerequisite or co-requisite to the following advanced studio courses: ART 4320C Advanced Drawing (Tracking # 322); ART 4402C Advanced Printmaking (Tracking # 323); ART 4520C Advanced Painting (Tracking # 325); ART 4614C Advanced Video, Animation and Digital Arts (Tracking # 326); ART 4710C Advanced Sculpture (Tracking # 327); ART 4782C Advanced Ceramics Tracking # 328); PGY 4420C Advanced Photography (Tracking # 324).
Rationale:

1. Change Minimum Grade in B.A. in Art History (CIP=50.073) from “C-” to “C.” After faculty discussion we have concluded that a C- grade, equivalent to a 1.67 GPA, does not represent an appropriate level of performance in a student’s major area of study. This is compounded by the awareness that grade inflation has raised the “average” grade at universities to the point that we feel a slightly higher standard than 1.67 should be required of our majors in those courses that address their major area. Tracking # 259

2. Change Minimum Grade in B.A. in Art Studio (CIP=50.0701) from “C-” to “C.” After faculty discussion we have concluded that a C- grade, equivalent to a 1.67 GPA, does not represent an appropriate level of performance in a student’s major area of study. This is compounded by the awareness that grade inflation has raised the “average” grade at universities to the point that we feel a slightly higher standard than 1.67 should be required of our majors in those courses that address their major area. Tracking # 260.

3. Change Minimum Grade in B.F.A. in Studio Art (CIP=50.0702) from “C-” to “C.” After faculty discussion we have concluded that a C- grade, equivalent to a 1.67 GPA, does not represent an appropriate level of performance in a student’s major area of study. This is compounded by the awareness that grade inflation has raised the “average” grade at universities to the point that we feel a slightly higher standard than 1.67 should be required of our majors in those courses that address their major area. Tracking # 261.

4. Add two Intermediate Studio Courses to the B.A. in Studio Art (CIP=50.0701). The primary concern is that we have a large number of transfer students that we service. Under the current curriculum a student who transfers into our program can import foundations and beginning studios (the courses that our program accepts in transfer) and be required to take only 3 studio courses from the program awarding a degree in studio art. The university has determined that 50 percent of the major work in a degree program must be done in the program awarding the degree. Our current requirement is 20 hours, which is less than the required 50 percent, and it seems reasonable to address that by adding two more intermediate studio courses. Additionally, when the university leveled a number of our courses from 4 credits to 3 credits, those credits (a total of 5 credits lost to the program) were temporarily applied to free electives, and this change represents what we believe to be a productive way to reclaim those hours, conform effectively to university standards, and improve the quality of student outcomes. Tracking # 260.

5. The Studio B.F.A. (CIP=50.0702) will add as a requirement ART 3838 “Technology Essentials for Artists.” Effective promotion is an essential skill for all artists working to establish themselves professionally. Our faculty noted among incoming students a consistent deficit in the technical skills necessary for promotion in a contemporary environment. “Technology Essentials for Artists,” ART 3838,
was created to address that perceived deficit. While the faculty agree generally that such a course would be useful for all students in the visual arts, they are particularly concerned that students in the B.F.A., our professional degree, should receive effective, directed education in this area while leaving it as an elective option for the B.A. students in Studio Art. We are therefore proposing that ART 3838 be added as a requirement only to the B.F.A. in Studio Art. Tracking # 261.

6. “The Real World” will change its title to “RealWorld” and add ART 3838 “Technology Essentials for Artists” as a prerequisite course. The change in title is simply to accurately reflect what I’ve been calling the course for years now. Adding ART 3838 “Technology Essentials for Artists” as a prerequisite will relieve RealWorld of the current necessity to teach digital documentation and website creation, and will free class time to explore the emerging role of social media as an economic force – and tool. The students will benefit by acquiring, in advance of taking RealWorld, the technical background to do a number of critical requirements in RealWorld that focus on promotion. Effectively, it will enable students to refine their tools before they are asked to use them in the field. As “Technology Essentials for Artists” is to be required of our B.F.A. Studio Majors it represents a logical progression into RealWorld. Tracking # 321

7. ART 3939 “RealWorld” will be added as a prerequisite to the following advanced studio courses: ART 4320C Advanced Drawing (Tracking # 322); ART 4402C Advanced Printmaking (Tracking # 323); ART 4520C Advanced Painting (Tracking # 325); ART 4614C Advanced Video, Animation and Digital Arts (Tracking # 326); ART 4710C Advanced Sculpture (Tracking # 327); ART 4782C Advanced Ceramics (Tracking # 328); PGY 4420C Advanced Photography (Tracking # 324). A major part of RealWorld addresses specific skills such as thinking and writing critically about one’s work, developing a contextual awareness of influences and direction, and professional practices related to promotion, documentation and showing, each of which represents an essential backdrop for the research focus in our advanced studios. In order to ensure that students entering advanced studio courses have this background, the faculty wishes to formalize what is already informal practice by requiring RealWorld as a prerequisite to advanced studios in the various disciplines of Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, VADA, Sculpture and Ceramics. Course change forms have been generated for each of the disciplines affected as noted above.

8. “ARH 4450 Twentieth Century Art History” will be added as a prerequisite to the following advanced studio courses: ART 4320C Advanced Drawing (Tracking # 322); ART 4402C Advanced Printmaking (Tracking # 323); ART 4520C Advanced Painting (Tracking # 325); ART 4614C Advanced Video, Animation and Digital Arts (Tracking # 326); ART 4710C Advanced Sculpture (Tracking # 327); ART 4782C Advanced Ceramics (Tracking # 328); PGY 4420C Advanced Photography (Tracking # 324). Twentieth Century Art History is a required course for our Studio B.A. and B.F.A. It came to the attention of faculty in our advanced studio courses that a number of students had not taken Twentieth Century Art History by the time they began their advanced studio classes. As a consequence there was a lack of contextual and historical awareness on the part of students who were participating critically in what were intended to be among the culminating studio experiences of their academic careers. In conversation, it became evident to the faculty that such students lacked knowledge essential to their ability to contextualize
their work and ideas. In the absence of specific requirements as to when in the course of a student’s curriculum 20th Century must be taken, too many students delayed taking the course. The faculty concluded that students would be better served by being required to complete 20th Century Art History before they could register for Advanced Studio courses. Course change forms have been generated for each of the disciplines affected as noted above.

9. “ARH 4475C Contemporary Issues in Art” will be added as a prerequisite or co-requisite to the following advanced studio courses: ART 4320C Advanced Drawing (Tracking # 322); ART 4402C Advanced Printmaking (Tracking # 323); ART 4520C Advanced Painting (Tracking # 325); ART 4614C Advanced Video, Animation and Digital Arts (Tracking # 326); ART 4710C Advanced Sculpture (Tracking # 327); ART 4782C Advanced Ceramics (Tracking # 328); PGY 4420C Advanced Photography (Tracking # 324). “Contemporary Issues in Art” is a required course for our Studio B.F.A. It came to the attention of faculty in our advanced studio courses that a number of students had not taken it by the time they began their advanced studio classes. As a consequence there was a lack of contextual and historical awareness on the part of students who were participating critically in what were intended to be among the culminating studio experiences of their academic careers. In conversation, it became evident to the faculty that such students lacked knowledge essential to their ability to contextualize their work and ideas. In the absence of specific requirements as to when in the course of a student’s curriculum “Contemporary Issues in Art” must be taken, too many students delayed taking the course. The faculty concluded that students would be better served by requiring that ARH 4450, Twentieth Century Art History, be required as a prerequisite to “Contemporary Issues in Art,” for which Twentieth Century provided essential background, and that “Contemporary Issues in Art” should be either a prerequisite or a co-requisite for advanced studios. They felt that allowing it as a co-requisite might be beneficial in that the students would have the opportunity to analyze their own process in the light of concepts introduced in “Contemporary Issues in Art.” Most intermediate studios are project driven, while advanced studios presuppose a measure of independently motivated research. It was not deemed that the experience would be the same at the intermediate level as it would be at the advanced level, but possible problems with scheduling made the faculty and the administration in the School of Art and Art History reluctant to require that it be taken as a co-requisite with the first advanced studio, so it was recommended as a prerequisite or co-requisite to advanced studio coursework. Course change forms have been generated for each of the disciplines affected as noted above.