Graduate Program Objectives and Outcomes:

These are the objectives that will be met in your studio classes. Most will be demonstrated successfully in the graduate reviews that take place prior to graduation and in the art work in your thesis exhibition and the work statement (thesis) you prepare to accompany the exhibition.

**Artist Statement**

Take the artist statement to the level of a thesis by gathering and evaluating historical, technical and practical information of relevance to the student’s work, and using this material to provide an explanation of the directions taken in personal work and lay out the artist’s proposed path for future work. Critical writing courses will help you with this.

**Oral Analysis**

Since you should have this ability at the outset of the program, this oral analysis should include the ability to defend one’s philosophical positions relevant to your artwork. Studio critiques will be multiple opportunities for practice.

**Response to feedback**

For the graduate student, the ability to give feedback is as important as the ability to use it; opportunities to give feedback to colleagues and to undergraduate students will be provided in portfolio reviews.

**Technical skills**

Again, because you begin the MFA with highly developed skills, at the graduate level the goal is to push work in unpredictable or unexpected directions, through the development of new technical processes, the original juxtaposition of media and skills, and/or the experimental creation of new media. This will be the goal of your studio work at the 600 level and more important, at the 605 and thesis level.

**Personal voice**

Your thesis work should be governed by your recognition of self-identity as key to the creative process. Your goal is to create work that embodies and voices the personal in a socially and/or historically relevant context.

**Exhibition**

* Conceive and implement appropriate, effective and creative methods of exhibiting work; apply these skills to one’s personal graduation exhibition and to the planning and implementation of group shows, prior to graduation
* Enter at least 3 non-local exhibitions prior to program completion and/or apply for arts fellowships and grants

**MFA Work ethic**: develop a work ethic that applies professional principles of time-management and craftsmanship and implement this work ethic without need for supervision or prompting from studio advisor. Be ready to explore, identify and justify future career paths, and take necessary steps to make connections and move forward professionally.

As the previous objectives should clarify, studio course work is a fundamental component of the MFA studio program. Students are expected to define and further refine those methodologies, techniques, and conceptual abilities that lead to new knowledge in their focused field of study as they create a cohesive body of work.

Graduate studio courses are the basis of your program. They are all designed to strengthen your understanding of your own work and how it relates to the various concepts, forms and techniques that encompass current advances in your field of study.

Although students at all levels have reviews and critiques, the critique is an ongoing part of the graduate student’s experience. Studio visits between the professor and the student provide a focused environment in which to further address the students’ aesthetic and conceptual development as a critically engaged artist.

In addition to the critiques that take place during studio time, and the 1st and 2nd year reviews with a graduate committee of faculty selected by the student, graduate students are required to initiate visits to studios that pertain to their field, either alone or in groups. Students are further expected to deepen their understanding in their field of study through constant engagement with current events and relevant issues in contemporary art.