

February 2019

NWACC + UA Art Foundations: Memorandum of Understanding

Regarding transfer credit equivalency for University of Arkansas courses, ARTS 1919c and ARTS 1929c Art Studio Foundations I & II

Prepared by Sam King, Head of Studio Art and Coordinator of Foundations, University of Arkansas School of Art, in consultation with Stephanie Lewis, Chair of Visual Arts and Media, Northwest Arkansas Community College, and Tom Hapgood, Head of Graphic Design, University of Arkansas School of Art

NWACC Foundations course	UA Foundations curricular unit	UA Foundations course
ART 1303: Drawing I	Observation & Visualization	ARTS 1919
ART 1333: 2D Design Or ART 1313: Design I	Form & Surface	ARTS 1919
ART 1323: 3D Design	Form & Space	ARTS 1919
ART 1013: Creative Thinking & Practice Or ART 2013: Figure Drawing	Creative Thinking & Visual Practice + Collaborative Thinking	ARTS 1919 ARTS 1929
ART 2343: Color Theory Or ART 2333: Color Studies	Extended Perception	ARTS 1929
ART 2313: Computer Applications for Fine Art Or ART 2363: Graphic Design I	Image Making + Time & Motion	ARTS 1929 ARTS 1929

Approved partial equivalency (ARTS 1919 only): Drawing I + 2D or Design I + 3D Design

This worksheet represents an update to the transfer equivalency MOU established by Jeannie Hulen, Department Chair in Fall of 2014 (when UA updated its Foundations curriculum). The goal here is to establish a policy for transfer and application of NWACC credit toward Studio Art, Art Education, and Graphic Design degrees at the University of Arkansas School of Art.

Many of the equivalencies identified here are reasonably accurate. There are a few known and accepted apparent discrepancies, detailed and justified below. It should be noted, UA Foundations curricular units (subdivisions of the two 9-hour courses, ARTS 1919 and ARTS 1929) are 2.25 hours each, vs. the standard 3-hour course at NWACC. The MOU reconciles a difference in number of course curricula (8 at UA, vs 6 at NWACC) to an exact match in credit hours earned (18 and 18).

Clarifications

- Figure Drawing is here considered an alternative for Creative Thinking & Practice (CT&P). This is in part due to the original MOU (which was created before NWACC updated curriculum to establish CT&P) offering Figure Drawing as part of the equivalency option for ARTS 1929. This option continues to be available out of consideration of students who began their coursework before CT&P became available at NWACC, and to preserve a reasonable degree of flexibility in the MOU in case courses cannot be offered some semesters.
- There is no precise equivalent for Collaborative Thinking (4D performance-intensive curriculum), though there is meaningful overlap in the content of CT&P.
- There is not currently a close equivalent for Time & Motion (4D software-intensive curriculum)
- If a student is attempting to transfer without a completed AAS in Graphic Design, Graphic Design I can be considered an alternative to Computer Applications for Fine Art (per the older MOU), as the student would be starting at the sophomore level in the UA Graphic Design program, thus the credit otherwise would only apply as general transfer credit.
- The curricular units of ARTS 1919 and 1929 are not offered as standalone units, though some have acceptable substitutes still offered at UA (Drawing from Observation, 3D Design). It is recommended that students carefully weigh the pros and cons of their transfer, to avoid having to do redundant coursework.

Regarding Graphic Design Majors/Transfers (IMPORTANT)

A separate MOU establishes that a student who has earned the Associate of Applied Science degree in Graphic Design at NWACC is able to apply and enroll as a junior in the University of Arkansas's Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design degree program.

If a student does not actually complete the AAS in Graphic Design at NWACC, but wishes to pursue the BFA GD at University of Arkansas, that student will need to have full and accurate transfer equivalency for the UA Foundations program.

The Art Foundations MOU has been updated to reflect the possibility that a student who initially pursued the AAS in Graphic Design might opt to transfer to UA before completing the Associate's degree. This can create hurdles for transfer students. For example: a student following the recommended degree plan for the AAS in Graphic Design typically takes 3D Design in their fourth semester, while its equivalent in UA's Foundations is required in their first semester. This could mean a sophomore transfer student must first take 3D Design (either at NWACC or UA, when available) before achieving equivalency for ARTS 1919.