

PROPOSAL FOR DEACTIVATION OR TERMINATION OF AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Date: February 15, 2021

School/College: Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

Department/Division: School of Art

Program (Major and Degree): Art – Area of Emphasis in ArtX: Expanded Forms – B.F.A.

Which campus(es) offer this program? Athens

Deactivation or Termination? Deactivation

Proposed Effective Date: August 1, 2021

Last date students will be admitted to this program: May 2020

Last date students will graduate from this program: May 2022

Note: There may be no enrollment in the program as of the termination effective date.

Program Abstract:

Provide a brief summary of the program being proposed for deactivation or termination.

The primary media and practice in the ArtX program involves research and experimentation with technology and time-based forms of art. ArtX students consider historical developments, critical ideas, and current practices related to time-based art. Students gain experience in media including digital video, computer and web-based art, digital photography, robotics, sound, performance, durational installation, and computer-operated fabrication. ArtX emphasizes creativity, versatility, and poetics over computer-based technical skills. Students must be able to work comprehensively, translating concept and idea into visual poetic forms.

For Deactivated or Terminated Programs:

1. State the reasons for deactivating or terminating the program, and provide copies of any relevant documents.

The ArtX program was developed with an emphasis on conceptualizing art practices through the media of technology and time-based forms of art. Since its inception, the entire field of art has shifted to embrace broader practices within each discipline. Technology is now integral to every media, and time-based practices are similarly engaged through multiple fields of study. As a result, the practices of the ArtX program now cross boundaries between many, if not all, fields of the studio areas of the School, creating redundancy in programming. Simultaneously, this expansion of the field has left ArtX as a concentration that is too broadly defined. The concentration has become overly diverse and lacks clearly defined core competencies. A recent accreditation review by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design noted this concern saying, “It is not clear that students will develop a depth of knowledge in a specific field or commensurate with that which is expected of a required concentration within a professional degree. Further, it is not clear how or that students will be guided or learn to synthesize the diverse range of topics listed under the elective Art X category in the curriculum plan.”

While the courses of the ArtX program are invaluable within the curriculum of the School, the concentration of ArtX no longer serves as a viable stand-alone area of concentration. Instead, the School proposes to merge its courses into two other areas of concentration, Photography and Sculpture. This will offer students the opportunity to engage the conceptual approaches embodied within the ArtX program, while simultaneously framing that study within more narrowly defined fields that will provide the depth of core competencies required for the BFA degree.

Sculpture is broadly defined in contemporary art, expanding from its history in wood, metal, and stone, to now encompass a wide range of practices from robotics and computer-aided design, to performance and community engagement. The School is developing a unique track within the Sculpture concentration, referred to as Sculpture - ArtX Track, that will integrate the introductory conceptualization courses of the ArtX curriculum, as well as its courses on computer aided design and e-gadgets.

The field of Photography has similarly broadened in contemporary practices, now integrating moving images, video, sound, and coding. The School is developing an ArtX track within the Photography concentration, referred to as Photography - ArtX Track, that also integrates the introductory conceptualization courses of the ArtX curriculum, along with its courses in advanced video and installation art.

2. What will be done to minimize the impact of the deactivation or termination of the program upon the personal and professional lives of the faculty and staff involved? Include specific information on: a) how faculty and staff will be notified of the deactivation or termination, and b) how faculty and staff will be reallocated.

There is currently just one full time faculty member dedicated solely to the ArtX program of study, and no staff dedicated to this program. This faculty member has been actively involved in the discussions about its deactivation. The courses of the program will continue to be integral to the curricular offerings of the School, and this faculty member will continue to teach the same courses. He will no longer be in charge of running a program, and instead will partner with the faculty in Sculpture and Photography, to support students in the Sculpture - ArtX Track and Photography – ArtX Track programs.

3. What will be done to insure that deactivation or termination of the program does not weaken other programs (graduate, undergraduate, or professional) for which the department may be responsible?

While the School of Art will no longer have an ArtX concentration, the conceptualization, techniques, and community of the ArtX program will continue through the coursework and new curricular tracks in sculpture and photography, carrying on the ethos of the program's legacy. The School anticipates that this will strengthen the sculpture and photography programs, with no negative impacts to graduate, undergraduate, or professional programming.

For Deactivated Programs:

4. State the plans for allowing students currently enrolled in the program to complete degree requirements, including specific information on: a) how students will be notified of the program deactivation, and b) how students will be advised on completing the program.

There are four students currently in the ArtX program that will be impacted by its deactivation. The School of Art's academic advisors have been informed of the plans to deactivate this program and are prepared to communicate with these four students and support them through the completion of their degrees under their current requirements. Students will be given the option to complete their current program, or to switch into the new ArtX tracks in either Photography or Sculpture. The advisors, as well as the faculty of ArtX, Sculpture, and Photography, were involved in the development of these tracks, and all are prepared to explain the options to those four students, and support them in the completion of their degrees.

5. What plans, if any, are there for subsequent reactivation of the deactivated program?

None

Approvals:



Michael Marshall
Department Head



Jean Martin-Williams
Associate Dean, Franklin College