

**Core Curriculum Assessment  
College of Arts and Sciences  
2007 - 2008**

During the 2007 – 2008 academic year, the College of Arts and Sciences (COAS) initiated an assessment of all courses in the baccalaureate core that are offered by COAS. Because of the varying nature of courses and disciplines within the college, the assessment was divided into three components: courses used to fulfill the science core, courses used to fill the fine arts core, and courses used to fill the mathematics core. The following courses were included in the assessment. The number listed in parentheses is the total number of students in the assessment.

Fine and Performing Arts (1544)

AGR 299 (130 students)

ART 160, 161, 163 (296 students)

DNC 172, 176 (41 students)

MUS 138, 161, 264, 265 (1011 students)

THR 160, 164, 166, 230, 231 (66 students)

Each area listed above, Sciences, Arts, and Mathematics, utilized a different assessment procedure with different objectives. Each of these assessments is addressed below. Within each section, the objective of the assessment is briefly described, the assessment instruments are described, findings are presented and actions/recommendations are stated.

**Assessment of Core Fine Arts Courses**

The courses evaluated in this process may be taken by students at Sam Houston State University to satisfy the fine arts requirement in the baccalaureate core. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) publishes objectives for each core area that should be addressed by the courses offered at each institution. For the fine arts, the objectives are:

- 1) To become aware of the scope and variety of works in the artistic discipline;
- 2) To provide a clearer understanding of the historical and societal context of the human values expressed through this art form;
- 3) To improve critical thinking skills;
- 4) To learn to form opinions about works of art in this discipline and express those responses verbally;
- 5) To provide the opportunity to participate in the creative process and to gain better understanding of the work of artists in this discipline;
- 6) To develop an appreciation for the aesthetic principles that guide this artistic discipline;
- 7) To develop a positive opinion toward the arts.

A survey instrument was administered to students enrolled in the fine arts core courses to assess their perception as to whether the course met THECB objectives. The survey instrument is included in Appendix 1. Results of the survey, where A corresponds to “Agree,” B to “Neutral,” C to “Disagree,” and D to “Does not apply to this course”, are included in Table 2.

**Table 2 Percentage responses to fine arts core assessment survey**

	A	B	C	D
<b>THECB Objective 1</b>	69.7	25.0	5.3	0.0
<b>THECB Objective 2</b>	59.8	30.3	7.6	2.3
<b>THECB Objective 3</b>	38.6	43.9	12.9	4.5
<b>THECB Objective 4</b>	51.5	38.6	7.6	1.5
<b>THECB Objective 5</b>	62.9	27.3	6.8	3.0
<b>THECB Objective 6</b>	61.4	34.8	2.3	1.5
<b>THECB Objective 7</b>	66.7	28.0	5.3	0.0

It is clear from the percentage responses in the table that the vast majority of students surveyed feel that the objectives are met.

The assessment of student learning in the fine arts core is minimal at best. However, the following actions are results of the assessment:

- 1) All fine arts core course should include elements of critique;
- 2) All fine arts core courses should include critical writing assignments or other critical communicative assignments;
- 3) All fine arts core courses should allow the student to experience the medium including the creative aspects of the medium when possible.
- 4) The fine arts core curriculum committee will create a battery of questions that can be embedded into evaluative materials that *mandate* student responses. The questions will address the THECB objectives outlined above.

# Appendix 1 Fine Arts Core Assessment Questions

## Fine Arts Core Curriculum Assessment Instrument

**PLEASE USE THE SCANTRON PROVIDED WITH THIS SURVEY TO INDICATE YOUR RESPONSE TO EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS.** Use the space provided on this form below the question to write comments you may have regarding the manner in which this course addresses the issues raised in the statement. Feel free to use the back of this form to extend your comments.

**1. This course has made me more aware of the scope and variety of works in this artistic discipline.**

**A) AGREE    B) NEUTRAL    C) DISAGREE    D) DOES NOT APPLY TO THIS COURSE**

Written response: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2. This course has given me a clearer understanding of the historical and social context of the human values expressed through this art form.**

**A) AGREE    B) NEUTRAL    C) DISAGREE    D) DOES NOT APPLY TO THIS COURSE**

Written response: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3. This course has helped improve my “critical thinking” skills.**

**A) AGREE    B) NEUTRAL    C) DISAGREE    D) DOES NOT APPLY TO THIS COURSE**

Written response: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Through the course I have learned to form opinions about works of art in this discipline and to express those responses verbally.**

**A) AGREE    B) NEUTRAL    C) DISAGREE    D) DOES NOT APPLY TO THIS COURSE**

Written response: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. During this course I had the opportunity to participate in the creative process and to gain a better understanding of the work of artists in this discipline.**

**A) AGREE    B) NEUTRAL    C) DISAGREE    D) DOES NOT APPLY TO THIS COURSE**

Written response: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**6. During this course I developed an appreciation for the aesthetic principles that guide this artistic discipline.**

**A) AGREE    B) NEUTRAL    C) DISAGREE    D) DOES NOT APPLY TO THIS COURSE**

Written response: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. This course has positively influenced my opinions towards the arts in general.

A) AGREE    B) NEUTRAL    C) DISAGREE    D) DOES NOT APPLY TO THIS COURSE

Written response: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_