Relation to the Education mission of the University of Alaska and UAS

UAS Humanities Department currently offers a Bachelor of Liberal Arts (BLA) with emphases in Art and Communication and a Bachelor of Art (BA) in English. The BLA in Art, instituted in 1996, has successfully attracted majors - currently twenty-eight students are admitted to the program.

In response to student needs, interests and ambitions, UAS proposes to add to the number of degree programs offered in the liberal arts with a BA in Art with a strong track to graduate study and specialized art careers.

The addition of the BA in Art degree flows from the 

**UA Strategic Plan 2009: Preparing for Alaska’s Future**

**Goal Two: Education Quality Objectives**

- Ensure efficient allocation of programs;
- Develop new and relevant programs.

and the

**UAS Strategic Plan: The Next Decade 2000 - 2010**

**Goal Three: Educational Quality - Expand and Enhance Program Offerings**

- UAS will continue to develop viable baccalaureate majors in preparation of graduate study.

The BA in Art meets the objectives identified in the UAS Strategic Plan: to become the state’s leading liberal arts institution requires “viable majors, with particular attention to the needs of Masters of Arts in Teaching candidates and those preparing for graduate education.” The Strategic Plan notes that “student surveys repeatedly cite the lack of degree offerings and upper division course work as a major factor in choosing not to enroll at UAS or to transfer to another institution after the first two years.” With a BA in Art, UAS can compete for those students both inside and outside of Alaska who seek substantial education as preparation for specialized employment and graduate-level training in Art.

At liberal arts universities, the BA in Art is a foundational program that is also most appropriate for UAS to provide. **UAS currently offers all of the fine art courses required to earn a BA in Art degree.** Nationwide, the BA in Art is a recognizable degree with authority and legitimacy in the eyes of
employers and graduate program administrators.

**State Needs** met by this program:
A content-area enriched BA program would more effectively serve the needs of students pursuing specialized careers and graduate programs in Art and in Art Education.

The BA in Art program supports the university’s goal of providing high quality undergraduate liberal arts programs with a “solid base of arts and sciences courses, designed for intellectual and personal growth and the pursuit of meaningful employment and responsible, informed citizenship.” Career opportunities for graduates include digital artist, designer, artist, arts administrator, art instructor, gallery and museum director.

**Student opportunities, outcomes and Enrollment projections**
The proposed curriculum provides a broad foundation in the liberal arts as well as specialized training in visual arts. The program is designed to provide students with the
- knowledge of the history of world cultures as reflected in art, including the contributions of women and Native American artists,
- advanced skills in a variety of art techniques,
- advanced skills in critical thinking, research, writing, speaking, and problem solving, and
- practical experience in a professional setting (e.g., teaching, exhibition experience, applied art and illustration: electronic design, newspaper, magazine and television).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment and Graduate Estimates for BA in Art*</th>
<th>AY 07/08</th>
<th>AY 08/09</th>
<th>AY 09/10</th>
<th>AY 10/11</th>
<th>AY 11/12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of students in the program</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retention rate of students</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student placement in graduate programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*These estimates do not include a comparable number of continuing enrollments of BLA graduates.

The **BA in Art Program**, situated on the Juneau campus, will emphasize experiential learning and mentoring relationships with faculty, promote favorable student to faculty ratio and the campus’ unique and rich learning environment. The AA programs at UA campuses will articulate to the BA in Art and BLA with emphases in Art for those students moving to baccalaureate degree completion.
**Research opportunities:**
Faculty in Art are adequately supported by the library collections.

Research skills/opportunities are developed/required in all of the Art History classes and the Humanities Capstone course (HUM 499).

In the current BLA in Art program students have had no difficulty accessing sufficient materials for research projects. The UAS Art program has a digitized slide archive of 5,000+ images and all art history presentations are available online to enrolled students. The UAS library currently provides research materials, relevant texts and DVD/videotapes on reserve, interlibrary loan services, and online tools adequate for undergraduate research in art.

**Fiscal Plan for development and implementation:**
Since the BA in Art can be offered without significant curricular changes, this degree would not require immediate changes to facilities.

As the BA in Art attracts new students, the need for increased studio and storage space will change. The remodeling of UAS facilities as outlined in the Master Plan includes art program needs for the campus. The Soboleff Building, current home of the art studios, will be addressed during the update of the Master Plan scheduled in late 2007.