The Visual Arts Foundations Review

Each student wishing to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Art (B.F.A.) degree in Art Education, Studio Art, or Graphic Design must go through a Visual Art Foundations Review in the fall semester of the year in which they will have completed the Foundations Sequence of Art 120, 130, 140, 150, or their transfer equivalents. Students in the Visual Art Studio or Graphic Design emphases may have also completed Art 200 (Using Color) and GDES 210 (Graphic Design I). Transfer students should sign up their first fall semester at UTM unless otherwise advised. Admission to the B.F.A. program at UT Martin is contingent on acceptance by the successful passing of this review.

The Visual Art Foundations Review consists of the student presenting 10-20 pieces of work in a portfolio presentation before a panel of the art faculty. These pieces will come from the Foundations Courses (Art 120, 130, 140, 150, 200, and GDES 210) and any additional courses taken up to that point. Generally students sign up for a fifteen-minute time slot on the designated dates selected by the art faculty. Adequate prior notice will be given.

Students should choose the strongest pieces they’ve completed during their first three semesters. Proper care of these pieces is needed to ensure an effective presentation. In addition, students will be asked questions about their work to which it is expected they will be able to demonstrate their knowledge of the basic elements and principles of art that they have learned in their classes.

The point system used in determining the resulting score from this review will be based on a five-point quality evaluation, with 1 representing the least or poorest execution of the specific criteria and 5 the highest and most effective. An overall acceptable score will range between 18 and 30. Any score less than 18 will merit a student/faculty consultation at which time students will be questioned as to their academic and artistic output and their future intentions with regard to this area of study. As a result of this consultation, if the faculty deems necessary, a student will be encouraged to pursue another major emphasis within the fine arts program or perhaps another disciplinary major all together.
The evaluation criteria that students must consider for the review are as follows:

- Quantity of work (8-10 of the students best work from the full range of foundation and other courses taken or are presently taking)
- Evidence of the presence and creative use of design principles in the works.
- Evidence of proper technical skills such as drawing and the crafting of projects
- Evidence of correct application of knowledge of course materials
- Completeness of projects and proper presentation of such
- Evidence of apparent dedication to the program both in the major emphasis and to the Fine and Performing Arts program in general. Students must show active participation in the courses as well as be represented in the Visual Arts Society and submit work for acceptance to Artists of the 21st Century and the UTM Student Art Show, and/or other outside art events and programs.

As stated in the UT Martin catalogue, Department of Visual and Theatre Arts section, under the heading Admissions and Retention,

“Only those students who make continuing and adequate progress (as defined by the faulty) in the Area of Emphasis will be allowed to continue beyond the second year.”

It is advisable that students undergoing this process demonstrate extra concern in the preparation and presentation of not only their work but also themselves. The art faculty strongly supports the belief that the presented work and the understanding of it have direct correlation to the student’s progress and interest in the program.