

AACR 3

Office of the President
December 11, 2012

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE RECOMMENDATION: COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Master of Arts with a major in Arts Administration degree (CIP Code: 50.1001, PROG: GS MA ARAD) within the College of Fine Arts, effective in the Fall 2013 Semester.

Background: The proposed program can be traced to the phenomenal growth in the nonprofit arts industry beginning in the 1960s and running well into the 1990s. During that time period, theatres, art centers and museums, once confined to major metropolitan areas, were established in cities across the country. The nonprofit arts industry in the United States is much larger than most people imagine. According to leisure time participation studies, regularly conducted by the National Endowment for the Arts, more people attend live arts events each year than attend live professional sports events or watch movies in movie theatres. The same studies show that the nonprofit arts industry employs approximately 1.3 million individuals annually.

In 1988 the UK College of Fine Arts established an undergraduate program to train arts administrators. Since that time, over 300 students have received degrees through the program. In recent years, the program has proven so successful that procedures had to be put in place to limit the number of majors. Given the program's number of faculty, breadth of curriculum, and established history, it is recognized as one of the best undergraduate Arts Administration programs in the country. The University of Kentucky is the only public college offering an undergraduate degree in Arts Administration in Kentucky. There are no colleges or universities that offer a graduate degree in Arts Administration in Kentucky at the current time.

The completely online degree program will target people who have strong backgrounds in at least one arts discipline. Students entering the program will have either an undergraduate degree in arts administration or an arts-related field, or professional experience working within an arts organization. Therefore, the program's curriculum will not include a great deal of arts training, but will instead center on the business training students need to manage and lead nonprofit arts organizations.

This program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate and has completed the forty-five day review by the Council on Postsecondary Education. The Interim Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____