University of Michigan  
School of Art & Design  
Sophomore Review Guidelines

Overview
The freshman and sophomore Core Curriculum in the School of Art & Design is focused upon exposure to a wide-range of tools, materials, processes, and concepts. The Sophomore Review, held the week after A&D courses end in each winter term, is based upon the student’s educational experience in the freshman and sophomore years. Continuation into the junior and senior year is based upon both successful completion of the Core Curriculum and passing the Sophomore Review. A period of one hour is scheduled for each review. During the first half of the review, students carry out a well-planned summary presentation of their work to date in the program and their plans and ambitions for the coming years. The second half of the review is devoted to discussion between the student and the review committee.

Review Committees
The Dean and Associate Dean appoint the Undergraduate Review Committees (URC). Each URC consists of three or four full-time faculty members. One URC member is designated as chair.

Purpose
Reviews are intended to provide an opportunity for:
•  In-depth reflection by the student on achievements, challenges, and risks taken within the program.
•  Faculty assessment of the student’s work and progress to date.
•  Defining future plans and goals with the opportunity to receive feedback and advice from faculty.

Pre-Review
One month prior to the Review:
Students are required to meet with John Luther, the Career Development Coordinator, to review the student’s resume and two-part reflective statement, and to discuss career plans. Call 764-0397 for an appointment.

Two weeks prior to the Review:
Students submit to the Academic Services Office front desk: A CD with images of work from the first two years OR provide a URL to the student’s web site (preferred). An average of two images from each course is a good target.

Students submit to John Luther (jonel@umich.edu) electronic copies of the following Microsoft Word documents as email attachments:
•  One-page summary of the planned presentation. The structure of the presentation focuses on the growth of conceptual and visual work and development as an artist/designer/individual.
•  One-page summary of ALL courses completed to date with instructors and grades. Include both studio and academic courses (unofficial copies of transcript are not acceptable).
•  Current resume, including URL of personal website.
•  Final draft of the two-part Reflective Statement and Future Plan.

Part I: Reflection on the first two years in the program. What challenges were accepted? How were problems worked through? What interests and themes developed? How were accumulating skills utilized? What projects helped to foster a better understanding of self and creative work?

Part II: Considering the reflections described in Part I, what is the planned focus for the last two years? Identify creative and personal interests. This requirement is not intended to be a contractual agreement of your future plans, rather a mechanism for personal reflection.
The Review
A period of one hour is scheduled for each review. During the first half of the review, students carry out a well-planned summary presentation of their work to date in the program and their plans and aspirations for the coming years including plans for a significant international experience. Students are expected to discuss their experiences in all coursework (CFC, TMP, Digital, Drawing, Art & Design Perspectives, and academic electives). The planned presentation should include a reasonable number of representative digital images and up to five actual works, which illustrate the most challenging, inventive, and problematic work from the curriculum. Undergraduate Review Committee members evaluate student presentations on the following criteria:

- **Evidence of intellectual development:**
  Is the presentation well organized? Is the student articulate? How are academic studies integrated with creative work?

- **Evidence of imagination/creativity/risk-taking:**
  Has the student developed imaginative solutions to assignments? Have original, distinctive works that hold personal significance been created? Are educational and personal goals reflected in the work?

- **Evidence of realization skills:**
  Has the student been successful in realizing concepts in physical form? Does the student demonstrate acquisition of skills taught in the Core Studios curriculum? Is the student’s work well crafted? Have sufficient skills been acquired for the intended creative trajectory?

- **Evidence of work ethic/motivation/passion/commitment:**
  How enthusiastic and committed is the student regarding creative work?

- **Evidence of critical reflection about creative successes and challenges:**
  Does the student demonstrate a realistic understanding of both successes and challenges?

- **Articulation of future goals:**
  Does the student demonstrate plans for the last two years in the program and beyond? What are the personal objectives? What are the plans for a significant international experience?

Faculty Feedback and Discussion
The second half of the review is devoted to a faculty/student discussion. This session is an opportunity for a conversation between faculty committee and student to discuss themes and focus found in both creative work and educational experience. Students have an opportunity to ask questions and seek advice.

Post-Review Procedure
The URC assesses the presentation and discussion and makes a recommendation to the Dean and Associate Dean, who are responsible for notifying the student of the recommendation and for carrying out necessary administrative steps. The recommendation will typically be one of the following courses of action:

- Continue in the program.
- Re-review at a specified time.
- Withdraw temporarily from the program, with re-entry conditions specified.
- Withdraw permanently from the program.

The URC may recommend a qualified version of any of the above actions, or may recommend an alternate course of action.

The URC recommendation, a copy of which is provided to the student, becomes part of the student’s record.

A student may appeal a review recommendation to the Dean and Associate Dean of the School.