CURRICULUM PROPOSAL
APPROVAL PAGE

Proposal Title: Access Improvement: Undergraduate Certificate in Exhibition Practice

College: Liberal Arts **Department: Art**

DEPARTMENT CHAIR - Juan Juarez, M.F.A.

I have read the enclosed proposal and approve this proposal on behalf of the department.



10/19/26

Signature **Date**

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR - Selfa Chew-Meléndez, Ph.D., Chair of LACC

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college curriculum committee.

Signature **Date**

COLLEGE DEAN - Dean Anadeli Bencomo, Ph.D.

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college. I certify that the necessary funds will be allocated by the college in support of this proposal.

Signature **Date**

CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

Date: **19 October 2026**

From: **Dr. Stephanie M. Strauss, Director of Museum Studies, Asst. Professor of Instruction, Department of Art (Art History Division)**

Through: **Juan Juarez, Chair, Department of Art**

Through: **Dean Anadeli Bencomo, College of Liberal Arts**

To: **Dr. Selfa Chew-Meléndez, Chair, Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee**

Proposal Title: **Access Improvement: Undergraduate Certificate in Exhibition Practice**

Select the proposal content (select as many as apply) and provide the rationale.

Content

☐ New program or ☒ Program Change

- ☐ Bachelor's
- ☐ Master's
- ☐ Doctoral/Professional
- ☒ Certificate
- ☐ Fast Track
- ☐ Minor
- ☐ Concentration/Track

☐ New Course

☐ Closure (program, certificate, minor, concentration)

☐ Change

- ☐ CIP Code
- ☐ Program/certificate SCH
- ☐ Course Title
- ☐ Course Description
- ☐ Graduate Program Admission Requirements

Rationale

The current series of three courses required for the Certificate in Exhibition Practice (ART 3308; ART 3309; and ART 3306) presents a fundamental barrier to entry to the Certificate. ART 3306 ("Professional

Art Practices") is only open to Studio Majors (B.F.A. or B.A.) in the Department of Art. This limits candidates for the Certificate in Exhibition Practice to Studio Art B.F.A and B.A. students only, to the detriment of students from other Department of Art Disciplines (such as Art Education and Art History) and other COLA Departments. Even within the Studio Art cohort, students only enroll in ART 3306 in their last year of study. This further limits completion of the Certificate to the final moments of a student's UTEP career, whereas earlier completion could benefit students who are applying to competitive undergraduate opportunities, such as the Smithsonian's Latino Museum Futures Semester Study Away Program, or to graduate school programs in the Fall of their senior year. ART 3306 provides training in professional practices, thus the proposed update to the Certificate curriculum would allow students to choose between ART 3306 and ART 4339, "Museum Studies Internship," which also provides robust professional practices education.

Copy and paste the degree plan from the catalog and use track changes to indicate the proposed changes.

Undergraduate Certificate in Exhibition Practice

Degree Plan
Required credits: 9

Code	Title	Hours
All courses listed below are required:		
ART 3306	Professional Art Practices	3
ART 3308	Introduction to Museum Studies	3
ART 3309	Exhibit Develop & Design Lab	3
Total Hours		**9**

Track Changes Update:

ART 3306	Professional Art Practices ***OR*** ART 4339 Museum Studies Internship	3
ART 3308	Introduction to Museum Studies	3
ART 3309	Exhibit Develop & Design Lab	3
Total Hours		**9**

Summary of Undergraduate Certificate in Exhibition Practice Degree Plan with Proposed Change:

ART 3308 ("Introduction to Museum Studies): no change.
ART 3309 ("Exhibition Development & Design Lab"): no change.

ART 3306 ("Professional Art Practices"): changed to ART 3306 ("Professional Art Practices") ***OR*** ART 4339 ("Museum Studies Internship")

> Summary of Change: ART 3306 presents a significant access challenge for the Certificate, as it is restricted to Art Majors only (Department of Art B.F.A. students and B.A. in Studio Art students). The proposed change is to allow students to choose between ART 3306 "Professional Art Practices" (which may remain preferable for many Art Majors) and ART 4339 "Museum Studies Internship" (which is open to all students with Program Director permission and guided placement).