



FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN Cyclical Program Review

MFA in Criticism & Curatorial Practice, School of Graduate Studies

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Period of Cyclical Review:	July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2024
Dean, [Faculty]:	Ashok Mathur, School of Graduate Studies
Program Review Team:	Amish Morrell (Team Lead), Suzanne Morrisette, Andrea Fatona, Tairone Bastien
External Reviewers:	August Klintberg, Alberta University of the Arts Erin Silver, University of British Columbia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE MFA CRITICISM & CURATORIAL PRACTICE CYCLICAL PROGRAM REVIEW

The IQAP Cyclical Review for CCP began in October 2024 and was led by Graduate Program Director Suzanne Morrisette, with a program review team consisting of Tairone Bastien, Selmin Kara, and Andrea Fatona. The Self Study was held between October 2023 and January 2024, and included extensive consultation with students, faculty and support units from across the university. The Self-Study Brief was submitted on October 15th, 2024, with final work by incoming GPD Amish Morrell. The site visit, with external reviewers August Klintberg and Erin Silver, occurred on February 17th and 28th, 2025, and the reviewer’s report was received on April 8th, 2025, with internal responses completed in August 2025.

Key stakeholders included faculty who teach and supervise students in the CCP Program, as well as current students. During the site visit, reviewers met with members of the Program Review Team, School of Graduate Studies administrative staff, the Dean of Graduate Studies and the VPAP. They also conducted a class visit, met with the art librarian, and had a studio and facilities tour. The External Reviewers reported strengths of the program as being a strong and dynamic faculty complement, clear degree requirements, excellent facilities and campus resources, a positive student experience and established career pathways. The review team saw potential for improvement around communicating program-specific information to students, social engagement within CCP and across the graduate programs, innovative platforms for presenting exhibitions and criticism projects, as well as a fortified roster of placement

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partnerships and adding an MA degree option. They had six different recommendations outlined in this document. These are categorized as communications, space and resources, social ecologies, curriculum evaluation and revision, fortification of placement partnerships, and the addition of an MA degree.

Monitoring reports on these recommendations will be submitted in spring 2027 and 2029. The next Cyclical Program Review for CCP is scheduled to begin in fall 2031.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Recommendation	Proposed Follow-up	Responsibility for Leading Follow-up, and Other Stakeholders	Timeline for Addressing Recommendation
<p>Communications:</p> <p>That the program takes a multimodal approach to communication regarding all elements of the program, but especially research, program deadlines, supervision, and Placements. This includes:</p> <p>1: the creation of an annual PDF/print booklet that outlines all deadlines for the year, a schedule of courses, a full list of possible supervisors, concrete possible placements, and a thesis process flowchart.</p> <p>2: monthly in-person, brief meeting for all cohorts where the GPD or staff outline all upcoming stages and requirements, answer questions, and log feedback and queries.</p> <p>3: A microsite for this program with curatorial project documentation, critical writing essays, and detailed</p>	<p>1: The Graduate Program Director will consult with the Student Information Systems Manager and the Student Engagement staff, to find the best way to ensure consistent access to program information and develop a plan for action</p> <p>2: The Graduate Program Director will establish monthly in-person meetings with graduate students.</p> <p>3: The Graduate Program Director will consult with Marketing & Communication and Admissions/Recruitment to develop a microsite for the program, including student thesis projects.</p> <p>4. The GPD will create a summary of the cyclical review outcomes to share with faculty and staff.</p>	<p>1: GPD and Student Information Systems Manager</p> <p>2: GPD and other staff as needed.</p> <p>3: GPD, Marketing & Communication and Admissions / Recruitment and faculty teaching and supervising in the program.</p> <p>4: GPD.</p>	<p>1: Completed by August 2026 to incorporate Major Modifications.</p> <p>2: Scheduled monthly starting in September 2025.</p> <p>3: Work to begin in September 2026 and completed by August 2027 in time for student recruitment.</p> <p>4: Assembled by January 2026 and shared with Program Committee at subsequent Program meeting.</p>

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<p>information about CCP, including a list of all faculty, including headshot photos and brief descriptions of research interests and/or practices. A connected page should outline clearly the supervisor selection process and faculty available to take on these roles.</p> <p>4: A clear, if distilled, summary of the cyclical review outcomes to involved faculty, staff and possibly students.</p>			
<p>Space and Physical Resources</p> <p>1: Find alternatives to existing white-cube exhibition spaces – for example, increasing partnerships with local archives like the ArQuives, using billboards and other public spaces, video programming, and exhibiting in other institutional spaces such as the library.</p> <p>2: Make use of OCAD's institutional collection of thousands of videos, documents, and items connected to performances, lectures, and artwork connected to the campus' history for exciting curatorial and critical writing projects.</p> <p>3: Provide staff with stable office locations.</p> <p>4: Make the graduate writing specialist position a permanent position</p>	<p>1: The GPD will consult with the CEAD and with potential external partners to explore external exhibition opportunities and develop a plan for action.</p> <p>2: The GPD will consult with the OCADU Art Librarian to develop ways of accessing and working with archival material in the OCAD collection and develop a plan for action.</p> <p>3: As of the summer of 2025 the Dean has arranged to move SGS Program Staff from the Registrar's Office at 230 Richmond, to the Research Office in 205 Richmond, so that they are in the same building as the CCP graduate students.</p> <p>4: As of September 2025, the Dean's office has made it a priority to continue to fund the</p>	<p>1: GPD, CEAD, in consultation with potential external partners.</p> <p>2: GPD in consultation with the Art Librarian.</p> <p>3: Dean's Office.</p> <p>4: Dean's Office.</p> <p>5: GPD, Gallery Coordinator, and Campus Facilities.</p>	<p>1: Discussions will be conducted starting in October 2026 and continue through May 2027, for implementation in Fall 2028.</p> <p>2: Consultation beginning in Fall 2026, for implementation in 2027 or 2028.</p> <p>3: Implementation by September 2025.</p> <p>4: Implementation by September 2025.</p> <p>5: Consultation in September 2027 for implementation by September 2028.</p>

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<p>5: Replace the plywood backed drywall in the student exhibition gallery.</p>	<p>Writing specialist position, paid by SGS.</p> <p>5: The GPD will consult with the Gallery Coordinator about the conditions of the Graduate Gallery, and with campus facilities, and develop a plan for action.</p>		
<p>Social Ecologies</p> <p>A routine of in-person, non-credit events to nurture dialogue across first and second-year cohorts, faculty, and staff, including hands-on training about practical elements of museological/ curatorial work such as condition reporting, installing work (according to technical specifications, such as with video), and grant applications.</p> <p>Combining non-credit learning opportunities (skills-building, etc.) with opportunities for socializing, to activate the grad student lounge and other spaces.</p>	<p>1: Coordination between GPD’s and Student Experience Staff to create a speaker series that is shared across the graduate programs.</p> <p>2: GPD holds monthly check-in meetings with CCP students.</p> <p>3: Program Committee explores courses that include topics such as how to install work, condition reporting, and grant writing as part of curricular visioning and submission of major modifications for 2026-27.</p> <p>As a contingency plan, over the past several years OnSite Gallery has offered workshops on these topics. Faculty in CCP currently integrate these workshops into their curriculum, and other CCP students take them on their own. If we do not arrive at a curricular model where these topics are placed within existing classes, we will consult with OnSite to find ways of continuing these non-credit skills-building opportunities.</p>	<p>1: Led by Student Experience Staff in consultation with GPDs to create a speaker series that is shared across the graduate programs.</p> <p>2: Led by GPD.</p> <p>3: Led by GPD, with Program Committee and Major Modifications Working Group.</p> <p>4: Led by GPD, with Program Committee and Major Modifications Working Group.</p>	<p>1: Planning begins in Sept 2026.</p> <p>2: Meetings begin Winter 2026.</p> <p>3: Working group conducts work between August-October 2025, and develops a plan for action in 2026.</p> <p>4: Working group conducts work between August-October 2025</p> <p>Contingency plans to create program-specific elective offerings will be explored in November 2025, and annually each October-November, with target implementation in the following Fall-Winter course schedule.</p>

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	<p>4: GPD and Major Modification working group explores hybridized course delivery with IAMD and DF in order to create synergies between the programs.</p> <p>As a contingency plan, if CCP cannot create hybrid course delivery with other programs, the Program Committee will consider creating its own electives that are also attractive to students in other programs.</p>		
<p>Curriculum Evaluation and Revision</p> <p>1: Assessment of current CCP required course offerings to ensure the maximum of breadth and diversity is available to students, including updating courses to be more distinct from one another, and with clearer indication of each course’s aims.</p> <p>2: Clearer definition of purposes of the Professional Practice course.</p> <p>3: New talking points and directions for the identity of CCP after the influx of CADN students and the closure of this program.</p> <p>4: Hire a research assistant to survey other programs in curatorial studies and art history to better understand how OCAD is positioned within the discipline.</p>	<p>1-3: Curricular Visioning exercise with CCP Program Committee.</p> <p>4: Existing timelines do not allow hiring a research assistant, as Major Modifications must be proposed by October 2025</p>	<p>1-3: CCP Program Committee and Major Modifications Working Group.</p>	<p>1-3: The CCP Program Committee conducted a visioning exercise in May 2025 and the Major Modifications Working Group began convening regularly beginning July 2025, aiming to submit Major Modifications in October 2025.</p> <p>1.3: Given that major modifications submitted in Fall 2025 will take effect in 2026-27, further curriculum assessment will be undertaken in 2027-28 to assess the impact of these changes and whether additional major or</p>

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			minor revisions are necessary.
<p>Fortification of Placement Partnerships</p> <p>The Program does more active work to secure Placements for students, including presenting an annual list of confirmed potential Placements from which students can choose/apply to (while keeping open the possibility that students may take their own initiative in selecting an appropriate Placement).</p>	<p>1: Program Committee works to develop a list of different placements that are ongoing but managed by the CEAD.</p> <p>2: The GPD works with the CEAD and the Student Experience Coordinator to refine placement pathways and share this information in a student program guide.</p>	<p>1: GPD and CEAD.</p> <p>2: GPD, CEAD and the Student Experience Coordinator</p>	<p>Begins in September 2026 and completed by April 2027.</p>
<p>Addition of MA Degree option and better support for the Criticism stream and those interested in Art History.</p> <p>Create 5000-level FAS courses as possible electives for CCP students to broaden the courses available for an art history stream.</p> <p>Offer a clearer pathway for non-terminal degree students, such as those who wish to pursue PhDs.</p>	<p>1: The Program Committee is submitting Major Program Modifications that include a MA degree option.</p> <p>2: The GPD aims to develop a dedicated CCP publication, with support from the Dean and the Development Office.</p> <p>3: Further, the Program Committee is proposing curricular changes that better support the criticism stream, as well as those interested in art history.</p> <p>4. The Major Modifications Working Group will consider ways of creating 5000 level courses to create additional offerings for those interested in art history.</p>	<p>1: Program Committee and Major Modifications Working Group.</p> <p>2: GPD, Dean, Development Office.</p> <p>3: Program Committee.</p> <p>4: Major Modifications Working Group, Faculty of Arts and Sciences.</p>	<p>1: Major Modifications will be proposed in October 2025.</p> <p>2: The GPD will explore models for a CCP Publication in 2026-27, to be incorporated into the program by 2027-28.</p> <p>3: August-October 2025.</p> <p>4: Consultation with FAS about shared 5000 level courses to occur February – June 2026.</p>

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Additional recommendations to be implemented			
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<p>Address curricular overlap</p> <p>Specifically, between CRCP 6004 Intro to Curatorial Practices and CRCP 6008 Inside Curatorial Practice, as well as duplication between the separate CRCP Professional Practice and the GGRA Professional Practice courses, as well as clarify the purpose of the CRCP Professional Practice course.</p>	<p>1: Coordinate syllabi between instructors in CRCP6004 and CRCP6008.</p> <p>2: Program Committee has agreed that Professional Practices are covered in other courses and is not needed for the CCP Curriculum.</p>	<p>1: GPD and relevant teaching faculty.</p> <p>2: GPD, Program Committee and Major Modifications Working Group.</p>	<p>1: This has been underway, through discussions with individual faculty, and will be addressed through curricular revisions put forward in upcoming Major Modifications to be submitted to Senate in October 2025.</p> <p>2: Major modifications to be submitted in October 2025 will eliminate this course.</p>
<p>A greater diversity of assignments.</p> <p>In course assignments, consider more experientially based evaluation and submission method, as well as assignments that mimic the work of the curator. These might include student podcast or audio submissions, exhibition dioramas/maquettes, mock tours of exhibitions, assignments where students interview artists and report on their findings, design charettes and/or the generation of mock exhibition calls for submissions or writing up press releases.</p>	<p>The GPD will hold a meeting once course assignments are made, to facilitate better planning of course assignments to include a more diverse array of assignments and evaluation techniques.</p>	<p>GPD and relevant teaching faculty</p>	<p>Annually, once teaching assignments are issued in May or June of each year.</p>

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<p>Address imbalance between mobilization opportunities for curatorial projects versus critical writing projects.</p>	<p>The GPD and the Program Committee will explore potential for a publication for those in the criticism stream, that aligns with the exhibition-making component, including revising Inside Curatorial Practice to include a publication component.</p>	<p>This will be led by the GPD in consultation with program faculty, to develop a plan of action.</p>	<p>As part of Major Modifications to be submitted in October 2025.</p>
<p>Increased hands-on learning opportunities in the curatorial stream surrounding tasks and skills associated with museum work.</p>	<p>OnSite Gallery has begun offering non-credit workshops on installation, grant writing and budgeting. Furthermore, the Program Committee something that will be taken up during curricular visioning, including a specific class on exhibition design.</p>	<p>OnSite Gallery, Program Committee, Major Modifications Working Group, GPD.</p>	<p>Meetings held in May 2025 and continuing into October 2025.</p>
<p>Program-specific support around grant writing.</p>	<p>Faculty-led workshops or roundtables on grants such as SSHRC or Canada Council.</p>	<p>Research Office, Teaching Faculty, Student Experiences Coordinator.</p>	<p>This is already in place and will occur ahead of grant deadlines.</p>