

MFA in Integrated Electronic Arts Graduate Qualifying Reviews

The Graduate Qualifying Reviews are a two-phase qualifying process that MFA students must pass before progressing to independent study with their advisor and enrolling in "Master's Thesis" credit.

Due to the wide range of student backgrounds and the many possibilities for study offered in the MFA program, everyone's pathway will be different, and it is impossible to offer an exact "checklist" of how one would demonstrate "competency" in the electronic arts.

The main criterion for success will be the agreement of the faculty that the student's body of work represents a thoughtful and informed execution and articulation of integrated electronic arts practice. A secondary criterion is the demonstration of facility with standard technological tools and concepts for visual and sonic arts.

Each student will undergo two Reviews. The First Qualifying Review will take place at the end of the first fall semester. The Second Review will take place at the end-of-the-semester Critique declared by the student to be their Final Qualifying Review. The Review process will be overseen by the Director of Graduate Studies.

1st Qualifying Review:

At the end of the fall semester during the first year of graduate work, faculty will fill out a standard evaluation form for each new student they have had in a course, in registered study, or as a teaching or research assistant; or if they have worked with the student in an advisory capacity; or if they are the student's advisor. The evaluation forms will be coordinated and consolidated by the Director of Graduate Studies. The Director will then meet with faculty advisors, review the evaluation forms, and agree upon a plan of action that will be the outcome of that student's Review (This will include graduate teaching and research assignments, if applicable). Each advisor will explain to the student the outcome of the Review, including class recommendations or requirements, and teaching or research assignments. Together, the student and advisor will devise a plan of study addressing the student's academic goals and the recommendations of the Review.

The Review forms, recommendations, requirements, and final plan will be entered into the student's file. Starting the second semester of graduate work, the student's curriculum will address the recommendations and requirements of the Review process. Work and progress not seen to be of graduate quality will result in warning, loss of funding, or dismissal from the program.

2nd Qualifying Review:

When the student and advisor think it is time to proceed to independent thesis work, the student will declare to the Director of Graduate Studies that performance in the upcoming end-of-the-semester Critique will be used for his/her Final Qualifying Review.

The presentation and discussion of the work in the Critique will be a demonstration of the student's readiness to pursue Master's Thesis work. Tenure-track and clinical faculty will document in the departmental forms the evaluation of the student's performance in the Final Qualifying Review and will vote as to whether the student is ready to commence with Thesis work.

The Director of Graduate Studies and the student's advisor will evaluate the results of the vote, as well as the contract from the student's First Qualifying Review. The student will either pass, be given a conditional pass, or fail.

Pass:

- Permission to pursue independent "Master's Thesis" credits. This marks completion of the "Electronic Arts Practice" requirements.

Conditional Pass:

- Students having been found to do acceptable work, but are deficient in specific areas must ameliorate those deficiencies in order to be in good standing.
- An additional Qualifying Review will be required.

Fail:

- Loss of funding or dismissal at the discretion of the department.

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