

**El Camino College
Fine Arts Division
Photography Department
Program Review Fall 2008
Conducted by Professor Darilyn Rowan**

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1. Overview

A. Description of Program

The Photography Degree or Certificate of Achievement (26 units) course of studies provides students with a comprehensive foundation in the skills, techniques and processes for commercial and creative photography. Each student acquires practical and creative skills relating to camera operation, films, color theory, photographic composition, lighting, film processing and printing, digital imaging and business practices through a wide range of studio classes. Proficiencies are demonstrated through class and laboratory projects, critiques, essays and objective tests. Program assessment is measured by portfolios, juried and public exhibitions, program completion and periodic program review. Students qualify to pursue a variety of careers in the field of professional photography. The Photography Department has an Advisory Committee consisting of five distinguished professionals in the field of creative and commercial photography. For the past 16 years, the program has been run by one full time faculty member, Professor Darilyn Rowan. Additional staffing includes four to seven adjunct faculty and a few temporary lab-tech hours as available. There is currently no full-time lab technical and there hasn't been one for the past four years. Currently, the department's FTEF is at 2.86. Along with a full teaching load and the above-mentioned responsibilities, Professor Rowan has built a strong, vibrant, and a community-involved program with national and local student exhibits and publications.

B. Status of Previous Recommendations

Previous recommendations include beginning to merge the film and digital photography offerings. Substantial progress has been made; however more transitioning is planned and needs to take place. There are two new classes, Photography 150, The Art of Photography, and Photography 151ab, Digital Imaging Lab, are cross-listed under Art 150 and Art 151 ab. These classes are currently being taught during the 2008/2009 academic year and are a growing bridge between the film and digital photography offerings. Photography 2 and 3 include digital imaging instruction along with film photography projects. Photographs are images made with light reflected from a subject on light-sensitive materials such as film, photographic paper or digital receiving materials. The first photograph was made in 1826 by Joseph Niepce in France. This first photograph was made on a small metal plate coated with a solution of light-sensitive silver salts with an exposure time of 8 ½ hours to produce an exposure. Metal photographic plates were followed by glass negatives. Black and white and Color negative film were the next step which utilized the

negative/positive printing procedure commonly associated with Photography. Digital imaging is a further step with other inventions down the road, but it is all making images with light. Today photographers use both digital and film as well as a blending and merging of the two processes. Interestingly, there has been a true renaissance of interest in many alternative photographic processes, including liquid light, solarizations, hand-coloring, pinhole camera images, cyanotypes, along with many more, in both commercial and creative photography. It is as if the development of digital photography has resulted in a variety of making photographic images today. The merging of the film and digital photography offerings needs to take this into consideration. Both technologies as well as alternative methods need to be taught. The film photography program is going to be moved into the basement of the Art building in closer proximity to the digital arts program which will help facilitate the joining of resources in a way that best serves our students in a positive and productive manner. The funds for the move are encumbered in bond money originally requested by Professor Darilyn Rowan. In the summer of 2009, the film photography program is going to be moved into the basement of the Art Building.

2. Program Statistics

A. Demand: FTES by Course/Program

Course	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007
Photo 51	25.112 (7 sections)	23.54 (7 sections)	26.14 (7 sections)
Photo 1	5.342 (1 section)	4.629 (1 section)	7.656 (1 section)
Photo 2	4.041 (1 section)	4.041 (1 section)	6.639 (1 section)
Photo 3	course is offered in the spring semester yearly		
Photo 4	course is offered in the spring semester yearly		
Photo 11	course offered also as Journalism 7 and numbers not available		
Photo 23a	4.330 (1 section)	4.907 (1 section)	
Photo 54	2.453 (1 section)	Offered during the summer of 2007 and filled	
Photo 99	n/a		

1. Given the data, can you recognize any trends in course demands in any of the Program's courses?

The FTES for the Fall 2007 shows an overall increase for the photography courses, in particular Photo 51, Photo 1 and Photo 2. Photography 54 was taught in the summer of 2007 and completely filled to capacity. This increase is demonstrated in the Fall 2007 with a 97.79% of maximum enrollment with 266 seats taken out of 272. This is consistent in the spring, summer and winter sessions. The summer of 2007 included two sections of Photography 51 and one section of Photography 54. The demand for Photography 1 is high enough to support 2 sections: one in the day and continue the current evening section.

2. What are you doing to respond to trends?

Sections of Photo 54 have been added to both the winter and summer sessions. Photography 150 and 151 ab have been rotated into our program schedule with the increasing demand. For the past five semesters the Photography Department has been holding Open Houses to instruct and inform the public about course and program content. The program is being relocated to the Art building and this will allow the film and digital areas to merge more fully. The Photography Program is working consistently and strenuously to meet the stabilized and growing enrollment.

3. Should a recommendation be written addressing the data?

Yes. The increased enrollment supports a second section of Photography 1 in the day time in addition to the current section offered in the evening. It is also the recommendation that we offer a section of Photography 51 in a local high school. A final recommendation stated in the strongest terms is continuing the college's support of the technology needed to sustain the blending of digital and film photography studies. It is requested that an additional \$6,000 be allocated for an additional section of Photography 1 and another \$6,000 for the high school class of Photography 51 (\$12,000 total).

B. Offerings: Fill Rate

Instructions: Review and analyze the fill rate data provided by Institutional Research for this program for a three year cycle and answer the following questions.

1. Given the data, is the program in a growth mode?

Yes, the numbers for the final year Fall 2007 are the highest of the three year cycle beginning in Fall 2005.

2. What adjustments are indicated?

More blending and combining of film and digital offerings. Continue winter and summer scheduled offerings as well.

3. Should a recommendation be written that addresses the data?

Yes. It is recommended that the Photography Department work with the Art Department to develop curriculum combining film and digital photography.

C. Scheduling: Student Satisfaction with Scheduling

1. What (if anything) is indicated by the student satisfaction with scheduling?

Students seem generally satisfied with scheduling. Consideration should be given to scheduling a section of Photography 1 during the early morning time.

2. Are there periods of high student demands which are not being addressed?

Yes, as there is a demand for a day section of Photography 1. In the past year the department has been offering more advanced classes in summer and on the weekends due to student demand. Sections:

Photography 51: Five week day, one night, one Saturday

Photography 1: Tuesday 4:45 p.m.

Photography 2: Monday and Wednesday 5 p.m.

Photography 3: Monday and Wednesday 5 p.m.

Photography 4: Thursday 4:45 p.m.

Photo 11 ab: As arranged

Photo 23ab: Tuesday and Thursday 6 p.m.

Photography 54: Summers and Saturdays

Photography 57: Saturdays

D. Retention and Success

1. Instructions: Review and analyze data on retention over a three-year cycle comparing various sessions.

1. Given the data, what trends are observed :

Data from Fall 2005, Fall 2006, Fall 2007 was evaluated. Retention for the Photo program was as follows: Fall 2005-78.5%, Fall 2006-74.2%, Fall 2007-81.8% which compares favorably with the Division of Fine Arts. No significant deviation from similar programs statewide.

2. Should a recommendation be written addressing this data? No.

2. Success rate. Instructions: Review and analyze the data on success rate over a three-year cycle.

1. Given the data, what trends are observed?

The success rate for the Photography program: Fall 2005- 68.6%, Fall 2006-69.7%, Fall 2007-73.7% which demonstrates the program is progressing with regard to improving success rate.

2. Should a recommendation be written addressing the data? No.

3. Curriculum

A. Course and Content

1. Courses Not Offered

Instructions:

Indicate the total number of courses in the program and list all courses which are in the catalog but have not been offered in the last three years. Refer to this list for the following questions.

There are currently 15 courses in the Photography program

Photography 1 Basic Photography

Photography 2 Intermediate Photography

Photography 3 Advanced Photography

Photography 4 Portraiture

Photography 11ab Photojournalism

Photography 23a Theory of Color/Color Printing

Photography 23b Intermediate Color Photography/Color Printing

Photography 50 Special Topics
 Photography 51 Elementary Photography
 Photography 54 Intermediate 35mm Black and White Photography
 Photography 57 Creative Photographic Processes
 Photography 60 Wilderness Photography
 Photography 99ab Independent Study
 Photography 150 The Art of Photography
 Photography 151ab Digital Imaging Lab

There are currently 15 courses in the Photography program. Of these, only Photo 57 and Photo 60 have not been taught in the past three years. Photography 57 is scheduled to be taught in the spring 2009 schedule.

1. **Given the data, are there classes to be inactivated?** No.
2. **If there are courses not offered in the past three years that you do not wish to inactivate, what reasons are there to keep them active?**

Photo 57 is being offered this spring 2009 and Photo 60 will be offered Fall 2009.

3. **Should a recommendation be written addressing this data?** No.

2. Course Revisions and Additions

1. **Are there course outlines to be revised?** Yes, Photography 51. This will be done to include both film and digital imaging Course Objectives. This spring the Photography Department is beginning the transition and planned move to the basement of the Art building. In renovated space there will be one darkroom and one digital lab for Photography program, so there will be the facilities and resources to support the revision of Photography 51. When Photography acquires a new permanent space in the Art building for lectures, wet and digital labs and lighting studio, then serious discussions can begin regarding the revision of all the Photography courses. I will work for a consensus with the full-time faculty in digital arts to address this matter.
2. **Are there courses inconsistent with current practice in the field?** No.
3. **Should a recommendation be made addressing the data?** Yes, after the relocation of the Photography program. It is also recommended that new Photography courses be given an Photo ab designation so students can repeat the class for credit.
4. Substitution of Photo 51 for Photo 54 as the prerequisite for Photo 57.

5. A.S. Photography Degree, Certificate of Achievement in Photography

The Photography Certificate of Competence was revised to a Certificate of Achievement. The A.S. Degree was last reviewed in fall 2002 and Board Approved in January, 2003. The required courses and electives are still active and offered in a timely manner.

6. Are there degree requirements inconsistent with current practice? No.

7. Is there a need to create or delete a degree and/or certificate? See previous discussion regarding transitioning of program.

8. Should any recommendations be written to address the above? Same recommendation with program transition.

B. Articulation

Instructions: Articulation is the process by which courses taken at ECC can be used to satisfy subject matter requirements at another college or university. This is important in the transfer process for students.

1. Are there any classes in your curriculum which are part of a lower division preparation for the major which are not articulated with our major transfer institutions? No. All courses transfer.

No recommendation needed.

C. Instruction and Assessment

1. Learning Methods

1. What learning methods are incorporated inside and outside the classroom to promote student success?

All the Photography classes include both a lecture and lab session each week of the semester. Lecture-demonstrations on camera operation, film processing, photographic printing, studio lighting, photographic composition, digital imaging, large format photography are utilized in the various classes. Lectures on the origins of Photography, beginning with the observations of Aristotle that light forms images, are discussed in lecture and continues on with how lens formed images based on the construction of the human eye. Lectures include camera equipment instruction, how to make versus take a photograph, Photographic History and the role of Photography in contemporary civilization. Guest speakers help round out the student's learning experience along with visits to Photography exhibitions in the area museums

including the Getty and Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Students participate in group and solo exhibitions of their work both on and off campus. The Photography Department had a group exhibition in the El Camino College Library during March of 2008. Forty photography students got the learning experience of exhibiting their work. Further opportunity came in May and June of 2008 with a Department exhibit at the Welcome Café in Redondo Beach. Students also participate in the ECC Student Art Exhibition annually. During the course of Professor Rowan's Fall 2008 sabbatical she participated in a Staff Exhibition at Bonhams art auction house here in Los Angeles and 20 ECC students attended the opening. There are opportunities to publish through the campus newspaper and literary arts magazine which the Photography students actively participate in with the encouragement of faculty.

Additional Learning Methods:

- Classroom lecture demonstration
- Lighting Studio lecture demonstration
- Photographic darkroom lecture demonstration
- Guest speakers
- Essays
- Written exams
- Portfolio production
- DVD, video and powerpoint presentations
- Extra-credit student viewing of local photography exhibitions
- College night at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art
- Outside reading assignments
- Outside photographic assignments
- Classroom critiques of photographs produced during lab work

2. Should a recommendation be written? No. Planned move of Photography program will facilitate new opportunities for our students.

2. Assessment

How do you evaluate the extent to which the learning objectives, skills and competencies are being met?

Student success is measured through lecture/lab based assignments. This includes film and digital photographs being produced according to instructor assignments utilizing the darkroom, computer, lighting studio and film processing area. Other evaluation methods include essays, portfolios, objective exams.

How do you use the results of the above to improve student learning? By continuing to meet the needs of the program through new course development, (Photography 150 and 151ab,) staff development, additional lab times, Vatea grant funding, Open Houses and community outreach.

No recommendation needs to be written, as both Professor Rowan and the adjunct faculty are very active with student learning experiences.

4. Program Requirements

A. Identify key institutional support areas used by the program.

- Library
- Special Resource Center
- Transfer Center
- EOP and S/CalWorks
- Learning Resource Center Media Materials Collection
- College Art Gallery
- Writing Center
- Media Center
- ECC email
- Copy Center
- Staff Development
- Support Staff
- My own blog

We need a permanent part-time lab help for 10 hours a week, which is estimated to cost \$15,000 per year.

B. Facilities

1. Does the program make effective use of its facilities?

Most definitely; however, the move to the Art building is very much anticipated and desired. Professor Rowan oversees the entire photography lab and studio area. We have two darkrooms which are consistently used for all our classes and a very busy lighting studio which gets a lot of use by all the advanced classes. We have a number of view cameras for the advanced classes that do need some repair work, although they are still useable. We have received several Vatea grants which has helped enormously with getting new and needed equipment for the department.

2. Are adequate facilities, equipment and supplies available for the program? Yes, most definitely now with the planned move supported by the bond money appropriated for Photography.

3. Are the facilities and equipment adequately maintained? Not to the level needed. We no longer have the position of lab tech, so Professor Rowan now handles all facilities requests and supply ordering in addition to full-time teaching.

C. Staffing

There is one full-time faculty in the Photography program. Part-time faculty number between 4-7. The greatly anticipated move to the Art building, in a newly renovated space, will help reduce the amount of work required with facilities issues. We have some excellent adjunct faculty, however Professor Rowan carries the entire load of administrative, curriculum, degree and certificate advising, outreach, student exhibitions, oversees equipment and participates in staff development.

There is no official mentoring program, however I absolutely communicate very frequently with all the adjunct faculty through email, direct and in person, phone and with my blog, reginarowanart.wordpress.com. This fall, during my sabbatical, three new adjunct faculty taught to cover my classes, and I spent extensive time situating them as new faculty on campus. Walking tours of the campus and connecting them to other adjunct photo faculty for assistance. Very involved with communication between students, faculty in the department.

I have maintained my currency in the field of Photography through regular publishing and exhibiting of my own photography. My work is in the collections of 30 museums, libraries and archives internationally including Harvard University and the Bibliotheque Nationale de France. In response to a growing interest in Intellectual Property issues in the arts, I went back to school, myself, to take the required law classes to study and seat for the National Certified Legal Assistant Exam, which I passed and received a certificate in Intellectual Property Law. During my Fall 2008 sabbatical, I have worked for Bonhams art auction house with the authentication and appraisal of fine art photographs with my work culminating in a catalog and auction in New York at the end of October 2008.

I am looking forward to the location in the Art building to interact more with the other art faculty.

Recommendations: Another full-time faculty member (half photography and half digital art) and a part-time lab technician are needed, for an estimate of \$75,000 for the two positions.

D. Planning

We have a very clear idea of where the program is headed. We are moving at the end of the spring 2009 semester to a renovated area that includes both wet and digital lab facilities with updated equipment. We also have a newly established advisory committee which is a link to stay current with industry and educational practices. The digital revolution is transforming both digital and film photography and we will be able to move ahead with the planned facility.

No recommendation needs to be written as we are currently moving ahead with the relocation on campus.

5. Conclusion

1. Prioritized Recommendations

A. A dedicated physical space in the art facility with continuing Vatea funds to upgrade equipment to stay current with professional photographic practices.

B. Part-time lab technician for an estimate of \$15,000 per academic year.

C. Another full-time faculty member (half photography and half digital art) for an estimated \$60,000.

2. Major needs: Permanent space in art facility from the encumbered Bond money.

3. Strategies: Continue seeking Vatea funds, Staff Development, Merging with the Digital Arts Program.

We have an excellent Photography Department that is poised to continue into the 21st century very successfully utilizing various means of producing photographic images.

Thank you.