



Northwest Coast Arts Occupational Endorsement Program Assessment Plan

Updated 10/23/25

Overview:

A student of Northwest Coast Indigenous Arts is preparing themselves for work as a professional artist, scholar of the arts, arts educator, or a curator. The O.E. is a preliminary step toward these goals and equates to apprentice level achievement.

The Northwest Coast Art Occupational Endorsement (NWC O.E.) has not been required to go under program assessment review until this year. This is our preliminary effort to develop an assessment plan moving forward. Since 2016, The Northwest Coast Arts Occupational Endorsement has been carefully built over the years, but was pieced together over time without being built up as a program with consistent course numbering and sequencing. The NWCA O.E. existed prior to the development of the Associate of Arts (A.A.) Northwest Coast Indigenous Arts Emphasis area which launched in 2019. The Bachelor's in Indigenous Studies (BAIS) which contains an emphasis area in Northwest Coast Indigenous Arts was established in 2022. Following these developments, the Indigenous Studies faculty introduced a NWCA program reformatting to create consistency with course number and sequencing, to align all related programs and assist students to find a clearer path to academic success and achievement.

Currently under review in the UAS Undergraduate Curriculum Committee are course code changes from ART to NWCA as a standalone program, which allows it to develop in the same ways that Alaska Native Languages (AKL) and Alaska Native Studies (ANS) have been developing. It allows us to more easily count new courses towards the Alaska Native Knowledge Graduation Requirement, and also allows for a clearer path to certification and graduation.

Program Description:

- **Current description:** (This would remain with updated description)

Options include weaving, basketry and carving. Please note that only courses taken at the **400 level are repeatable** for academic credit.

- **Proposed Updated description:**

The O.E. degree with an emphasis in Northwest Coast Indigenous Arts provides a preliminary introduction to the Indigenous Arts of the Northwest Coast and prepares students for work as an apprentice level artist or scholar. Students with this degree may work towards an A.A., B.L.A. or B.A. degree in Alaska Native or Indigenous Studies, transfer to the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) based on a partnership between UAS and IAIA, or may work towards a degree in Education in order to teach Northwest Coast Arts.

Program Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the Northwest Coast Art, O.E., a graduate will:

1. Identify regional differences and similarities within the Northwest coastal peoples and be familiar with Northwest Coast visual, performing, and literary arts.

Assessment of Program Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Student portfolios, presentations, and self assessments will be evaluated by an appointed Indigenous studies committee.

Program Assessment Methods:

A variety of artifacts may be used including student self assessments, journals, artistic or academic portfolio developed as part of their advanced studio courses in their Studio Art Emphasis areas, ART 295 Career Development for the Artist, or research papers from ART 263/ NWCA 201 Northwest Coast Art History and Culture. These would then be evaluated by an appointed Indigenous studies committee. An evaluation rubric will be developed for reviewing such items.

Proposed Timeline

Year	PLO Assessed	Assessment	How
Year	1	Assess students increased	● Co-create w/NWCA

2025-2026		NWCA knowledge	faculty accepted assignments that demonstrate NWCA knowledge ● Gather assignments ● Review data as CACANE/ Assessment committee
Year 2026-2027	1	Assess students increased NWCA knowledge	● Gather assignments ● Review data as CACANE/ Assessment committee
Year 2027-2028	1	Assess students increased NWCA knowledge	● Gather assignments ● Review data as CACANE/ Assessment committee
Year 2028-2029 (Five Year Review)	1	Assess students increased NWCA knowledge	● Review previous years reports for 5 year review & revisit assessment plans

Development of Future Plans:

As more tenure track faculty in Northwest Coast Arts are hired, specific assignments with required OE courses will be developed & shared that will feed into the assessment process. A rubric for artifact assessment will also be created to support the assessment process in year 1 (25-26).