

## **PNCA'S CORE VALUES AND EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES**

(Approved by Faculty, May 2004)

A PNCA education prepares students for sustained creative achievement in the fine and design arts and throughout their lives. It strengthens their ability to interpret the conditions and events shaping the world and prepares them to engage that world and its cultures with understanding, enthusiasm, and integrity.

PNCA believes the fine and design arts are vital fields of inquiry that provide insight into human and cultural endeavor. The study of these fields promotes the ability to make informed ethical decisions, fosters a nuanced understanding of diversity, and nurtures the confidence to meet ongoing change in the world.

To help students achieve the above, PNCA values a faculty of talented artists/designer/scholars who inspire intensive studio work and committed research. These professionals support collaborative learning, encourage community-based engagement; facilitate cross-culture interaction, model ethical behavior, and prize effective writing, speaking and debate.

PNCA's four educational objectives, Creative Practice, Integrated Knowledge and Critical Thinking, Social and Ethical responsibility, and Effective Communication encourage, nurture, and instill these values and abilities in students, and prepares them for a life of creativity and fulfillment.

### **To achieve the above PNCA:**

- structures the curriculum to effectively teach the educational objectives to the student.
- embraces evaluation to ensure ongoing renewal and innovation across the college.
- connects to a diverse community base and offers off-campus study programs to create opportunities for intercultural learning, interaction and collaboration.
- supports professional training to enhance teaching and classroom practice, recruit and retain first-rate faculty, and help implement assessment recommendations.
- supports faculty development to ensure renewal and growth.
- retains and recruits faculty and staff able to deliver student learning of the Educational Objectives.
- ensures ethical, responsible and equitable employment standards are being met across the institution.
- directs internal resources to support student learning.

- provides and supports high quality learning resources and facilities that enable student learning.
- supports academic freedom in all areas of inquiry and expression.
- supports student services that enable personal, academic and professional success, including transition to graduate work and professional practice.
- fosters a college community that values responsibility, respect, and personal adherence to high standards of social and ethical behavior.

The following descriptions expand upon and clarify the Educational Objectives

**In Creative Practice students:**

- make creative work,
- find and develop their personal vision,
- develop a disciplined studio practice,
- acquire knowledge and skills grounded in the fine and design arts,
- engage in written and oral discourse about their work , the work of others, and
- pursue the habits of curiosity, questioning and perseverance.

*To achieve:*

- *proficiency in the skills specific to their chosen major field, history, contemporary concepts and, expertise in professional practices.*

**In Integrated Knowledge and Critical Thinking students:**

- engage in disciplinary and crossdisciplinary study,
- examine primary methods of research and inquiry, including cultural, scientific, philosophical, and aesthetic,
- determine how meaning is shaped and reshaped by context, time, and culture,
- encounter diverse visual and cultural work and,
- acquire the intellectual tools and insight.

*In order to be able to:*

- *examine and respond to the world with awareness and sensitivity to difference and,*
- *engage meaningfully in the world and its cultures.*

**In Social and Ethical Responsibility students:**

- examine the complex relationships between the creative product, the creative practitioner and the social, historical, and political communities in which they interact,
- evaluate the relationship of creative work to the social and ethical issues impacting the human condition,

- explore, through practical and theoretical investigations, the issues impacting the quality of human and non-human life and,
- consider ethical positions.

*In order to:*

- *come to a deeper understanding of human endeavor, thought and desire and,*
- *find a sustaining place within or in opposition to these concepts and/or communities and,*
- *understand the accountability between artist and audience.*

**In Effective Communication students:**

- engage in the acts of writing, speaking, reading and listening,
- engage in effective visual communication, and
- study systems of symbols, signs and behavior.

*To be able to:*

- *clearly communicate convictions, ideas, knowledge and feelings,*
- *effectively exchange information and,*
- *skillfully interpret images, language and events*