YEARS 11 & 12

THE ARTS
LEARNING AREA SUMMARY
THE ARTS

A. CURRENT CONTEXT OF TASMANIAN COURSES

In Tasmania, the Arts Learning Area comprises five distinct art forms: Visual Art, Dance, Drama, Media and Music. These sub-disciplines are found and described in both the Tasmanian Curriculum and the Australian Curriculum as well as in senior secondary education offerings including TASC accredited senior secondary courses and vocational training packages.

The University of Tasmania offers pathways in all of these sub-disciplines, some of which commence during senior secondary education through the University College Program (UCP). Strong partnerships exist between the University of Tasmania and senior secondary colleges in the provision and delivery of curriculum in the Arts fields.

Demand for the products and services of creative industries is growing across the globe. The Tasmanian Department of State Growth recognises Cultural and Creative Industries as a key sector in which Tasmania has a competitive advantage. In Tasmania there are many opportunities for graduates to gain employment directly in an Arts related field or utilising the skills they have obtained through their studies. The development of the University of Tasmania’s $75 million Academy of Creative Industries and Performing Arts is a testament to the growth and vision in this sector within both education and the wider community.

1. Existing senior secondary courses

Currently there are 21 TASC accredited courses in the Arts ranging from preliminary to level 1 through to level 3 with size values of 5, 10 and 15. In addition there are 11 University College programs and a number of vocational education and training (VET) programs that add to the overall scope of subject offerings in the Arts Learning Area.

In 2015, Art Theory and Criticism 3 was accredited as a replacement course for Art Appreciation 3. In 2016, 8 courses from the Arts are up for reaccreditation.

A full list of current TASC and University College Arts courses is in Appendix 1.

2. Links to Australian Curriculum

The Foundation to Year 10 Arts subjects: Visual Arts, Music, Drama, Dance and Media Arts align with the current suite of Year 11/12 courses. Content descriptions in each Arts subject (F-10) reflect the interrelated strands of Making and Responding.

- **Making** includes learning about and using knowledge, skills, techniques, processes, materials and technologies to explore arts practices and make artworks that communicate ideas and intentions.
- **Responding** includes exploring, responding to, analysing and interpreting artworks.

There are no senior secondary Arts courses developed for the Australian Curriculum at this point in time.
3. **Pathways**

In the Arts Learning Area, there are clear entry points and pathways from Year 10 through Years 11 and 12 to university. The study pathways are shown on Pathway maps in Appendix 2.

There are strong student pathways onto further study. The University of Tasmania has a broad range of offerings at both undergraduate and postgraduate level for learners in the Arts. Arts specific degrees are offered in both Launceston and Hobart with qualifications in Music, Musical Arts, Visual Art, Visual Communications, and Contemporary Arts. Currently there are no Tasmanian tertiary pathways in Dance and none specific to Media (Radio or Film/Video) in Tasmania.

There are mainland university options for learners with exceptional skills including the Victorian College of the Arts, the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, RMIT, NIDA, the Australian Film Television and Radio school (AFTRS), Queensland University of Technology and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

TasTAFE offers high level Vocational Education and Training qualifications in the Creative Industries area including Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Music, Technical Production, Sound Production, Media, Interactive Digital Media, Screen and Media and Visual Arts.

4. **Enrolment data**

Overall, across the Arts courses, enrolments have remained steady from 2011 to 2014. There has been an increase in enrolments in Art Studio Practice 3, Art Production 2 and 3, Musical Theatre 2 and Dance 2 and a slight decline in Art Theory and Criticism 3. Overall more females than males enrol in the Arts but in many courses there is a gender balance, however Music Technologies attracts noticeably more males and Dance Choreography and Performance more females.

B. **APPROACHES IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS**

National

- All other states offer a range of 11/12 courses in the Arts which include Visual Art, Dance, Drama, Media and Music. Media is not offered in NSW.
- Design is a separate option in the WA curriculum. Design includes four different contexts: Photography, Graphic Design, Dimensional Design and Technical Graphics.
- Some states (e.g. South Australia) also offer a generic Creative Arts course which can be cross disciplinary and tailored to meet the needs of a particular group of learners or school/region.
- There is a focus on providing both applied and academic pathways in the Arts in all states.
International

- Most countries offer a range of arts related courses at senior secondary level. These usually include courses in Visual Art, Dance, Drama and Music and increasingly, Media.

- In the UK, a recent review has resulted in new GCSE offerings in Dance, Drama, Art and Design, Media Studies and Music by 2017. There will also be A levels offered in all these subject areas except Media. There is also a specific GCE A level in Art History.

- The global practice whereby country of origin culture forms a significant focus within the course of study e.g. Australian Drama as a component of Drama courses.

- In many jurisdictions, Arts courses have broad ‘enabling’ curriculum structures which provide flexibility for learners to demonstrate their skills and understandings in preferred genres/instruments/mediums etc.

- There is a focus on the provision of Applied or General courses for learners not on an academic pathway.

- There is increasing recognition of new and emerging areas e.g. Hybrid arts in which artists work in frontier areas of science and emerging technologies in fields such as biology, robotics, physical sciences, experimental interface technologies (such as speech, gesture and face recognition), artificial intelligence, and information visualization.

- Social Media has become a part of our everyday lives and Arts practitioners are becoming aware of both the value and the dangers of social media. Learners have access not only to information and networking connections with Arts organisations but also platforms from which to share their own art making. You-Tube has become an opportunity for musicians to present and share their work, filmmakers to share their projects and actors/dancers to share clips of their latest performance.

C. FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR THE TASMANIAN CONTEXT

- It is important to retain the current vocational and academic pathways in the Arts in Tasmania and the range of courses across the five distinct art forms.

- Maintain the strong link between senior secondary schools and the University of Tasmania and TasTAFE in light of the development of the Academy of Creative Industries and Performing Arts in Hobart.

- Check for and avoid duplication across TASC and University of Tasmania courses in the Arts.

- The incorporation of new and emerging media to ensure Arts courses operate in contemporary contexts.

- Consideration of the inclusion of contemporary country of origin (Australian) practice in the content of future courses within the Arts.

- Consideration of developing extension courses for Year 12 learners who have undertaken the highest level course in their specific area in Year 11 e.g. Dance Choreography and Performance 3.
• Consideration of the emerging areas of cross disciplinary learning in future course development e.g. Arts with Technology and Science and Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

D. FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. Are the pathways from Year 10 through Years 11 and 12 clear for learners and are there appropriate entry points?
2. Does the current suite of courses meet the needs of all learners?
3. Are there gaps and/or duplication in this learning area?
4. With reference to the issues highlighted in section C above, what are the new and emerging areas of learning that need consideration?

Appendix 1

Current Tasmanian Year 11 and 12 Courses in the Arts Learning Area

• Art Making Level 1
• Visual Art Practice Level 1
• Art Production Foundation Level 2
• Art Production Level 3
• Art Theory and Criticism Level 3
• Art Studio Practice Level 3
• Expanded Practice, University College Program

• Dance the Basic Moves Level 1
• Dance Level 2
• Dance Choreography and Performance Level 3

• Drama Foundation Level 2
• Drama Technical Production Level 2
• Drama Level 3
• Theatre Performance Level 3
• Theatre Practice, University College Program
• Theatre Production, University College Program
• Effective Communication, University College Program
• Musical Theatre Level 2
• Music Project 1, University College Program
• Music Project 2, University College Program
• Contemporary Theatre Workshop A, University College Program
• Contemporary Theatre Workshop B, University College Program

• Media Production Foundation Level 2
• Media Production Level 3

• Contemporary Music Level 2
• Music Ensemble Level 2
There is also a number of vocational education and training (VET) programs available in the Arts.