Western University
Department of Visual Arts

GRADUATE GRADING STANDARDS

90 – 100 Work of excellent quality
(MA) Approaching if not already at professional standards. Thoroughly and creatively engaged at high level of research, possibly with primary sources; very high standards in writing and evidence of sophistication in all aspects of the work.
(MFA) Approaching if not already at professional standards. Thoroughly and creatively engaged at a high level of artistic and/or written production; very high standards and sophistication evidenced in all areas of production.

86 – 89 Work of very good quality
(MA) Demonstrably better than expected with respect to research effort, mastery of critical and analytical tools, and involves polished presentation style.
(MFA) Demonstrably evolved beyond expected standards of critical, theoretical and creative engagement in artistic and/or written production.

80 – 85 Work of good quality
(MA) Shows competence in research and writing but could be improved in one or more ways.
(MFA) Shows competence in artistic and/or written production but could be improved in one or more ways.

78 – 79 Work of acceptable quality
(MA) Needs substantial improvement in one or more areas.
(MFA) Needs substantial improvement in one or more areas.

70 – 77 Work of passable quality (a warning regarding removal of funding)
(MA) Shows sufficient ability and effort to allow the student to pass the course, but is seriously deficient with respect to research approach, or critical or analytical skills, or writing ability.
(MFA) Shows sufficient ability and effort to allow the student to pass the course, but is seriously deficient with respect to critical, theoretical or practical engagement in artistic and/or written production.

≤ 69 Work of unacceptable quality
(MA/MFA) Removal from program.

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