

Professional Photography

Department Overview

[Professional Photography](#) is a hands-on, two-year diploma program that provides graduates with the comprehensive training and skills to achieve a successful career in the photographic industry. The program is intensive and enables students to develop a broad portfolio. Students have access to a wide range of specialized photographic equipment, studio time, as well as faculty and staff with a diverse range of experience. Students will apply technical and artistic skills to practical projects that are typical of the industry. Learning is further enhanced by field trips and regular visits from current industry professionals.

Self-Study

Professional Photography launched its program review in academic year 2021/22 with a Self-Study. Sara McIntyre was the primary Self-Study writer on behalf of the rest of the department's faculty. Additional support was provided by:

- Darren Bernaerdt (Interim Dean, Faculty of Arts)
- Eric Stewart (Chair, Professional Photography)
- Roshni Riar (Department Assistant, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Pennie Poon (Manager, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Sunita Wiebe (Director, Office of Academic Quality Assurance)
- Institutional Research analysts

Data sources for the Self-Study included:

- Institutional Research-compiled student administrative data (e.g., headcounts, retention, satisfaction)
- Student survey
- Alumni survey
- Faculty survey
- Employer survey

The Self-Study was completed in May 2022.

External Review

Professional Photography's external review took place on August 30, 2022. The External Review Team consisted of:

- Yvan Morissette, Design Formation, Langara (External Review Chair)
- Rafael Goldchain, Professor, Animation, Arts and Design, Sheridan College
- Eric Thompson, Professional Photographer, Brooklyn, NY
- Wendy D., Professional Photographer, Vancouver, BC

Action Plan Goals

In response to the Self-Study and External Review, Professional Photography created an Action Plan with these goals:

- Goal 1: Update program curriculum for increased flexibility and to accommodate students' various learning priorities.

- Goal 2: Strengthen identified areas for improvement in our program and courses.
- Goal 3: Ensure business skills are taught to effectively prepare Photography graduates for self-employment and freelance work in the future economy.
- Goal 4: Strengthen our students' skills in critical thinking, concept development and ideation, and verbal and written expression of the student's ideas.
- Goal 5: Update PHOT 2485: Portfolio Development and Practicum to prioritize personal presentation, branding, individuality, creation of portfolio work and connections with industry.
- Goal 6: Conduct a post-covid survey addressing students' satisfaction the quality and efficacy of their Photography education in preparing them for the workforce.
- Goal 7: Reconfigure the program intake process so more faculty members review applicants and accept students in a collaborative model.
- Goal 8: Formalize transfer agreements between Langara Professional Photography and Sheridan College, Fanshawe College, and Emily Carr University of Art + Design.
- Goal 9: Increase the number of domestic applicants to the Professional Photography program.
- Goal 10: Update the Professional Photography program to reflect inclusive and equitable values and practices that welcome students and faculty from all backgrounds and identities.
- Goal 11: Encourage professional development for Photography program faculty and staff to keep up with changes in technology and the industry.
- Goal 12: Support PHOT Lab Technician with professional development opportunities and additional workplace resources.
- Goal 13: Upgrade campus studios and equipment storage areas to faculty satisfaction.
- Goal 14: Use the Professional Photography PAC more effectively to inform and support our program's educational and outreach goals.
- Goal 15: Build an engaged Professional Photography alumni community that continues learning post-graduation from Langara and nourishes the student learning experience.

Examples of Post-Review Successes

2023/24

The department mapped out 4-term, 5-term, and 6-term curriculum options that allow students to complete their Photography diploma with increased flexibility. The diploma requirements were scaled down to 60 required credits. They updated PHOT program to a Core & Electives format and switched from annual program enrolment to enrolment open in all three terms.

The department also updated appropriate course curricula to integrate critical thinking skills and allocated department budget to support PD for Lab Technician.