

MIDPOINT EVALUATION

BY SETH JOHNSON

Many university students must complete a midpoint evaluation during the second semester of their sophomore year in order to proceed in their major.

In fact, 33 majors require these evaluation platforms. These majors include physics, chemistry, interdisciplinary studies, nursing, communication disorders, fashion design, graphic design, early childhood education and Spanish education, to name a few.

Another major that has an evaluation is cinema production. For the evaluation, sophomores create a three- to five-minute video without sync sound. This means that the story must not include any natural sounds. Instead, the story must be told using only visuals and sound effects. Students write the story for the film and get it approved the first semester of their sophomore year. Then they begin filming second semester.

Once the video has been created, the cinema faculty watch the films in a

blind showing, without knowing who produced the films. Students will receive a pass, fail or pass with reservation.

Ethan Reagan, a senior cinema student, said the best way for freshmen to prepare for the evaluation is to help on a crew for a current sophomore or senior who is in the middle of a project. He said the project can be stressful but that it's not impossible.

All art and design majors—fashion design, graphic design, studio art and interior architecture and design—have a midpoint evaluation. Students in these majors must pass an exam, sub-

mit a portfolio and develop a personal statement. Faculty make comments on their work and give advice about how to continue.

Jay Bopp, chair of the Division of Art and Design, said, "Students can expect good feedback on their body of work to this point in their major, along with clear direction for their future."

Brandon Buchanan, a junior graphic design major, said, "It's really good if you can put some of your own design work in [the portfolio] that you do outside of class. That shows that you have interest in it beyond the classroom setting."



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Communication, journalism and mass communication and communication disorders majors also have a midpoint evaluation. Communication majors have four levels that they are evaluated on: grades in major classes; written communication, which is assessed through a writing sample; oral communication, which is assessed through a class called Public Speaking; and interpersonal communication, which is assessed through an interview with faculty.

Anna DeMott, a junior communication major, said, "I was terrified initially, but I enjoyed it so much because it gave me a chance to interact with professors and get to know them and ask them questions. It felt more like a 'how can we help you' [session] than an actual test."

