2006-2007 :: M.F.A. in Arts and Technology

1. Mission Statement:

The mission of our Masters of Fine Art in Arts and Technology (ATEC) program is to provide students a broad grounding in digital content design and development by exposing them to the theory and practice of computer programming, information design, computer graphics/animation, digital sound design and interactive game design. The goal of the program is to prepare students to understand and succeed in the media-rich, technologically sophisticated world of the 21st century. The ATEC MFA program is designed to produce a new generation of artists and college level educators in an emerging field likely to have an impact on 21st-century culture and education analogous to that of film and Film Studies in the 20th century.

2. Objectives:

2.1 Knowledge base:

Students will describe and analyze advanced concepts, theoretical perspectives, and historical and latest trends in digital content design and development.

2.1.1 Related General Education Outcome Item(s): 11. Advanced Knowledge in Discipline(s)

2.1.2 Related Strategic Plan Item(s): VI-2 The Arts

2.1.3 Related Institutional Priority Item(s):
SP-5 Improve Annual Giving and Endowment; COM-2 Protect Enrollment Gains, Access and Student Quality as part of moving toward Tier One Status; COM-3 Sustain Progress toward Tier One Status in terms of programs, research and faculty quality; COM-4 Enhance research, graduate education and technology-driven economic development; CPT-3 Significantly improve quality of UTD's graduate students

2.1.4 Student Related Objective: Yes - This is a student related objective.

2.2 Effective digital methods:

Students will identify and evaluate effective digital methods for visualizing artistic and technical concepts.

2.2.1 Related General Education Outcome Item(s): 11. Advanced Knowledge in Discipline(s)

2.2.2 Related Strategic Plan Item(s): II-1 The Education of Leaders; VI-2 The Arts

2.2.3 Related Institutional Priority Item(s): COM-2 Protect Enrollment Gains, Access and Student Quality as part of moving toward Tier One Status; COM-3 Sustain Progress toward Tier One Status in terms of programs, research and faculty quality; COM-4 Enhance research, graduate education and technology-driven economic development; CPT-3 Significantly improve quality of UTD's graduate students

2.2.4 Student Related Objective: Yes - This is a student related objective.

2.3 Technology based creativitiy:

Students will create original digital works that demonstrate their artistic and technical skills and reflect a high degree of individual expression

2.3.1 Related General Education Outcome Item(s): 12. Guided Research; 13. Independent Research

2.3.2 Related Strategic Plan Item(s):
II-1 The Education of Leaders; II-2 Living-Learning Communities; VI-2 The Arts

2.3.3 Related Institutional Priority Item(s):
SP-5 Improve Annual Giving and Endowment; COM-4 Enhance research, graduate education and technology-driven economic development; CMP-2 Complete major, 5-year capital campaign ($100M) for endowed chairs and grad fellowships; CPT-3 Significantly improve quality of UTD's graduate students

2.3.4 Student Related Objective: Yes - This is a student related objective.

2.4 Critical Thinking and Communication Skills:

Students will analyze aesthetic and technical merits of their works and others'.

2.4.1 Related General Education Outcome Item(s): 1. Communication; 16. Independent Thought

2.4.2 Related Strategic Plan Item(s):
II-1 The Education of Leaders; II-2 Living-Learning Communities; II-3 Investment in People

2.4.3 Related Institutional Priority Item(s): SP-5 Improve Annual Giving and Endowment; COM-3 Sustain Progress toward Tier One Status in terms of programs, research and faculty quality; CPT-3 Significantly improve quality of UTD's graduate students

2.4.4 Student Related Objective: Yes - This is a student related objective.

2.5 Research Application:

Students will construct research projects to advance our knowledge and technology in the field and to meet the

challenges of a rapidly changing global society.

2.5.1 Related General Education Outcome Item(s): 13. Independent Research

2.5.2 Related Strategic Plan Item(s):
II-1 The Education of Leaders; II-3 Investment in People; III-1 Dynamic Change Management

2.5.3 Related Institutional Priority Item(s): SP-5 Improve Annual Giving and Endowment; COM-3 Sustain Progress toward Tier One Status in terms of programs, research and faculty quality; COM-4 Enhance research, graduate education and technology-driven economic development; CPT-3 Significantly improve quality of UTD's graduate students

2.5.4 Student Related Objective: Yes - This is a student related objective.

3. Measures & Findings:

3.1 Reading reports: Reports on reading assignments in ATEC 6331.

3.1.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every semester that course is offered..

3.1.2 Success Criteria:
17 out of 25 students will receive an average or above rating on a rubric that includes main points students must address in all reading reports.

3.1.3 Related Objective(s): Knowledge base

3.1.4 Results Related To Success Criteria:
The criterion was met. 26 out 20 students received an average or above rating.

3.1.5 Numerical Results: 71% received an average or above rating.

3.1.6 Achievement Level: Met

3.1.7 Further Action: No

3.2 Presentations on reading: Presentations on reading assignments in ATEC 7390.502.

3.2.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every semester that course is offered.

3.2.2 Success Criteria:
14 out of 20 students will receive an average or above rating on a rubric that includes main points students must address in all presentations.

3.2.3 Related Objective(s): Knowledge base

3.2.4 Results Related To Success Criteria:
The criterion was not met. 20 out 30 students received an average or above rating.

3.2.5 Numerical Results: 67% received an average or above rating.

3.2.6 Achievement Level: Met

3.2.7 Further Action: No

3.3 Student self-evaluation:
End-of-semester student self-evaluation ratings of achievement of this goal (ATEC 6v81, 6331, 6351.001, 6351.002, 6351.502, 7390.501, 7390.502) Data collected every semester course is offered.

3.3.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every semester that courses are offered

3.3.2 Success Criteria: 87 out of 130 students will report being successful or very successful in achieving this goal.

3.3.3 Related Objective(s): Knowledge base

3.3.4 Results Related To Success Criteria: The criterion was met. 92 out of 95 students reported positively.

3.3.5 Numerical Results: 97% reported positively.

3.3.6 Achievement Level: Met

3.3.7 Further Action: No

3.4 Exit Survey: Exit survey asking how successful the ATEC graduate program meets this goal.

3.4.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every graduating class.

3.4.2 Success Criteria: 3 out of 4 will report being successful or very successful in achieving this program goal.

3.4.3 Related Objective(s): Knowledge base

3.4.4 Results Related To Success Criteria: The criterion was not met. 2 out 3 reported positively

3.4.5 Numerical Results: 67% reported positively.

3.4.6 Influencing Factors:
Out of the four students who graduated in Spring 07 three participated in the exit survery. Among the three responces two were positive; one was neutral.

3.4.7 Achievement Level: Not Met

3.4.8 Further Action: No

3.5 Reports on methodology: Reports on methodology in ATEC 7390.502.

3.5.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every semester that course is offered.

3.5.2 Success Criteria:
14 out of 20 students will receive an average or above rating on a rubric that includes identification of effective methods in all reports.

3.5.3 Related Objective(s): Effective digital methods

3.5.4 Results Related To Success Criteria:
The criterion was met. 20 out of 20 students received an average or above rating

3.5.5 Numerical Results: 100% received an average or above rating

3.5.6 Achievement Level: Met

3.5.7 Further Action: No

3.6 Advanced Projects: Advanced Projects in ATEC 7V81 Advanced Project course

3.6.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every semester that course is offered.

3.6.2 Success Criteria: 6 out of 9 students will meet this goal.

3.6.3 Related Objective(s): Effective digital methods

3.6.4 Results Related To Success Criteria:
The criterion was met. 9 out of 9 students received an average or above rating.

3.6.5 Numerical Results: 100% received an average or above rating.

3.6.6 Achievement Level: Met

3.6.7 Further Action: No

3.7 Student self-evaluation:
End-of-semester student self-evaluation ratings of achievement of this goal (ATEC 6v81, 6331, 6351.001, 6351.002, 6351.502, 7390.501, 7390.502).

3.7.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every semester that courses are offered.

3.7.2 Success Criteria:
87 out of 130 students will report being successful or very successful in achieving this program goal.

3.7.3 Related Objective(s): Effective digital methods

3.7.4 Results Related To Success Criteria: The criterion was met. 77 out of 86 students reported positively.

3.7.5 Numerical Results: 90% reported positively.

3.7.6 Achievement Level: Met

3.7.7 Further Action: No

3.8 Exit survey: Exit survey asking how successful the ATEC graduate program meets this goal.

3.8.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every graduating class.

3.8.2 Success Criteria: 3 out of 4 will report being successful or very successful in achieving this program goal.

3.8.3 Related Objective(s): Effective digital methods

3.8.4 Results Related To Success Criteria: No data. Survey question was accidentally omitted.

3.8.5 Numerical Results: No data.

3.8.6 Influencing Factors: Survey question was accidentally omitted.

3.8.7 Achievement Level: Not Met

3.8.8 Further Action: No

3.9 Projects: Projects in ATEC 6v81, 6331, 6351.001, 6351.002, 6351.502, 7390.501, 7390.502.

3.9.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every semester that course is offered.

3.9.2 Success Criteria:
87 out of 130 students will receive an average or above rating on rubrics that include originality and demonstration of artistic and technical skills.

3.9.3 Related Objective(s): Technology based creativitiy

3.9.4 Results Related To Success Criteria:
The criterion was met. 113 out of 124 students received n average or above rating.

3.9.5 Numerical Results: The criterion was met. 91% received n average or above rating.

3.9.6 Achievement Level: Met

3.9.7 Further Action: No

3.10 Advanced Projects: Advanced Projects in ATEC 7V81 Advanced Project course.

3.10.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every semester that course is offered.

3.10.2 Success Criteria:
6 out of 9 students will receive an average or above rating on a rubric that includes originality and demonstration of artistic and technical skills.

3.10.3 Related Objective(s): Technology based creativitiy

3.10.4 Results Related To Success Criteria:
The criterion was met. 9 out of 9 students received an average or above rating.

3.10.5 Numerical Results: 100% received an average or above rating.

3.10.6 Achievement Level: Met

3.10.7 Further Action: No

3.11 Student self-evaluation:
End-of-semester student self-evaluation ratings of achievement of this goal (ATEC 6v81, 6331, 6351.001, 6351.002, 6351.502, 7390.501, 7390.502).

3.11.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every semester that courses are offered.

3.11.2 Success Criteria: 87 out of 130 students will report being successful or very successful in achieving this goal.

3.11.3 Related Objective(s): Technology based creativitiy

3.11.4 Results Related To Success Criteria: The criterion was met. 76 out of 86 students reported positively.

3.11.5 Numerical Results: 88% reported positively.

3.11.6 Achievement Level: Met

3.11.7 Further Action: No

3.12 Exit survey: Exit survey asking how successful the ATEC graduate program meets its goals.

3.12.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every graduating class.

3.12.2 Success Criteria:
3 out of 4 students will report being successful or very successful in achieving this program goal.

3.12.3 Related Objective(s): Technology based creativitiy

3.12.4 Results Related To Success Criteria: The criterion was not met. 2 out 3 reported positively.

3.12.5 Numerical Results: 67% reported positively.

3.12.6 Influencing Factors:
Out of the four students who graduated in Spring 07 three participated in the exit survery. Among the three responces two were positive; one was neutral.

3.12.7 Achievement Level: Not Met

3.12.8 Further Action: No

3.13 Project presentations and critiques:
Project presentations and critiques in ATEC 6v81, 6331, 6351.001, 6351.002, 6351.502, 7390.501, 7390.502.

3.13.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every semester that courses are offered.

3.13.2 Success Criteria:
87 out of 130 students will receive an average or above rating on rubrics that include critical thinking and communication skills.

3.13.3 Related Objective(s): Critical Thinking and Communication Skills

3.13.4 Results Related To Success Criteria: The criterion was met. 67 out of 73 students received an average or above rating.

3.13.5 Numerical Results: 92% received an average or above rating.

3.13.6 Achievement Level: Met

3.13.7 Further Action: No

3.14 Written critiques: Written critiques in ATEC 6351.502.

3.14.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every semester that course is offered.

3.14.2 Success Criteria:
8 out of 12 students will receive an average or above rating on a rubric that includes analyses of aesthetic and technical merits.

3.14.3 Related Objective(s): Critical Thinking and Communication Skills

3.14.4 Results Related To Success Criteria: The criterion was met. 12 out of 12 students received an average or above rating.

3.14.5 Numerical Results: 100% received an average or above rating.

3.14.6 Achievement Level: Met

3.14.7 Further Action: No

3.15 Student self-evaluation:
End-of-semester student self-evaluation ratings of achievement of this goal (ATEC 6v81, 6331, 6351.001, 6351.002, 6351.502, 7390.501, 7390.502).

3.15.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every semester that courses are offered

3.15.2 Success Criteria: 87 out of 130 students will report being successful or very successful in achieving this goal.

3.15.3 Related Objective(s): Critical Thinking and Communication Skills

3.15.4 Results Related To Success Criteria: The criterion was met. 88 out of 90 students reported positively

3.15.5 Numerical Results: 98% reported positively.

3.15.6 Achievement Level: Met

3.15.7 Further Action: No

3.16 Exit survey: Exit survey asking how successful the ATEC graduate program meets its goals.

3.16.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every graduating class.

3.16.2 Success Criteria:
3 out of 4 students will report being successful or very successful in achieving this program goal.

3.16.3 Related Objective(s): Critical Thinking and Communication Skills

3.16.4 Results Related To Success Criteria: The criterion was met. 3 out 3 reported positively.

3.16.5 Achievement Level: Met

3.16.6 Further Action: No

3.17 17 Projects: Projects in ATEC 7390.501, 7390.502.

3.17.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every semester that courses are offered

3.17.2 Success Criteria:
17 out of 25 students will receive an average or above rating on rubrics that include application of technology.

3.17.3 Related Objective(s): Research Application

3.17.4 Results Related To Success Criteria: The criterion was met. 29 out of 29 students received an average or above rating.

3.17.5 Numerical Results: 100% received an average or above rating

3.17.6 Achievement Level: Met

3.17.7 Further Action: No

3.18 Advanced Projects: Advanced Projects in ATEC 7V81 Advanced Project course.

3.18.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every semester that course is offered.

3.18.2 Success Criteria:
8 out of 12 students will receive an average or above rating on a rubric that includes independent research.

3.18.3 Related Objective(s): Research Application

3.18.4 Results Related To Success Criteria:
The criterion was met. 9 out of 9 students received an average or above rating.

3.18.5 Numerical Results: 100% received an average or above rating.

3.18.6 Achievement Level: Met

3.18.7 Further Action: No

3.19 Exit survey: Exit survey asking how successful the ATEC graduate program meets its goals.

3.19.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every graduating class.

3.19.2 Success Criteria:
3 out of 4 students will report being successful or very successful in achieving this program goal.

3.19.3 Related Objective(s): Research Application

3.19.4 Results Related To Success Criteria: The criterion was not met. 2 out 3 reported positively.

3.19.5 Numerical Results: 67% reported positively.

3.19.6 Achievement Level: Not Met

3.19.7 Further Action: Yes

3.20 Achivement tracking: Tracking alumni and current students' honors, awards, and achievements.

3.20.1 Assessment Timeframe: Every semester.

3.20.2 Success Criteria: Reports of local and national recognitions.

3.20.3 Related Objective(s): Research Application

3.20.4 Results Related To Success Criteria: * ATEC students won the second place at 2007 Dallas 24 Hour Video Race.
* Doris Wang (MFA student) was selected for a competitive internship program at a special effect / computer animation company, ReelFX.
*Jeff Stover (MFA student) was nominated for a Leon Rabin award for Outstanding Lighting Design of a Musical-Urinetown at WaterTower Theatre. (The Rabins are the local area Tony awards with over 120 productions judged.)
* Christi Nielsen (MFA student) won the Best of Myspace Award.
* Lee Ann Harringron (MFA student) exhibited at the Dallas Center for Contemporary Art.

3.20.5 Achievement Level: Met

3.20.6 Further Action: Yes

5. Closing the Loop:

5.1 Adding a portfolio requirement:
Currently MFA applicants are evaluated on their statements of intent, references, transcripts, and GPAs. We are in a process of adding a portfolio requirement will give us another way to evaluate the preparedness of applicants.

5.1.1 Related Objective(s):
Knowledge base; Effective digital methods; Technology based creativitiy; Critical Thinking and Communication Skills; Research Application

5.1.2 Responsible Person: Program Director

5.1.3 Target Date: Fall 2008

5.1.4 Priority: High Priority

5.2 Requiring a committee to advise Advanced Project: Currently each MFA student selects one faculty member in the area to receive guidance on a project for ATEC 7V81 Advanced Project course. We are in a process of requiring each MFA student to select two faculty members in the area and form an advisory committee. Advisory committees will provide more guidance and ensure the quality of the MFA students` final projects.

5.2.1 Related Objective(s): Research Application

5.2.2 Related Measure(s): Advanced Projects; Advanced Projects; Advanced Projects

5.2.3 Responsible Person: Program Director

5.2.4 Target Date: Spring 2008

5.2.5 Priority: High Priority

5.3 Exit survey: Improve exit survey's responce rate. Include all the questions needed for the program assessments.

5.3.1 Related Objective(s):
Knowledge base; Effective digital methods; Technology based creativitiy; Critical Thinking and Communication Skills; Research Application

5.3.2 Related Measure(s): Exit Survey; Exit survey; Exit survey; Exit survey; Exit survey

5.3.3 Responsible Person: Graduate Advisor

5.3.4 Target Date: Fall 2007

5.3.5 Priority: High Priority

5.4 Hiring additional instructional & technical staff:
The program has grown rapidly in the past two years and we are under-staffed. Hiring additional instructional and teachical support staff.

5.4.1 Related Objective(s):
Knowledge base; Effective digital methods; Technology based creativitiy; Critical Thinking and Communication Skills; Research Application

5.4.2 Responsible Person: Administrators

5.4.3 Target Date: Fall 2007

5.4.4 Priority: High Priority

5.5 Alumni tracking:
Track and survey alumni regularly to determine how well the program prepared them for their roles and responsibilities wherever they are. Set up processes and procedures for tracking and convincing alumni to keep in touch with the program.

5.5.1 Related Objective(s): Research Application

5.5.2 Related Measure(s): Achivement tracking

5.5.3 Responsible Person: Graduate Advisor

5.5.4 Target Date: Fall 2007

5.5.5 Priority: High Priority

6. Analysis:

6.1 Program/Unit Strengths:

6.1.1 Objectives/Outcomes Exceeded or Met:
The result of the end-of-semester student self-evaluation (ATEC Course Survey) are 88% - 98% positive on the first four objectives and instructors' evaluations are 67% - 100% positive on the five objectives that we have. These results indicate that we met all the objectives.

6.2 Program / Unit Weakneses:

6.2.1 Objectives / Outcomes Partially or Not Met: Out of the four Spring 07 graduates three participated in the exit survey. Two out of the three survey participants (67%) reported that the ATEC program met its goal of fostering students' abilities to describe and analyze advanced concepts, theoretical perspectives, and historical and latest trends in digital content design and development (Objective 1) and to create original digital works that demonstrate their artistic and technical skills and reflect a high degree of individual expression (Objective 3). 67% is lower than our expectation.

6.3 Other Areas Needing Improvement:
Tracking and surveying alumni regularly allow us to determine how well the program prepared our students for their

roles and responsibilities wherever they are. We need to set up processes and procedures for tracking and convincing alumni to keep in touch with the program.

We are in a process of hiring additional full-time faculty members. Having additional faculty members will allow us to develop more individualized degree plans for our MFA students and more closely advise them through their graduate studies. In addition, we are developing a recruitment plan to reach the applicants who are well prepared for the studies in our program nationally and internationally.

7. Report:

7.1 Executive Summary:

The program leading to the M.F.A. in Arts and Technology is designed both for students wishing to teach arts-and-technology-related courses in colleges and universities and for those intending to engage in professional studio or design practice. While maintaining a commitment to interdisciplinary education fusing critical with creative thinking, this program places greater emphasis on the creation and application of computer-based arts and narrative. Students must complete fifty-four semester hours of course work and a substantial advanced project.

The M.F.A. in Arts and Technology was authorized in January 2004. While still very early in the program 11 students have graduated with the M.F.A. degree in 2006. Students come to the degree program with a diverse background. Students enter with undergraduate degrees in computer science, engineering, fine art, music, design, creative writing, etc. The degree plan for the M.F.A. permits a great deal of flexibility in providing coursework in areas of both the student's strength and areas of deficiency. Students admitted with technical degrees are required to build strength on the artistic and writing side. Students admitted with undergraduate degrees in the arts must build strong technical skills and understandings. The program is enhanced by a full-time graduate faculty advisor who works directly with students to structure a degree plan with requirements to meet their professional goals.

Program Assessment

In Spring 2007 semester 119 graduate students (63 MA and 56 MFA students) were enrolleld and four graduated. In 8 regularly scheduled ATEC courses offered in Spring 2007 semester, 96 students participated in the ATEC Course Survey (end-of-semeter self-evaluation). The result of the survey is the following:

* 94% reported that the course objectives were clearly stated in the syllabus.
* 94% reported that the grading system was clearly explained in the syllabus.
* 85% reported that the course objectives had been met.
* 97% reported that they had learned fundamental concepts, theoretical perspectives, and historical and latest ternds in digital content design and development.
* 90% reported that they had gained the ability to identify and evaluate effective digital methods for visualizing artistic and technical concepts.
* 88% reported that they had created original digital works that demonstrate their artistic and technical skills and reflect a high degree of individual expression.
* 98% reported that the instructor and students in the course discussed the aesthetic and technical merits of the works created in the course.

The numbers are higher than our expectation. The result seems to indicate our students feel successful in achieving our program objectives.

Currently MFA applicants are evaluated on their statements of intent, references, transcripts, and GPAs. We are in a process of adding a portfolio requirement will give us another way to evaluate the preparedness of applicants.

Currently each MFA student selects one faculty member in the area to receive guidance on a project for ATEC 7V81 Advanced Project course. We are in a process of requiring each MFA student to select two faculty members in the area and form an advisory committee. Advisory committees will provide more guidance and ensure the quality of the MFA students` final projects.

The faculty have agreed that a stronger correlation must be made between course objectives and class assignments and that exit interviews of current student and alumni must be improved.

The faculty has begun to address each of these matters and will have recommendations for action by October 2007.

7.2 Top 3 Program/Unit Accomplishments:

There has been significant interest in the new degree and enrollment continues to grow in the program to more than 50 M.F. A. Students (2007). The M.F.A. has provided for a study for an increasing number of students Who are eager to secure a terminal degree to permit teaching at university of community college level. There are a significant (8) number of faculty teaching at local community colleges (Collin County and Dallas County) who are receiving their M.F.A. degree through this program. We have made collaborative agreements with these community colleges to facilitate the transfer of their students to UTD. Working with a large number of their faculty in the UTD program helps in this collaboration.

7.3 Research Activities or Publications:

The ATEC faculty are active in sponsored research projects and in the development of new models for games, new media publications and On-Line Worlds research.

Dean Terry has been active in the development of the Emerging Media and Communications area which is a direct

result of this research. Terry's funded projects include the creation of Virtual Therapy Environments for Physicians and Patients in Second Life. (Center for Brain Health). He also is developing a "presence" for Texas Instruments in Second Life. Dean Terry's documentary video "Subdivided" was shown on KERA, (Dallas PBS).

Dr. Mihai Nadin conducts research on the impact of gaming on the anticipatory capability of the aging (SENELUDENS) project.

Dr. Thomas Linehan is conducting research for the U.S. Army TRADOC-Futures Command and for the U.S. Joint Forces Command (INTEL/Training). Both research project include the development of multi-player games to be used in troop training. (advanced undergraduates as well as graduate students are working on both projects.) ATEC Faculty work closely with industrial partners (Samsung, Raytheon, Lockheed- Martin, Texas Instruments) in the development of joint projects of mutual interests.

Dr. Midori Kitagawa has a book contract to cover her advanced research in Optical Motion-Capture Laboratories and Animation. She is also working on a robotics project that involves in artificial intelligence and motion capture.

7.4 Instructional/Training Activities (presented or received): Many of the M.F.A. students are employed full-time by major companies in the North Texas area. The graduate offerings are scheduled after 5:00 PM and on Saturday for this reason. Many work in the communications, gaming, entertainment, technology industries. This provides for a rich context as the courses examine the emerging new technologies and their impact on future professional practice. The program offers graduate level course in game design, animation, digital sound design, motion capture, digital design, aesthetics and Interdisciplinary Research Methods. Additional graduate courses will be offered in Fall 2007 with the hiring of five additional faculty.

7.5 Public Service:

The ATEC graduate students have been active in local exhibitions as well as in community cultural activities. In 2006 students works on projects with The Dallas Museum of Art, KERA (PBS Affiliate), Dallas Film and Video Festival, Dallas Film and Video Association 24 hour Video Race (two winning teams), Dallas Women in Film and have been active in research projects with industry. (Texas Instruments, UTD Center for Brain Health and U.S. Army, Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC).

7.6 Other External Activities:

The ATEC program has actively collaborated with the University of Guanajuato and with Monterrey Tech in Mexico in the development of new B.A. degree programs that mirror the Arts and Technology Program at UTD. Both universities are beginning similar degree programs in Fall of 2007.

7.7 Contributions to UTD:

Science and the School of Arts and Humanities. It has strong collaborations with The Center for Brain Health in the School of Brain and Behavioral Science and the School of Management. These collaborations have led to joint instructional and research projects. The interdisciplinary character of the program keeps it well grounded in serving the mission of the University as a whole.The program held

ATEC Showcase, an exhibition of student projects, in Spring Semester (4/12/07). Students submit their class projects to a jury of students and faculty and the selected projects are exhibited each semester. The Showcase materials are archived and provide evidence for student and program performance evaluation. The Showcase is held before a campus-wide, local community audience and prospective employers. It is also important in the program's recruitment efforts as students from local high schools and community colleges attend.

An Annual "Computer Game Conference" is organized each year by the Student Game Developers Association (SGDA). This student-directed conference brings in major speakers for a three-day conference. The Association secures corporate support for the conference and attendance is free for all students. Typical attendance at the conference reaches several hundred attendees. The SGDA also organized a Game Development Weekend each semester in the ATEC instructional Labs. Students work for 72 hours straight to develop a game together. These games are reviewed by professionals in the local game industry at the end of each of these weekends.

7.8 Top 3 Program / Unit Challenges:

The principal challenge to the ATEC M.F.A. program is to manage its rapid growth and to monitor and insure its quality as it grows. It must have a strong industrial support base and a viable research agenda to help validate its relevance to a rapidly changing workplace. Many of the current M.F.A. students are looking for opportunities to either advance in their professional workplace or move to a new and emerging one in education or training. Growth management includes educational quality, enrollment management, recruitment of outstanding students and faculty and a structure that is responsive to the student and to society.

The on-going assessment of student performance in a creative group-oriented, laboratory of instruction will continue to be our principal challenge.

7.9 Detailed Resources Needed to Improve and Fulfill Mission: The ATEC program has a number of need to fulfill its current mission. A new specially-designed classroom and research facility is required. Immediate needs include:

* Replace outmoded (now four years old) computer workstations in ATEC 1.102. The computer classroom is scheduled heavily for students enrolled in Computer Animation and Computer Game Design / Development. It is open and in use seven days a week: $138,000

* Complete renovation of ATEC 1.302a to create a Digital Sound Laboratory. Construction is estimated to cost: $54,000.

* Twenty two computer workstations, including software: $138,000

* Convert ATEC 1.706 to a Mobile Content Development Laboratory. This laboratory will be devoted a collaborative project (with Samsung, Erickson, Nokia and Texas Instruments) to design tools for user-created mobile content: 18 computer workstations and server with Mobile Phone development software: $85,000

* Purchase five additional computer workstations and server for ATEC 1.902 (Serious Gaming Development Laboratory) to support on-going Military Training Projects with Army Intelligence and Joint Forces Command: $23,000

* Purchase six computer workstations to support new ATEC faculty members: $90,000

* Renovate ATEC 1.502 to create separate advising offices (in conformance with FERPA requirements for confidentiality): $12,000

* Add six computer workstations to ATEC 1.308 (Open Laboratory for student projects): $90,000

* Upgrade sound and projection system in ATEC Conference Room: $2,000

TOTAL REQUEST: $632,000