Rationale for submitting Art 15: Drawing I for consideration as a GE Performing and Interpreting the Arts course.

Intrinsic reasons:
Art 15: Drawing I already provides the instruction, assignments and criticism necessary for accomplishing the goals for PIA courses:

From the GE Document:
Performing and Interpreting the Arts (i.e., Music, Art, Theatre Arts) Courses satisfying this requirement develop students' understanding of the fine arts and performing arts, including music, visual arts, theatre, or dance. Such courses develop and expand perceptual faculties, develop physical practices integral to the art form, and explore the critical principles which guide artists in the area.

From the Supplemental GE Document:
While historical perspectives on an art form are desirable, these perspectives alone are not sufficient to qualify a course in this area. Students should be engaged in the production of at least a modest amount of art as a means of increasing their own abilities to produce art and of understanding the process by which artists create. On the other hand, studio courses will not generally fulfill this requirement since they do not provide sufficient reflection on the general principles underlying artistic production.

PIA goals are achieved by:
- Assignments throughout the semester that engage students in the production of art and develop the physical practices of drawing
- Lectures and demonstrations that introduce and exemplify critical standards for evaluating drawings
- Faculty and peer critiques that help students understand those critical standards
- Reflective assignments that foreground critical engagement with the process of drawing.
See the marked-up syllabus for indications of how and where these goals are described.

Programmatic reasons:
Currently, the Art department offers two courses that satisfy the PIA GE requirement: Art 1-- Principles of Art, and Art 10 -- Design I. We typically offer four sections of Art 1 (Principles of Art) and three sections of Art 10 (Design I) over the course of a year. These courses also serve as part of our departmental core. In past years, we've received regular requests to offer more sections of these courses, given the shortage of lower division GE courses in general, and the shortage of PIA courses in particular. This is how we've come to offer seven sections of these courses.

The third core course in our department is Art 15 (Drawing I). In past years, we've been somewhat reluctant to keep adding sections of Principles and Design to address pressure on the GE because of the way it impacts how we use our professors' skills and prep time. At the same time, interest in Drawing I class has been growing to the point where our first and second-year art majors have been having difficulty getting in. This is in part because Art 1 and Art 10 are "feeder courses" for the major, and when we offer 7 of those, we get more majors! (This is a nice sort of problem to have). This semester, Sue had 12 students on her waitlist, and this is without any GE incentive. Last semester the situation was similar.

In discussing how to address the needs of the GE program, as well as how to manage our own curriculum and course assignments, adding Drawing to the GE cluster, and adding one more section would keep some sort of balance for us, while, perhaps, answering some needs of the GE program.

We’ve discussed this with the provost, and received permission to add a section of Drawing II to our roster of courses. This addresses the pressure on the course for more "seats" while adding the GE designation insures that the class will be fully enrolled.