Art Education

The art education program offered by the Department of Arts Administration, Education and Policy prepares students to become art educators in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Successful completion of the program and passage of the Ohio Educator Assessment Tests secures licensure for teaching art in Ohio.

The Bachelor of Art Education (BAE) Informal option (non-licensure) prepares students for art education careers in non-traditional art education spaces such as in museums or community settings and does not require student teaching.

Pursuing Art Education at Ohio State

Admission to this program is competitive. Students interested in art education begin in either an arts-related BA or BFA track and apply to the art education program in the spring of their sophomore year.

In order to apply and be eligible for a portfolio review, students must complete the following courses and meet GPA requirements:

- Introduction to Art Education (earn a B or better)
- Digital Artmaking (earn a B or better)
- First Year English Composition (earn a C or better)
- 3.0 minimum GPA for licensure program
- 2.5 minimum GPA for informal option

Learn more about the portfolio admissions process at aaep.osu.edu/bachelor-art-education-bae.

Educational Objectives

The following four categories, their descriptions and the related outcomes are used to assess the students in the art education licensure programs (across the BAE with Licensure), from entrance to completion.

Socio-cultural Context and Community:

- The context of social, cultural, economic and political realities as related to self, community and world.
- The relationship between cultural diversity and student learning, including how cultural diversity can afford particular opportunities for the exploration of multiple perspectives.
- Teaching and learning are affected by access to the development and exchange of new media and electronic information.
- Teaching and learning is multi-modal, a life-long process, and occurs both inside and outside the context of schools.

Related Outcomes

The art teacher candidate will (1) Develop an understanding of the relationship between socio-cultural diversity and student learning, including aspects of identity such as ability, age, class, gender, race and sexuality. (2) Demonstrate a global understanding of visual culture as reflected in diverse traditions, contemporary art and visual culture. (3) Recognize the ways in which learning occurs in multiple communities, and individual and traditional school settings.

Knowledge and Experience:

- Theoretical and practical knowledge related to communications, literature, mathematics, science, history, philosophy and social sciences from transcultural perspectives.
- Content knowledge, including perspectives on social theory, new media and information technology, art theory, art history, visual culture, art production and art education that support democratic learning and critical practices.
- Methods, resources, technology and materials for designing and implementing instruction based on pedagogical content knowledge, student needs and curricular goals.
- Multiple forms of assessment, such as group critique, student self-evaluation and rubrics, and teacher candidate self-evaluation to support active learning.

Related Outcomes

The art teacher candidate will (1) Utilize curricular theories in developing art education content and instruction. (2) Employ ways of knowing derived from art criticism, artmaking, contextual methodologies, philosophical questioning, and socio-cultural perspectives. (3) Utilize constructivist theory and employ democratic approaches to teaching and learning. (4) Approach technology as both a tool and as a discourse that embodies emergent ways of conceptualizing contemporary culture.

Critical Thought and Reflection:

- Strong foundation in theoretical and conceptual frameworks that integrate research, reflection, technology and practice.
- The importance of teacher as researcher. Critical questioning of teacher thinking.
- Multiple frames of reference to help conceptualize his/her own positionality in relationship to students, schools, communities and the professional field.
- Creates strategies and solutions in relation to critical thought and reflection.

Related Outcomes

The art teacher candidate will (1) Value the diversity of perspectives through the development of abilities to critically engage one’s thinking. (2) Utilize research as a way through which to employ self-reflexivity in pedagogical contexts.

For more information, check these websites:

Art Education: aaep.osu.edu/bachelor-art-education-bae
Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu
Curriculum Sample
This is a sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a degree in art education, licensure option. Since university students need more than a specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education (GE). The GE will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GE often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GE toward their interests. This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in art education. Consult the departmental website, aaep.osu.edu, for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year:
Survey course 1
Art Foundations/Studio 18
GE courses 9
Introduction to Art Education 3
Total hours 33

Sophomore Year:
Art Studio 12
GE courses 15
Art education course 3
Total hours 30

Junior Year:
Art Studio 6
Education course 3
Art education courses 9
GE courses 9
Total hours 30

Senior Year:
Art Education course 9
Education course 3
Elective 3
Practicum* (Student Teaching) 12
Teaching Seminar* 3
Total hours 30

*Students pursuing the Informal (non-licensure) option do an internship instead of student teaching and the teaching seminar.

Practice and Evaluation:
- Instructional strategies including new media and information technology encourage students’ development of critical thinking, problem solving and performance skills.
- Effective communication skills with parents, students, colleagues and the public in general.
- Adjustments to instruction when appropriate.
- Collecting and analyzing data to improve teaching and learning.

Related Outcomes
The art teacher candidate will (1) Use a variety of instructional strategies and contemporary curricular approaches including technology to encourage students’ development as critical thinkers. (2) Recognize the ways in which teaching practices vary in different school and community settings.

Co-Curricular Opportunities
Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

These opportunities enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about other cultures, and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.
- Travel programs to Brazil, Chile, Ireland and Jamaica
- Opportunities at the Wexner Center and Urban Art Space: wexarts.org and uas.osu.edu
- Visual and Performing Arts Learning Community: go.osu.edu/vpalc

Honors & Scholars Programs
Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling and unique housing options.

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Visit honors-scholars.osu.edu to learn more about the Arts Honors Program or the Arts Interdisciplinary Scholars Program.

Career Prospects in Art Education
All graduates receive a Bachelor of Art Education, but Licensure is awarded through the successful passage of art content and edTPA assessment testing.

The BAE degree with licensure prepares students to be traditional public school art educators in grades pre-K through 12. Some students have also pursued careers in general education, museum education and curating.

The BAE Informal option prepares students for careers in art education in museums, community-based settings or non-traditional school sites.

Revised August 2015. For the most up-to-date information on the art education program, please visit aaep.osu.edu.

Contact information: