

BACHELOR of FINE ART with a CONCENTRATION in ART EDUCATION

Teaching art is an exciting, rewarding profession that allows you to work with school-age students to build their knowledge and skills in understanding the world of visual art. Contemporary K-12 art education emphasizes art production with learning in art as it relates to history of art, global art worlds, and contemporary life.

Art teachers in Maine are expected to be artist/teachers who are active in at least one art form so that they can share this "artist within" with their students, colleagues, and communities. USM's Bachelor of Fine Arts with a Concentration in Art Education (BFA-AE) includes in-depth studio experiences as well as a professional course of study in art education. Successful completion of this program includes recommendation for certification in K-12 art education in Maine.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How many credits does it take to graduate with a degree in art education?

122 credits

2. How many studio, art history, and education credits are required?

The degree requires a full studio/art history component (66 credits) and professional teacher preparation component (27 credits). There are also 29 credits of Core courses.

3. Is it possible to take only the certification courses as a special student?

No, art education program courses are reserved for degree students only. People who have a degree can apply to USM as a transfer student. Our transfer affairs office will analyze their transcript and determine what they will need to take to complete the degree. For people with BFA degrees, this usually means taking the professional education requirements and a studio course or two. The sequence of art education courses takes two years.

4. Is there a graduate level art education program at USM?

No. For a masters degree, art teachers have done the Masters in Educational Leadership or the Professional Educator Masters in the College of Education and Human Development.

5. What is the average length of time, in years, that it takes to complete the program and be certified to teach?

a. For students who start as freshmen, the average is about 5 years, but it is achievable in 4 if scheduled well. Some summer school may be needed if classes are full (closed) or not available when students need them.

b. For students who transfer in, the time is determined by how many credits transfer as meeting degree requirements as well as the program sequence. The art education program course sequence takes two years.

6. What states will graduates be qualified to teach in?

All states accept our certification as the first level of licensure, but students must apply for certification in each state where they are interested in teaching. Some states have slightly different requirements that necessitate another course or test. We have graduates in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Colorado, California, and Arizona.

7. Will students be employable right after graduation or are there state requirements they will have to meet beyond the degree?

When students graduate with this degree (finish all the degree requirements), they will be recommended for provisional certification (the first step toward full certification in Maine) and can be employed right away.

8. How many students are currently enrolled in the Art Education program?

Currently, 54 are listed in our records, but many of them are part-time students taking one class at a time. The first course, AED 221, has a cap of 15 students.

9. Is there the opportunity to study abroad within the program?

Yes, we encourage students do a semester abroad. Here's the link to our information:
<http://www.usm.maine.edu/international/>

10. Where do students do their student teaching and how many hours does it involve?

Our student teachers are placed as close to their residence as possible.

Our student teaching experience requires two semesters. There are two phases:

-- The assistantship (half-time in the school) which is 2 ½ days per week or half-days each day (this is half the time the mentor teacher is required to be there)

-- The internship (full-time in the school) which is all day every day (this is the same amount of time as the mentor teacher is required to be there).

Since art certification is K-12, student teachers work with at least two mentors (elementary and high school) but may split the year into three parts so they can also student teach in middle school.

There are four possible schedules for student teaching that you may choose from when it is time to student teach.

11. Do art education students get individual studio space at any point? If so, when?

In most cases, we have individual studio spaces within our studios for majors during their advanced classes. Printmaking and photo are so small that students have to do preliminary work in their own spaces and use the studio spaces to do final production.

12. What are the exhibition opportunities for students?

We have several exhibition spaces used by classes throughout our program and the senior show is held at our Gorham Art Gallery. There is a student show each year that any student can enter.

13. How much access do students have to the studios when not in class?

Students may work in the studios any time when there are no classes there -- up to 10:00 PM. They fill in a form to be able to use the studios on weekends.

14. Can you provide a course outline showing all classes required for graduation?

(Please see BFA-AE List of Courses and Degree Requirements below.)

15. What is the number of studio courses compared to academic requirements?

There are 22 studio and art history courses and 9 courses in the academic Core.

16. What kind of support does your college offer after graduation?

USM's Career Center can help with preparing materials needed for applications, send notices of job openings, and send packets of student information to school districts. Professors write letters of recommendation and speak for applicants.

USM's Professional Development Center has classes for teachers that provide for renewal of certification credits.

17. What is the link between the college and community?

Our programs have close ties with both the studio art community and the art education community. We do service projects with area schools. Our students exhibit their work in area galleries.

18. What kind of real world experience do you offer the students outside the classroom such as internships, etc.?

Students do service projects as part of our courses. The student teaching requirement is our internship. Students observe and interview art teachers and teach a lesson in a school as part of their preparation for student teaching.

19. How segregated are the departments? Can you utilize department facilities if you are not enrolled in a class?

Most professors allow studio use to students who are not currently enrolled in a class. Space can be limited however and enrolled students have priority.

20. What kind of security do you provide after dark from studios/classes to housing?

Our campus police are visible after dark and students can call for an escort.

21. What are you looking for in an applicant's portfolio, specifically?

Our programs don't require a portfolio for admission. But, characteristics we look for in the portfolio review required after the foundations courses are the ability to draw in a variety of ways, create successful compositions, use a number of media, and think imaginatively. The foundations courses are designed to teach these skills, so students rarely fail the portfolio review.

22. Is there merit money available for high SAT or GPA scores?

My best advice is to contact Financial Aid and ask about merit scholarships (fin-aid@usm.maine.edu). Here is our site for scholarships: <http://www.usm.maine.edu/fin/fys.pdf>

23. What are the housing options for freshman? And upperclassmen?

We have seven residence halls, all in Gorham (with a shuttle bus that links the two campuses). There are also private apartments and rooms available in the area. Here's a link to information about our residence halls: <http://www.usm.maine.edu/reslife/>

24. Are freshman allowed to have a car on campus?

Yes.

BFA-AE LIST OF COURSES AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Art Studio and Art History Requirements

Art Foundation Sequence (18 credits)

- ____ART 141F Design I
- ____ART 151F Drawing I
- ____ART 142 Design II
- ____ART 152 Drawing II
- ____ART 111G Prehistory to Medieval
- ____ART 112G Renaissance through 20th Century

Upper Level Art History Requirements (6 credits)

- ____ARH 200 or 300-level Art History Elective _____
- ____ARH 411 Philosophy of Art(taken in senior year) **or** (PHI 220 may substitute)

Art Studio Requirements (21 credits)

- ____ART 231 Ceramics
- ____ART 241 Design
- ____ART 251 Drawing
- ____ART 261 Painting
- ____ART 271 Photography
- ____ART 281 Printmaking
- ____ART 291 Sculpture

Art Studio Concentration Requirements (9 credits)

This may be taken in **either** drawing, ceramics, painting, photography, printmaking, **or** sculpture.

- ____ART 3XX Intermediate I _____
- ____ART 3XX Intermediate II _____
- ____ART 4XX Advanced I _____

Professional Education Requirements

- ____EDU 200 Education in the United States **or** EDU 210 Theoretical Foundations of Learning
- ____(*HRD 200J Human Growth and Development taken in the core)
- ____AED 221 Practicum in Art Education
- ____AED 321 Principles and Procedures in Art Education
- ____EDU 335 Exceptional Student in the Classroom
- ____AED 421 Seminar in Art Education
- ____EDU 324 Student Teaching in Art Education (Assistantship Phase 6 cr.)
- ____EDU 324 Student Teaching in Art Education (Internship Phase 6 cr.)

Liberal Arts Core Requirements

Basic Competence

- ____English (C) _____
- ____Quantitative Decision Making (D) _____
- ____Reasoning (E) _____
- ____Writing Intensive (W) _____

Methods of Inquiry/Ways of Knowing

- ____Fine Arts – Perform. (F) or History (G) **other than ART or ARH** _____
- ____Humanities – Literature (H) _____
- ____Humanities – Other Time/Culture (I) _____
- ____*HRD 200J Human Growth and Development (J)
- ____Social Science (J) _____
- ____Natural Science (K) and Lab (L) _____

Electives (12 credits in studio and/or art history)

Students are required to submit a portfolio for acceptance to the Department **prior to** enrolling in any 200-level or above studio courses.

A Senior Exhibition is required

PRAXIS I: Passing scores required before Student Teaching:
Reading (176), Writing (175), Math (175)

PRAXIS II: Passing scores required for graduation: Art Content Knowledge (151)

BFA-AE Program Standards Review: "Meets" on all standards required

*HRD 200J counts as a University Core requirement and a Professional Education requirement.

- Interview for candidacy and written permission of the instructor is required prior to student teaching for continuation in the program.
- Students must maintain a 3.0 minimum GPA in art studio, art history, and art education courses as well as a 2.5 minimum overall