



## Admission Process and Criteria

### Program Description

The Art Education Program at both the undergraduate and graduate levels emphasizes the development of students' abilities as artists and teachers and the preparation of students for their application to state departments of education for teacher licensure. Students should be committed to teaching art in public elementary and secondary schools, continuing their own creative and research efforts, and learning in the visual arts. The programs are situated in the Department of Art and have strong cooperative relationships with the School of Education and the Art History program.

### Who May Apply

The Art Education Program accepts undergraduates and graduate students for admission to the BFA and MA Art Education programs.

### Getting Started

#### Undergraduate Students:

BFA students in the Art Department who have completed the following requirements are invited to apply:

1. Art Department Foundation requirements.
2. Art 310 or Art 311 with a grade of B or higher.
3. Overall GPA of 3.0 (Art Dept. requirement for application to all BFA areas).
4. Passing scores on the Communication and Literacy Skills Tests of the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure.

Students may be admitted conditionally if they have not taken the test at the time of application. Passing scores on all sections of the test, including the Visual Arts subject area test, are required before students can enroll in student teaching.

#### Graduate Students:

Students with an undergraduate degree in art education, art, art history, or related fields and a strong interest in teaching art may apply. The MA program has two tracks, one leading to preparation for initial licensure and one leading to an advanced degree in the field.

If applicants are not licensed, passing scores on the Communications and Literacy and Skills Tests and the Visual Arts subject area test of the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure are required within the first semester of study in the program. Students may be admitted conditionally for one semester if they have not taken the test at the time of application.

#### BFA Art Education Program

The Art Education Program reviews candidates for admission to the BFA Art Education program, as do all BFA area programs in the Art Department. Admission to the program is competitive. The Art Department faculty committee will review application materials.

Application materials should include:

1. Copies of test scores on the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure for the Communication and Literacy Skills Test, or confirmation of plans for test taking.
2. Completed program application form obtained from the Art Education Office.
3. Copy of an official undergraduate transcript.

The following is considered in reviewing and accepting applicants:

1. Demonstration of excellent writing and communication skills, commitment to art education and reliability in terms of attendance, punctuality and assignment completion. Course performance in Art 310 and/or Art 311 will be reviewed.
2. Demonstration of strong foundation and background in art history and studio art through academic record of performance in studio Art and Art History coursework.
3. Artistic strength, expertise and vision as evidenced through portfolio or recent studio work.
4. Strength of academic record as evidenced by academic transcript.
5. If applicants currently are enrolled in Art 310 or 311, or Art Department Foundation courses, admission will be contingent upon satisfactory course completion.

#### MA Art Education Program

Admission to the program is competitive. The Art Department faculty committee will review application materials.

Application materials should include:

1. Slide or digital portfolio of recent studio work for review. The portfolio should contain approximately 15-25 examples of work.
2. If applicable, copies of test scores on the Massachusetts Teacher Tests or conformation of your plans for taking the test.
3. Official undergraduate transcript.

4. Letters of recommendation.
5. Resume showing previous education-related experiences.

The faculty in the Art Department will review application materials. The following will be considered in reviewing and accepting applicants:

1. Demonstration of commitment to art education.
2. Demonstration of strong foundation and background in art history and studio art through academic coursework.
3. Artistic strength, expertise, and vision as evidenced through portfolio of recent studio work.
4. Strength of academic record.

## Program of Study

The program of study for the Art Education program is focused on studio art experiences and practice, art history and criticism, and literature and research in the field of art education and education. The program of study also is shaped by communication with practicing art teachers, Massachusetts licensure standards, and recommendations of the National Art Education Association. Students accepted into art licensure programs complete 75 hours of pre-practicum experiences in public schools and student teach for a semester. Completion of the licensure programs usually requires four semesters, but may vary depending on the background of the applicants.

## Advising

Students meet with Art Education faculty to review program requirements and licensure requirements when considering, or upon, entry to the program. Both the graduate and undergraduate programs have program requirement checksheets to help monitor progress toward degree completion. Students also are given opportunities for counseling during the pre-registration advising period each semester.

## Career Opportunities & Job Placement

Art Education students receive career counseling and information from a variety of sources. The Art Department receives information about teaching positions and this information is posted in the department. The Educator Licensure Advisory Council of the School of Education has instituted a job fair for students and career workshops. The Art Education program participates in these efforts. Students prepare a professional teaching portfolio as part of their student teaching coursework and meet with career center professionals about regional job fairs (MERC Conference) and credential preparation. Additionally, students are encouraged to include internships in related areas, such as museums, as part of their academic coursework.

**For further information, please contact:**

Martha Taunton  
 Art Department  
 University of Massachusetts  
 Amherst, MA 01003  
 (413) 545-1902  
 E-mail at: [mtaunton@art.umass.edu](mailto:mtaunton@art.umass.edu)

### LICENSURE INFORMATION AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

**Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL):** The MTEL is required for licensure by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The test has two parts: the Communication and Literacy Skills (C&LS) test and the Subject area test(s). The University's policy is that:

- Undergraduates must achieve a passing score on the C&LS test as a prerequisite for admission.
- Post-baccalaureate and graduate students must achieve a passing score on the C&LS test in their first semester of study.
- All students must pass the Subject test(s) (if one has been developed for that licensure field) before enrolling in the practicum.

**Licensure Application Process:** The Educator Licensure Office (ELO) in the School of Education coordinates the licensure application process for all University Educator Preparation program students who have completed all licensing requirements. The ELO provides information to guide students in using the Electronic Licensure and Recruitment system (ELAR), a system in which students apply for educator licenses online. The ELAR system requires a student to apply for his/her license online (including the payment of license fees) and send an official copy of his/her transcript to the ELO in Room 130 Furcolo Hall (being sure that the transcript includes the "Institutional Recommendation for Educator Licensure"). After individuals have applied online, the ELO endorses/recommends candidates for licensure via ELAR. The University Licensure Officer also assists students in completing applications for licensure in other states, as necessary.

**Career and Job Search Assistance:** The School of Education, in collaboration with Career Services, sponsors a Job Fair for prospective educators. The Job Fair draws school districts from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and New Hampshire. In addition, Career Services provides information and registration for the Massachusetts Educational Recruiting Consortium (MERC), a recruitment fair attended by school districts from across the nation.

*The University of Massachusetts Amherst prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, gender, sexual preference, age, marital status, national origin, mental or physical handicap, political belief or affiliation, membership or non-membership in any organization, or veteran status, in any aspect of the admission or treatment of students or in employment.*