Master of Arts in Visual Art Education

The Visual Art Education M.A. Program includes advanced professional and scholarly study for art educators. The Program leads to the Master of Arts degree and for those with baccalaureate degrees in art-related fields who wish to become art educators in public schools, the art teaching licensure, PK-12. Excellent facilities, strong library holdings, and a faculty dedicated to both teaching and research assure students of a challenging and professional graduate preparation. Full time students in the VAE Graduate Program are eligible for competitive funding in the form of scholarships and a graduate teaching assistantship. Additional details may be found on the Visual Art Education website (https://art.drupal.ku.edu/visual-art-education-program).

Graduate Licensure Program in Art Education

The VAE Graduate Licensure Program (GLP) combines graduate and undergraduate courses including a semester-long student teaching experience that help students obtain their initial teaching license (PreK-12). The GLP is for individuals who have completed baccalaureate degrees in studio art, design, art history, or other art-related fields. Students must apply and be admitted to the Visual Art M.A. Program to be eligible to obtain their teaching license. Graduate level courses taken as part of the GLP count towards completion of the M.A. degree.

Admission to Graduate Studies

An applicant seeking to pursue graduate study in the College may be admitted as either a degree-seeking or non-degree seeking student. Policies and procedures of Graduate Studies govern the process of Graduate admission. These may be found in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies) section of the online catalog.

Please consult the Departments & Programs (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences) section of the online catalog for information regarding program-specific admissions criteria and requirements. Special admissions requirements pertain to Interdisciplinary Studies degrees, which may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

Graduate Admission - M.A. Visual Art Education

Application deadlines:

- December 1 - Spring admission
- May 1 - Fall admission

All applicants to graduate programs at KU must meet the minimum requirements listed in the Admission to Graduate Study (http://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study) policy. Visual Art Education M.A. applicants are also evaluated based on the following items:

- Past Visual Art, Visual Art Education, and Art History coursework completed at the undergraduate and/or graduate level.
- Three letters of recommendation from former or current instructors and/or those able to recommend the applicant on the basis of professional experience (e.g., principals, supervisors, or former employers). The letters of recommendation must address the applicant’s potential to take initiative as a graduate student and ability to be a self-starter.
- The Graduate Student Information Questionnaire (https://art.drupal.ku.edu/sites/art.drupal.ku.edu/files/docs/MA%20VAE%20Applicant%20Questionnaire.pdf).
- Graduate Licensure applicants only: Praxis 1 test scores.

M.A. Degree Requirements

The Master of Arts Degree in Visual Art Education provides students with a broad knowledge of the history, philosophy, research methods, and current practices in the field. The program requires a minimum of 30 credit hours taken at the graduate level. Students complete a balance of visual art education courses including VAE 800, VAE 869, and VAE 875. The remainder of coursework is completed in related fields such as history of art, education, museum studies, psychology, etc. which becomes a student’s emphasis. This emphasis, selected in consultation with a VAE faculty advisor, provides a broad, interdisciplinary preparation in art education.

Thesis, Project, or Examination Options

To integrate and apply coursework, students select from three options as their final academic activity: thesis, project, or examination. A thesis is an independent research investigation of a topic related to visual art education using quantitative, qualitative, historical or philosophical methods. The project option involves application of theory and principles of visual art education in an instructional setting. The final option, a written examination taken during the final semester of enrollment, requires students to demonstrate their knowledge of current issues in the field. Students selecting the examination option complete a total of 37 credit hours for the degree while the thesis and project options require a total of 30 credit hours.

Further details about degree requirements and the Visual Art Education M.A. Program can be found on the Department’s website (https://art.drupal.ku.edu/visual-art-education-program).