

GRADUATE HANDBOOK

Graduate Studies in Art Education

**Master's Degree in Art Education
Graduate Certification in Art Education**

Information for Graduate Students in Visual Art Education

The material contained in this handbook includes the requirements as specified by both the Graduate School and the Department of Design. The Department of Design offers the Masters of Arts (M.A.) degree in Visual Art Education. Within that program, students can pursue the Graduate Certification Track to teach in the public schools. It is very important that you familiarize yourself thoroughly with the rules and regulations specified by the Graduate School available online at:

<http://www.ur.ku.edu/acadpb/gradcat/contents.html>.

The above address also furnishes visual art education programmatic information such as coursework, requirements and other important material. Your thorough knowledge of the Visual Art Education graduate program will ensure your good standing and enable you to fulfill all the requirements of the course of studies. Questions can be answered by contacting the Department of Design, 300 Art & Design at (785)-864-4401.

Part I - Curriculum

Master's Degree

The Visual Art Education graduate program strives to advance students' understanding of art education with a complement of courses that explores historical studies of art education, art criticism, studio work and aesthetics. An important goal of the curriculum is the development of a broad perspective of art education through multicultural studies, cognitive approaches in teaching and learning, assessment in teaching and technological issues that arise in contemporary society. Students' programs are tailored to their interests for specialties in areas such as studio, art history, evaluation and art museum education. **You must contact the Visual Art Education program's graduate advisor prior to submitting an application for an art museum education focus.**

Entrance Requirements

A graduate degree in art education represents professional advancement. Personal commitment is important for this process to be successful, that is, an awareness and acceptance of the professional standards of the field of study. The Department of Design has been authorized by the University and the Kansas Board of Regents to offer the Master of Arts (M.A.) in Visual Art Education. Entrance into the M.A. degree program requires a bachelor's degree, from an accredited institution, which encompasses a minimum of 40 semester hours in fine arts studio (courses in drawing, painting, sculpture, design, printmaking, ceramics, metalsmithing, weaving, lettering, commercial art, graphic design, constructive design, etc.), 9 hours in history of art and 8 hours in visual art education. Applicants must have an overall undergraduate GPA \geq 3.00 on a 4-point scale.

Application Requirements (for M.A. and Graduate Certification students)

1. The completed Application for Admission form. The School prefers that you apply online. A paper application is also included with this information. **GRE scores are not required.** You may access the online application at:

<http://www.ur.ku.edu/~graduate>

2. One official copies of transcript(s) of all college and university records, sent directly from the institution to the

Director of Graduate Studies
Art and Design Building
1467 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 300
Lawrence, KS 66045-7531

3. Application fee – the School prefers that you pay the fee online at:

<http://www.ur.ku.edu/~graduate>

Or, if you are submitting a paper application you may pay by check or money order payable to the University of Kansas. Application forms submitted without a fee will not be processed.

Graduate Application Type	Domestic	International
Degree-Seeking Paper Application Fee:(non-refundable processing fee in a check or money order in U.S. currency)	\$55.00	\$60.00
Degree-Seeking Online Application Fee: (via collegenet)	\$45.00	\$55.00
Non-Degree Seeking Paper Application:	\$30.00	\$30.00

The additional application materials, that is, the reference letters, the Graduate Student Information Questionnaire described below, and paper applications must be sent directly to the following address:

Director of Graduate Studies
Art and Design Building
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Lawrence, KS 66045-7531

Additional materials include:

4. A minimum of three letters of recommendation from former or current instructors and/or those able to recommend you on the basis of professional

experience (that is, principals, supervisors and former employers). **The letters of recommendation must address your potential to take initiative as graduate student and ability to be a self-starter.** Be advised that letters are not returned.

5. Graduate Student Information Questionnaire - this enables the faculty to ascertain students' academic and professional goals and assists in the understanding of the candidate about master's level study. Completion of this questionnaire is required for admission. It is located at the back of this handbook.
6. Application deadlines:

December 1 (or the first business day of December) - Spring admission

May 1 (or the first business day of May) - Summer or Fall admission

It is recommended that the reference letters and Graduate Student Information Questionnaire be submitted in one envelope.

International Degree-Seeking Applicants

The following must be included with application materials and sent to the Director of Graduate Studies:

A statement of financial resources. Immigration regulations require every international student to verify the availability of financial resources to pay for all education, living and other expenses before the visa form is issued. The amount needed for the 2008 academic year is US \$21,521.00. **This amount is subject to change without prior notice.** Please see the International Degree-Seeking Application for Admission form for further details.

Proof of proficiency in the English language. This proficiency can be verified by:

- Verification that the applicant's native language is English, as shown to a high degree of probability by citizenship in an English-speaking country such as Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand or English-speaking provinces in Canada.
- Graduation with a baccalaureate degree or higher from a program taught in English at an international institution. Verification of English instruction from the university is required as part of the application and must be included as part of the application package. Verification may be from a catalog or program description brochure or an official letter

from a department chair, dean or other university official stipulating English language as the method of instruction. The program considering admission may also conduct a phone interview with the prospective student.

- Receipt of the applicant's TOEFL or IELTS (academic format) scores achieved no more than two years before the semester of admission.

Computer-based TOEFL-All parts at least 20

Paper-based TOEFL-All parts at least 53

IELTS-Minimum band score 5.5 with no score below 5.0

Admitted students with any part of the computer-based TOEFL below 23 or an essay score below 5, or with any part of the paper-based TOEFL below 57 or an essay score below 5, or with an IELTS band score below 6.5 or any score below 6.0, will be required to take the Applied English Center Proficiency Test upon arrival at KU and may be required to enroll in one or more Applied English Center courses. For additional information, please go to <http://www.ku.edu/~oip-/Students/Combined/minimum.shtml>.

Please note: Admissions decisions cannot be made until all application materials have been received.

Possible Exceptions

1. Students who lack 12 or fewer hours in the required undergraduate course specifications will be admitted, if other requirements are met, but they must take sufficient undergraduate courses to compensate for their deficiency.
2. Students who lack more than 12 hours of required undergraduate course specifications are not admissible as graduate students. They may enroll as special undergraduate students to compensate for their deficiency. Once the deficiency is removed, they will be considered for admission as graduate students if the other requirements are met.
3. Students with a GPA < 3.00 but > 2.75 may be admitted as probationary students if other requirements are met. They must achieve a GPA > 3.00 in the first 8 semester hours of graduate coursework.
4. Students with a GPA < 2.75 will be admitted as provisional students if they can document at least one academic year of successful full-time contractual teaching experience. Provisional students must complete, within a time period no longer than two consecutive summer sessions, a 12-hour trial program. A GPA > 3.00 is expected in the trial program.

Degree Requirements

The degree requires a minimum of 30 graduate hours (Exam Option, 37 credit hours). At least 15 hours are in Art and Design courses, including courses in visual art education. The student must earn 12 hours of the 15 hours selected in consultation with the advisor. Please refer to the University of Kansas Graduate Catalog for a complete listing and description of courses.

A total of 15 and no more than 18 hours should be taken in Visual Art Education and no more than 20 in Fine Arts. The remainder of coursework can be taken in related fields such the history of art, education, psychology, etc. This degree is appropriate for the student desiring to improve his or her fine arts knowledge as well as research skills in art education. At least 20 of the 30 hours (Exam Option, 37 credit hours) must be in regularly scheduled classes. Graduate level studio art and design courses listed as "Special Problems:" count as regularly scheduled classes for this regulation. The student must complete a master's thesis, master's research project or a written or oral exam.

Please note: Any undergraduate deficiencies arising from a lack of sufficient breadth in fine arts studio, history of art or visual art education will necessitate undergraduate coursework in addition to the graduate requirements.

Thesis, Project and Exam Options

Selection of option must be made in consultation with the student's advisor.

Thesis option. The student completes the core and elective requirements and implements an independent experimental, descriptive, historical or philosophical investigation of some topic related to visual art education. Copies of the thesis are deposited in the university library system.

Project option. The student completes the core and elective requirements and documents the application of theory, principles and/or products of visual art education in a pedagogical setting.

Exam option. Students would take a total of 37 credit hours in required core and elective courses with 36 credits taken in regularly scheduled classes. Students also take the one credit hour course, VAE 890 Preparation for the M.A. Examination, which is devoted to preparing and completing a final exam (written or oral). The exam will require that students demonstrate their knowledge of current issues of the field.

Graduate Certification in Art Education

Students who seek to be art teachers in the public schools K-12 may obtain certification as part of the Master's degree. The certification track is designed for individuals with an especially strong academic and artistic background with a completed bachelor's degree in studio art, design, art history, or other art-related fields. Coursework is taken at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Upon completion of this program, individuals will be recommended by the university for K-12 art licensure in Kansas and will have earned a significant amount of coursework required for the M.A. degree in art education.

Entrance Requirements

Students are eligible if they hold an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution and a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale. In addition, students must earn scores of 172 or higher on the Writing portion, 172 on the Mathematics portion, and 173 on the Reading portion of the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) published by the Educational Testing Service. The KU Visual Art Education program prepares students for the comprehensive teaching of art (K-12). Each individual completes a specified distribution of studio courses in art

and design and a substantial amount of study in art history. Each individual also completes an emphasis in a studio area. Individuals who hold undergraduate art degrees most likely will have had much of the necessary study in studio art, design and art history. They may also have met some of the general studies requirements. After the applicant meets all requirements for admission into the program, a detailed transcript analysis is made to determine the course of studies.

Prospective students must meet all application requirements for the Master's Degree to be considered for this program. For further information about the visual art education Graduate Certification Program, contact the Department of Design at (785) 864-4401.

Part II – General Information for Graduate Students

Advising

New students must consult with the visual art education graduate coordinator for purposes of initial enrollment, unless prior arrangements have been made. A permanent advisor should be chosen to handle subsequent enrollments; he/she may suggest an alternate thesis advisor in accordance with the student's research topic. **Each student is ultimately responsible for being informed of and meeting all requirements of the Department of Design, the Graduate School and the University of Kansas.**

Thesis Committee

Students completing a Master's thesis must form a committee comprised of three faculty members with at least two members of the University Graduate Faculty. Two committee members shall come from the VAE faculty. Committee members will be selected and appointed on the basis of their knowledge as it relates to the thesis. Each student will recommend qualified graduate faculty members for appointment to his or her thesis committee. The final decision for committee membership will be made by the advisor in conjunction with the student. The committee chairperson shall also be the student's advisor and shall be the faculty member with whom the student is enrolled in thesis hours.

Members of each thesis committee will serve following their appointment until the student graduates. After the initial appointment of the committee members and prior to enrollment in thesis hours, the student may request additional faculty appointments that must be approved by the advisor.

Enrollment Requirements

Full-time enrollment for graduate students is 9 credits hours per semester or 6 hours for summer semesters. Students are not typically allowed to enroll in more than 16 hours per semester or more than 8 hours for summer sessions. KU provides online timetables and enrollment. For information and procedures for online enrollment, see:

www.registrar.ku.edu/timetable.

To obtain your online I.D., consult the following address:

<http://students.ku.edu/>.

Grading

The Graduate School uses a grading system that consists of: A, B, C, D, and F. Only grades of A and B are satisfactory passing grades. Grades of C or below are not satisfactory; and a grade of C- is not considered a passing grade; D and F indicate failing graduate work. Grades of C-, D, or F, will not be applied to a degree. Thesis hours will be graded with a P signifying participation. In the credit hours toward a Master's degree the P remains until the last semester when a letter grade (A, B, C, D, or F) is given to designate the quality of the final product. For additional information concerning grading and academic standing, refer to the online catalog at: <http://www.ur.ku.edu/Acadpub/gradcat/contents.html>

Application for Degree

Students must complete an Application for Degree (AFD form) the semester during which they expect to graduate. Submit an application online; go to: <http://www.ur.ku.edu> and access enroll&pay>LearnerServices>Academics>Apply for Degree. Please contact the School of Fine Arts or the Office of the University Registrar, 785-864-4423, if you have any questions. If completion of the program is postponed, another form must be submitted otherwise graduation may be delayed.

Faculty

Elizabeth Kowalchuk
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Professor Kowalchuk received her M.F.A. in painting at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and a Ph.D. in art education at Ohio State University. She has studied art education with Judith Koroscik, Arthur Efland, Terry Barrett, E. Louis Lankford and Michael Parsons. Dr. Kowalchuk is interested in issues related to meaningful art teaching and learning. Her research investigates the differences between novice and expert art teachers with emphasis on the relationship between understanding and practice. She has published in *Research Methods and Methodologies for Art Education*, *Arts Education Policy Review*, and *Working Papers in Art Education*.

Denise L. Stone
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Professor Stone received her Ph.D. in art education at the Florida State University and her M.Ed. in art education at the Pennsylvania State University. She has had 10 years of teaching at the elementary and secondary levels in public and private schools. Dr. Stone's research interests encompass museum education, museum-school relationships and children's personal collections as they relate to museum practices. Her publications are included in *Studies in Art Education*, *School Arts*, *The Journal of Museum Education*, *Curator* and *Arts Education Policy Review*. She published a book for Davis Publications in 2000 titled *Using the Art Museum*.

Spring 2007
University of Kansas
Visual Art Education
Department of Design
School of Fine Arts

GRADUATE STUDENT INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Date: Proposed Starting Date:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Instructions: Please word-process responses to the items below. Your responses must accompany your graduate application for admission into the graduate program.

1. What course of study do you seek? Please check one of the following:
 - MA -Traditional Art Education Emphasis
 - MA - Art Museum Education Emphasis (**You must contact the Visual Art Education graduate advisor prior to submitting an application for this emphasis.**)
 - MA and Graduate Certification
 - Graduate Certification only

Note: Please see the MA handbook for specific information about these programs.

2. Write a two-page essay discussing why you wish to pursue this particular course of study.
3. Discuss your abilities to take initiative as a graduate student. Please provide specific examples of how you would approach academic responsibilities as a self-starter.
4. Graduate students learn to problem solve during the course of their graduate of studies. Please read the following scenario:

Graduate school involves much planning and attention to details. It is important for students to obtain the assistance of advisors in developing a course of study to best suit their needs and professors work closely with students during this process. For instance, Jerry, as a new student, has numerous questions concerning the Master's degree and is eager to graduate in order to meet a personal goal. Jerry, as a meticulous planner, sought to know all details of every portion of her course of study, drafted a long list of issues to address including the transfer of credits taken at another university to shorten her time studying. She also wished to improve her research and writing skills, important for academic success. Jerry's new department has several advisors with whom she could meet. Because she has a pleasant personality, it is easy for her to see all professors almost on a weekly basis to discuss her questions and show drafts of her class assignments. She then sent cheerful emails asking for clarification on certain issues. Please comment on Jerry's approach to graduate school.

5. Please provide additional comments that will help us know you better as a professional. This could include teaching experience or other types of information that you think is pertinent.