ART EDUCATION, B.S.

HOW TO GET IN

PROGRAM ADMISSION OVERVIEW

The art education program at the University of Wisconsin–Madison follows admission procedures intended to result in an academically qualified student body as varied as possible in terms of academic strengths, life experiences, and professional experiences. As the population of our nation’s public schools becomes increasingly multicultural, there is a growing need for teachers from diverse backgrounds. The art education faculty encourages qualified applicants from underrepresented groups to apply for admission to the art education program. In addition, the faculty wishes to broaden the field of art education; individuals representing a wide range of visual arts and design are encouraged to apply. A diverse cohort of students enriches the art education teacher certification program as well as the profession. Undergraduate art education students generally apply to the professional part of the art education degree program in their sophomore year.

ENTERING THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

NEW AND CURRENT UW–MADISON STUDENTS

New freshmen and transfer students interested in art education are admitted directly to the School of Education with a “pre-professional” classification. This classification indicates that a student is interested in a program offered by the school, but has not applied and been admitted to the professional program. Students interested in art education receive a “pre-professional” classification of PAED.

On-campus students wishing to be admitted to the school while working on eligibility requirements and application can apply for admission to the School of Education by completing a Pre-Professional Application. A minimum GPA of 2.5, based on UW–Madison coursework, is required to transfer into the school. This GPA may be modified by the Last 60 Credits rule (detailed below (p. 2)). It is not necessary to be a “pre-professional” student before applying to a professional program. Admission as a “pre-professional” student does not guarantee admission to the professional program.

It is strongly recommended that students interested in a School of Education program meet with an academic advisor in the School of Education Student Services office, 139 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall. Students may call 608-262-1651 to schedule an appointment with an advisor. Prospective art education majors should meet with the art education program coordinator, Dr. Mary Hoeffler.

PROSPECTIVE TRANSFER STUDENTS

Prospective transfer students should meet as early as possible with the art education program coordinator and with an advisor at Education Academic Services. Studio and aesthetics coursework taken at another institution may need to be evaluated by the art department advisor or a faculty member in the art department. Because students interested in art education must meet minimum eligibility requirements and apply within strict deadlines, prospective transfer students should meet with an advisor in the School of Education Student Services office as soon as possible.

Applicants not already enrolled on the UW–Madison campus must be admissible to the university to enroll in a School of Education program. Admission to UW–Madison requires a separate application and admission process. See UW–Madison Office of Admissions and Recruitment (http://admissions.wisc.edu/) for application information.

STUDENTS WITH A PREVIOUS DEGREE

Prospective applicants who already hold an undergraduate degree are strongly encouraged to meet with an advisor in the School of Education Student Services office in advance of their application. Consultations with advisors are available in person or via telephone; to schedule, call 608-262-1651.

Applicants who already hold an undergraduate degree are admitted to the School of Education as either an Education Special student or a second degree student, depending on their interests and academic background. Admission as an Education Special student indicates that the student has an interest in pursuing certification in a subject area studied during the initial degree; another degree is not awarded for this “certification only” coursework. Second degree students are seeking a second, unrelated degree from the School of Education, which may, or may not, include teacher certification. Candidates for limited-enrollment programs must meet all admission eligibility requirements for the program and must compete with the eligible applicants for program admission. More information is available here (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#policiesandregulationstext).

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

Program admission occurs once a year, effective in the fall. Selection is made the previous spring. Students who already possess a B.S., BFA, or advanced degree in visual arts and seek certification in art education follow the same application procedures. Resources limit the number of students who can be served by the UW–Madison art education teacher education program. In recent years the art education program has been able to accommodate all qualified applicants; however, if the number of qualified applicants to art education exceeds program resources, admission will become limited and competitive. If this happens, meeting or surpassing the minimum eligibility criteria will not guarantee admission.

PROGRAM ADMISSION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Requirements and selection criteria may be modified from one application/admission period to the next. Potential applicants should consult the School of Education’s Undergraduate Admissions (http://www.education.wisc.edu/soe/academics/undergraduate-students/academic-program-admission/) page for application deadlines and detailed information regarding current eligibility requirements and selection criteria prior to submitting an application.

To be considered for admission, students must:

• complete at least 54 credits of transferable college-level coursework to include 20 credits of Studio Art, and 6 credits of the Aesthetics requirement. This coursework must be completed by the end of the spring semester of the application year.

• earn a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale, based on all transferable college coursework attempted at
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UW–Madison and other campuses. Transcripts for all college-level coursework (excluding courses taken at UW–Madison) must accompany the program application and supporting materials.

- prepare a portfolio. Applicants should include images of their artwork that best represents their skills, knowledge, and interests in art.
- submit all program application form(s), transcripts, portfolio, and other related application materials by the application deadline specified on the School of Education’s Undergraduate Admissions (http://www.education.wisc.edu/soe/academics/undergraduate-students/academic-program-admission/) page.
- Note: In previous years, applicants to teacher education programs were required to submit scores from one of the following exams: ACT, SAT, Praxis I/PPST, Praxis Core, or GRE. Under emergency rules announced by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, no applicants need to submit scores for any exam as a component of their application to this program. The exam requirement was officially removed by the School of Education on November 15, 2017.

A comprehensive cumulative GPA of all college-level, transferrable coursework attempted on both the UW–Madison campus coursework and coursework taken at any other colleges or universities may be calculated for the exclusive purpose of establishing an applicant’s eligibility for consideration. Both the comprehensive cumulative GPA and the comprehensive cumulative GPA based on a student’s last 60 credits may be calculated. See Last 60 Credits Rule (detailed below). If admitted, students must earn the minimum cumulative GPA for UW–Madison coursework established by their program and the School of Education each semester after admission.

**Last 60 Credits Rule**

Two grade point averages will be calculated to determine candidates’ eligibility to programs. GPAs will be calculated using

- all transferable college level coursework attempted, and
- the last 60 credits attempted.

The higher GPA of these two will be used for purposes of determining eligibility. If fewer than 60 credits have been attempted, all credits will be used to calculate the GPA. Graded graduate coursework will also be used in all GPA calculations. ("Attempted" coursework indicates coursework for which a grade has been earned.) More information regarding this rule is available here (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/education/#policiesandregulations).

**PROGRAM SELECTION**

All qualified applicants will be reviewed individually by the art education program coordinator and selection committee. The committee will consider numerous factors when selecting a diverse student cohort, including the following:

- Grade point average (GPA)
- Course selection and performance
- Life experiences (written statement)
- Supporting materials
- Consideration of student’s race, ethnicity, culture, geographic and economic background.

Candidates will be provisionally admitted and notified of their admission status. The offer of admission will specify a deadline for acceptance of this offer. Applicants must respond to the School of Education Student Services office by this date; those who do not will forfeit their position. Admission is not final until the office receives the acceptance and program eligibility is confirmed through spring semester grades.

**CRIMINAL BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION**

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is required by law to conduct a background check on each applicant for a Wisconsin educator license. This check is intended to determine if the applicant has engaged in any behavior that endangers the health, welfare, safety or education of PK–12 pupils. Local school districts also will conduct criminal background checks routinely on teacher education students prior to the start of in-classroom field work. Admitted applicants to any teacher education program who have a positive background check should confer with the Academic Dean’s Office (Room 139 Education, 1000 Bascom Mall) about the potential impact of this on field placements and licensure.

An individual who is deemed ineligible to participate in field or clinical experiences based on the results of their background check may not be able to complete the requirements for their degree or certification. Students with questions about these processes should contact the academic dean in the School of Education Student Services office.