

B.F.A. in Art Education Program Handbook

2026-2027



About this Handbook

This handbook is designed to help current and prospective B.F.A. Art Education students navigate program requirements, policies, and procedures. Use it as a guide for planning your coursework and successfully completing the degree. Throughout the handbook, you will find important information, resources, and links to forms that you will need during your time in the program.

While Art Education faculty and staff are here to support you, you are ultimately responsible for understanding and fulfilling all requirements of the UNT College of Visual Arts and Design, the UNT College of Education and the university.

Be sure to check your UNT email regularly for important updates from the Department of Art Education, the College of Education and your advisors.

We are excited to support you throughout your journey to becoming an art educator and are committed to helping you succeed.

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About the Program

The Art Education Program prepares innovative educators and leaders for a dynamic and evolving educational landscape. Grounded in critical inquiry, creative research, transformative making, and reflective practice, the program encourages students to think, experiment, act, and expand what art education can mean in the 21st century.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts, B.F.A., in Art Education combines coursework in studio art, art history, curriculum design, pedagogy, educational technology, and supervised field experiences to prepare students for careers in a variety of educational settings. Throughout the program, students develop the knowledge, skills, and professional dispositions needed to plan and deliver meaningful art instruction, create supportive learning environments, engage diverse learners, and demonstrate professionalism in educational practice.

Graduates are prepared for careers in K–12 schools, museums, community arts organizations, higher education, and other arts-related educational settings. The B.F.A. in Art Education leads to Texas EC–12 Art Teacher Certification.

Students who already hold a bachelor's degree and are seeking teacher certification should explore the Master of Arts in Art Education Option 3, which provides an alternative pathway to Texas EC–12 Art Teacher Certification.

Art Education Faculty & Staff

[CVAD Department & Programs Directory](#) | [Art Education Online Directory](#)

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UNT CVAD Dean's Office

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CVAD Milnes Advising Center

Art Building, Room 232 | CVAD.Advising@unt.edu | Phone: 940-565-2216

Heather Close, Director, Milnes Advising Center

Heather.Close@unt.edu, Art Building, Room 230

Please book appointments in [Navigate](#).

UNT College of Education

Educator Preparation Office

Matthews Hall 218 | COE-ADEP@unt.edu | Phone: 940-565-4226

Clinical Practice Office

COE-ClinicalPractice@unt.edu | Phone: 940-565-4226

TEGES Success Office

Matthews Hall 208 | COE-TSO@unt.edu | Phone: 940-369-8601

Applying to UNT CVAD

[Apply for admission to the University of North Texas](#) and select the **B.F.A. in Art Education** as your intended program of study within the College of Visual Arts and Design. Students enter the program as an **Art Education pre-major** and will complete the required steps to progress into the major.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

UNT offers a variety of financial aid and scholarship options to help students fund their education, including scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study opportunities. Visit [UNT's Financial Aid and Scholarships website](#) to explore available resources and learn more about applying for aid. Also, visit the [CVAD Paying for College webpage](#) for more information.

Required Coursework

The B.F.A. in Art Education degree requires a minimum of 120 credit hours, distributed across the following areas.

- [University Core Curriculum](#)
- [CVAD Foundations](#): 12 credit hours
- Advanced Studio (ASTU) and/or Art History (ARTH): 42 credit hours
- At least 24 of these credit hours must be completed at UNT
- Art Education (ARTE): 27 credit hours
- Education coursework: 15 credit hours

To help plan degree progress, the next section provides an overview of pre-major and major requirements, followed by a recommended four-year curriculum guide.

Required Coursework for Pre-Majors

Pre-Art Education majors must complete at least 60 hours of college courses with a GPA of 2.75 or higher — both UNT and overall, including the following courses with a grade of C or higher for admission to the **B.F.A. in Art Education, ARTE, major**.

- ART 1600: Foundations: Perception and Translation
- ART 1700: Foundations: Space
- ART 1800: Foundations: Narrative and Representation
- ART 1900: Foundations: Systems and Transformations
- ART 2350: Art History Survey I
- ART 2360: Art History Survey II
- ART 2370: Art History Survey III
- ASTU 2101 or 2102: Beginning Ceramics

And at least two from

- ASTU 2201: Beginning Drawing and Painting: Painting I
- ASTU 2300: Introduction to Printmaking
- ASTU 2801 or 2802: Beginning Sculpture
- ASTU 3202: Intermediate Drawing & Painting: Figure Drawing I

Students who have completed most pre-major requirements may enroll in **ARTE 3753: Elements of Art Education Practice**. Any remaining pre-major requirements may be completed concurrently, and enrollment in ARTE 3753 will initiate an eligibility review and degree plan audit by the CVAD Milnes Advising Center.

Admittance to the Major and the Teacher Education Program

Students enrolled in **ARTE 3753: Elements of Art Education Practice** who meet all admission requirements stated above will be notified of acceptance to major and receive a completed degree audit/plan to facilitate their application to the College of Education Teacher Education Program.

Note: Do not attempt to complete the CVAD TEP application on your own.

In class, students will complete the **College of Education's [Teacher Education Program](#)** application for official admission into the program. Please note that admission to the major does not guarantee admission to the TEP.

The TEP Admissions Process

1. Student submits application and completes interview questionnaire
2. Student Advising Office checks eligibility
3. Faculty reviews questionnaire
4. Offer letter sent to student
5. Student accepts offer and becomes a teacher candidate

Also during **ARTE 3753: Elements of Art Education Practice**, through the UNT College of Education, students will complete the **Early Field Experience & Clinical Teaching Application** on the [COE's Clinical Practice webpage](#) to select their top three district choices from which they will complete their field experiences — observation hours and clinical practice.

UNT CVAD Art Education District Partners

1. Aubrey ISD
2. Dallas ISD
3. Denton ISD
4. Frisco ISD
5. Lewisville ISD
6. Little Elm ISD
7. Northwest ISD
8. Plano ISD
9. Richardson ISD

Required Coursework for Majors

Once admitted as an Art Education major, students must complete the following coursework in addition to any university core and/or advanced electives not completed as a pre-major.

Art Education Coursework

- ARTE 3753: Elements of Art Education Practice
 - Prerequisite: Admittance to major
 - Includes Field Experience: Team-teaching at the UNT Center for Young Children (CYC)
- ARTE 3770: Intersections of Technology
- ARTE 4790: Radical Imaginings
- ARTE 4708: Lab School
 - Prerequisite: ARTE 3753 & Admittance to TEP
 - Includes Field Requirement: 50 observation hours (25 hours to be completed in an elementary school setting (K-6), and 25 hours to be completed in a secondary school setting (7-12))
- ARTE 4760: Cultural Intersections
- ARTE 4785: Teaching Art to Exceptional Learners
- ARTE 4750: Elementary Art Education Practices
 - Prerequisite: ARTE 4708
 - Corequisite: Clinical Teaching: Elementary
 - Includes TExES Practice Exam Requirement
- ARTE 4101: Seminar
- ARTE 4780: Secondary Art Education Practices
 - Prerequisite: ARTE 4750
 - Corequisite: Clinical Teaching: Secondary
 - Includes TExES Exam Requirement

Education Coursework

- EDCI 3800: Professional Issues in Teaching
- HDFS 3123: Child Development for Non-Majors
- EDEE 4101: Clinical Teaching: Elementary
 - Corequisite: ARTE 4750
 - Includes Field Requirement: 300+ hours to be completed in an elementary school setting (K-6).
- EDCI 4060: Content Area Reading
- EDCI 4138: Clinical Teaching: Secondary
 - Corequisite: ARTE 4780
 - Includes Field Requirement: 300+ hours to be completed in a secondary school setting (7-12).

Clinical Practice

The UNT CVAD Art Education Program offers a unique year-long clinical practice experience. During your final two semesters, you will begin each semester in an art education methods course and complete the semester in a school-based clinical placement.

All students beginning clinical practice are required to attend the Clinical Practice Orientation hosted by the College of Education at the start of the semester. Throughout the clinical practice experience, students are assigned a field supervisor who provides support and evaluates their progress in the field.

Students must complete and log a minimum of **300 clinical practice hours during each semester**, for a total of **600 or more hours** across the year-long experience. Clinical placements may vary in number and setting based on placement availability.

Certification Exams

Art Education students are required to pass both the TExES Art EC-12 and the TExES (PPR) EC-12 exams to apply for state teacher certification. Before taking a state certification exam, students must first pass the corresponding UNT practice exam and receive clearance to test. Students are encouraged to make progress toward completing these exams throughout their time in the program.

Testing Schedule

During ARTE 4708 – Attempt & Pass UNT Art EC-12 Practice Exam

During ARTE 4750 – Attempt & Pass TExES Art EC-12 Exam (Exam cost = \$116)

During ARTE 4780 – Attempt & Pass TExES PPR EC-12 Exam (Exam cost = \$116)

Please note that you can graduate, but will not be able to apply for certification, without passing both TExES exams.

Graduation & Certification

Applying for Graduation

Students must have an official degree audit on file one semester prior to graduation.

Always be in contact and communication with the advising office at UNT and in CVAD to make sure you are on track with graduation requirements. Once you have ensured you have fulfilled all requirements for your B.F.A. in Art Education Degree, find the steps to apply for graduation on the [Application for Degree Conferral webpage](#).

Applying for Certification

Students must submit an online application for certification directly to the [Texas Education Agency](#) after completing program, university, and state requirements.

The [College of Education Certification Office](#) oversees all UNT recommendations for educator certification, which are submitted to the Texas Education Agency, so UNT students may become certified educators in Texas.

Students should apply for their Standard Certificate at the end of their final semester, after they have completed clinical teaching and passed all required state certification exams.

Students should not apply if they have not completed all program requirements, including clinical teaching requirements, or have not passed all required state certification exams. Students who apply early or have not passed all required certification exams will have their application removed.

Suggested Four-Year Curriculum Guide

Program Considerations

Additional Programs

Students who are completing additional programs (double majors, minors, etc.) should meet with advising regularly to plan coursework and **should not** enroll in ARTE 3753 until such time that they are also ready to continue with the required sequence explained above. Failure to do so may result in needing to step out-of-sequence, reapplying to the Teacher Education Program, and resubmitting the Early Field Experience application.

Temporary Leave

Students who plan to step away temporarily for one semester or longer with the intention of returning must notify Mikaela Bachmann, undergraduate program coordinator, by email at Mikaela.Bachmann@unt.edu, when that decision has been made, and at least once during one semester before returning to the program.

Students returning to the program after a break may be required to reapply to the Teacher Education Program and resubmit the Early Field Experience application. Failure to provide advance notice may delay graduation. Students who have not attended UNT for 12 months or more must also [apply for readmission to the university](#).

Exiting the Program

Students who plan to exit the program must notify Mikaela Bachmann, undergraduate program coordinator, by email at Mikaela.Bachmann@unt.edu, once that decision has been made. Students will need to schedule and meet with the College of Education to formally exit the Teacher Education Program.

Candidates may be removed from the UNT Educator Preparation Program in the event they demonstrate behavior inconsistent with professional and ethical expectations of an educator in Texas. Dismissal from the program may be based on grounds including but not limited to the following.

- Failure to meet coursework requirements.
- Failure to abide by policies and/or procedures established by the University of North Texas Educator Preparation Program and/or program requirements established by the State Board for Educator Certification as published in the Texas Administrative Code.
- Any action deemed a violation of the Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators, and/or;
- Any action deemed a violation of the UNT Student Code of Conduct; and/or;
- Any action deemed a violation of school district and/or campus policy during field-based experiences or clinical teaching or internship.
- The candidate has been inactive in the program for five years or more.
- The candidate has been discontinued from UNT due to inactivity after one year of non-consecutive enrollment.

Dismissal from the program may occur at any time. Candidates who are dismissed from the University of North Texas College of Education will also be automatically dismissed from the

Educator Preparation Program. All decisions of dismissal can be appealed following College policies.

Student Opportunities & Resources

The Art Education Program and CVAD offer events throughout the year that support students' academic, professional, and creative development. Students are encouraged to participate in guest lectures, workshops, exhibitions, symposia, and other department and college events.

Funding Opportunities

The [Texas Art Education Association Memorial Scholarship](#) supports students pursuing art education. Undergraduate and graduate art education students who are TAEA members are eligible to apply.

The UNT Career Center offers an [Unpaid Internship Scholarship](#) in the form of stipends for current students participating in unpaid internships, i.e. clinical practice. The intention of the scholarship is to encourage and support experiential learning opportunities that help students prepare for their careers.

Supported by the Jo Ann (Jody) and Dr. Charles O. Onstead Institute for Education in the Visual Arts and Design, the Onstead Clinical Practice Award provides financial support to Art Education students completing their clinical practice experience. Students will be provided information about applying for this funding once they become eligible.

The [Raupe Travel Grant](#) is a fund available to University of North Texas undergraduate students who are attending a conference that will not only benefit the university but also enrich their own academic and professional development. This opportunity provides students with knowledge and experiences that go beyond the traditional classroom setting.

Department Canvas

All Art Education students are added to the Art Education Department Canvas site when they enter the program as a pre-major. This site serves as a central hub for program information, resources, announcements, opportunities, and important updates throughout your time in the program. Students are encouraged to check the site regularly and keep notifications enabled.

Certification Exam Resources

CVAD Art Education and the [COE TExES Success Office](#) provides resources to help Art Education students prepare for the Texas educator certification exams. Students should review current certification requirements and available preparation resources to ensure they are prepared to meet certification requirements.

[Texas Educator Certification Examination Program](#)

TExES Art EC-12 Exam

[Preparation Materials](#)

[Mometrix Test Preparation](#)

[Mometrix Practice Test](#)

TExES Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) EC-12 Exam

[Preparation Materials](#)

[Mometrix Test Preparation](#)

[Mometrix Practice Test](#)

Mentoring

Art Education faculty are committed to supporting students' academic and professional development. CVAD Advising typically guides students in program management, while the Art Education Program Director and faculty provide field-specific mentoring. Students are encouraged to seek guidance from faculty based on their areas of expertise and to connect with university resources, such as Career Development.

Research Opportunities

B.F.A. students are encouraged to engage in research with Art Education faculty and participate in department and CVAD symposia, workshops, and research activities. Students may also pursue student research grants and other professional development opportunities. Talk with faculty about current research projects and ways to get involved.

Preservice Student Chapter

The [UNT Art Education Preservice Student Chapter](#) provides opportunities to connect with other art education students, engage with the profession, and participate in department and community activities. Students are encouraged to get involved early in their program and take advantage of leadership and professional development opportunities.

If you need clarifications or have questions this handbook does not answer, please contact the Department of Art Education at CVAD.ArtEducation@unt.edu.