



STUDIO · HISTORY · EDUCATION

University of New Mexico
Department of Art – Graduate Office
M.A. in Art Education Program Information

Graduate Program Coordinator:

Carla Nielsen

art255@unm.edu

505-277-6672

<https://art.unm.edu/become-a-student/graduate>

Admission:

UNM MA Art Education Spring application deadline is October 15 and the Fall application is due April 15.

The **UNM Art Education graduate program** offers two options leading to a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in Art Education:

- **M.A. in Art Education with New Mexico Visual Art PreK-12 licensure**

The licensure option prepares students to work to teach visual art in public schools (which requires a current state-issued teaching license), private schools, and charter schools.

Per state licensure requirements, the student's prerequisite degree work needs to include a minimum total of 24 hours in the visual art content area (studio art and/or art history) with twelve or more hours in the content area completed at the 300-level or higher. Students are required to pass state-sanctioned licensure examinations before being eligible to apply for a teaching license.

- **M.A. in Art Education without licensure coursework**

The non-licensure program allows students to construct their focus in art education, including practical experience through internships with museum education, community-based art education, or social service/healing arts programs.

Both the licensure and non-licensure options support students with a wide



STUDIO · HISTORY · EDUCATION

range of interests and promote a deeper-level understanding of art education, including theoretical foundations, contemporary art pedagogies, art teacher-researcher reflective practices, community connections, emerging questions, and contemporary issues related to the field.

The M.A. in Art Education can be used to prepare graduates to research, serve, and advocate within the field of art education, and/or can be used as a prerequisite in continuing to a doctorate in art education or a related concentration. Practicing licensed teachers can also use the non-licensure graduate program to advance to a higher level within the New Mexico Public Education Department's (NMPED) licensure system.

All UNM Art Education graduate students must complete a capstone research project before graduation. Students have the option to complete a thesis project, an action research project, a curriculum project, or an exhibition project. Each capstone research project option concentrates on a different category of scholarship (e.g., the action research and thesis options concentrate more on discovery and integration, while the curriculum and exhibition projects focus more on engagement and teaching and learning). The four options all work within a relatively similar proposal-preparation-development-defense structure and schedule of completion.

To be eligible for admission to the University of New Mexico's graduate Art Education Program, applicants must meet the following prerequisites:

1. Students applying to the graduate program need to complete an undergraduate or graduate-level degree in an art-related concentration from an accredited university/college; students can otherwise have completed 24 credit hours or more in an art-related concentration as part of undergraduate or graduate-level degree in a different concentration from an accredited university/college.
2. Moreover, the prerequisite degree work of students applying to the licensure program needs to include a minimum total of twenty-four hours in the visual art content area (studio art and/or art history) with twelve or more hours in the content area completed at the 300-level or higher.
3. Prerequisite coursework in the content area needs to be completed with at least a 'B' average (3.0 GPA), and applicants need to maintain a 3.0 GPA overall for work in the last two years of their existing degree work.
4. Completion of 18 credit hours of prerequisite art content area



STUDIO · HISTORY · EDUCATION

coursework is required prior to admission to the graduate program in art education.

To apply for the MA in art education you need to submit:

Letter of intent: The letter needs to outline the applicant's professional and research goals, summarize the applicant's philosophy of art and education, relevant experiences, and reasons for applying to UNM, and include other information that the applicant feels is pertinent to the application (including whether the applicant is applying for the MA with licensure or the MA without licensure coursework).

Writing Sample: An example of writing samples could include: a published scholarly article or book chapter, artist/educator teaching statement, or course assignment that demonstrates the applicant's writing skills.

CV/Resume: Include the areas of education, professional experience - art teaching or internships, art exhibitions, and/ or published writing, and any other information that demonstrates the applicant's experience in the field of art education.

Transcripts and Relevant Coursework: Transcripts from each institution the applicant has attended need to be uploaded as part of the online application and mailed to the Office of Admissions. Applicant must have a minimum of 18 prerequisite credit hours of coursework in art history and art studio.

Reference Letters: Three reference letters from people in supervisory positions (i.e. professors, cooperating teachers, work supervisors, and program coordinators) need to be uploaded as part of the online application.

Artwork Portfolio: Ten (10) high-quality images of personal artwork need to be uploaded as part of the online application as a single multi-page PDF.

Application Fee: Notification of Action on the Application: The Art Education Graduate Program Advisor will notify new program applicants and re-applicants of the action taken on their application.

Transfer and Non-Degree Credit:

Students have the option to include a total of twelve credit hours of transfer credit (including non-degree, extension, and credits from another university or college) in their MA in Art Education program of studies, but the



STUDIO · HISTORY · EDUCATION

transferred credit must meet the following requirements:

- Transfer credit needs to have been completed within the last seven years.
- Transfer credit will be accepted only upon approval by the student's faculty advisor and the Office of Graduate Studies.
- Students need to submit a course outline (prospectus) that describes the objectives (competencies) covered in the course.
- Transfer credit must have a grade of 'B' or higher.
- Transfer credit cannot include more than three hours of workshops or single-hour topics courses.

Furthermore, students have the option to include a total of twelve graduate-level credit hours from the University of New Mexico while classified as a non-degree student in their MA in Art Education program

of studies (providing the student had a completed BA or BS degree at the time the courses were taken). Non-degree coursework can only be applied when the student earned a grade of 'B' or better.

Deferment of Admission:

If a graduate student has been admitted for a particular academic term but cannot attend during that term, the student may request deferment in order to typically begin studies the following term. This request must be made in writing to the Art Education Program.

Inactive Status: (For three or more consecutive terms)

The Office of Admissions enforces policy created by the university. The university does not allow students to miss three or more terms and remain active. If the student misses two terms and resumes course work in the third term, the student does not have to reapply to the program. If the student is not enrolled within the published registration deadline of the third term, including summer sessions, the student must apply for readmission to the program. (See 'Three Term Policy' on continuous enrollment in the UNM Catalog).

Leave of Absence:

Students should notify the program in writing when they anticipate an emergency need for a leave of absence and should provide a letter explaining the extenuating circumstances. If a student is granted the leave, the terms missed will not count against the seven-year time limit to complete all degree requirements. Without a leave of absence, students not registering for coursework are considered to be 'stopping out'. A term missed by stopping out is counted as part of the seven-year time limit. The



STUDIO · HISTORY · EDUCATION

Graduate Studies Office does not make exceptions to the seven-year time limit except through the petition process.

Program Readmission:

University Policies and guidelines are enforced by the Office of Admissions and apply to students in the Art Education Program. Students who fail to enroll for course work for the academic term in which they have been admitted are considered to be inactive and must reapply for admission. Readmission requires the following:

- GPA of 3.0 or higher in previous UNM Art Education graduate courses
- Recommendation of an art education faculty member
- Program Participation

Program Participation:

Full-Time and Part-Time Enrollment:

Graduate students need to enroll in a minimum of nine hours per semester to maintain full-time student status for most federal aid programs. If the student has an assistantship position with the University of

New Mexico, six credit hours per semester is equivalent to full-time enrollment (federal aid purposes documentation will still use the language of 'part time' even though the student will receive benefits like deferral of repayment and such).

Planning and Advising Resources:

The program's faculty advisor's welcome questions and encourage students to meet regularly to discuss professional goals and opportunities (Faculty advisors also serve several roles throughout the capstone research project process to be explained later in the handbook). For the purposes of developing a comprehensive program schedule of coursework, selecting semester-to-semester courses, and engaging in other forms of academic advising, graduate students are encouraged to schedule an appointment and consult with Art Education Program Graduate Advisor Carla Nielsen before the start of every semester. Even then, students are ultimately responsible for their own timely progression through the MA in Art Education program of studies and need to familiarize themselves with (and regularly review) the MA Art Education Planning Worksheets located in the handbook appendix.

Facilities:

Located in the heart of UNM's central campus, historic Masley Hall is a 15,000



STUDIO · HISTORY · EDUCATION

square foot learning space shared between Art Education, Pueblo Pottery, and the New Mexico Musical Heritage Project. The building includes elementary and secondary methods classrooms, a ceramics studio, a printmaking studio, a fabrication lab, a photography suite, conference and seminar rooms, and the Masley Gallery of Art. Masley Gallery of Art exhibits UNM student-created artwork, regional work from preK-12 teachers and students, and other curated and traveling exhibitions. Graduate students also have access to the University of New Mexico's Libraries' resources (including an extensive collection of online journal articles, digital books, and archived images) and to the Department of Art's studio lab facilities when enrolled in studio electives.

Faculty: Art Education

Associate Professor: Gigi Yu, PhD, gsyu2@unm.edu
Assistant Professor: Jeff Horwat, PhD, jhorwat@unm.edu



STUDIO · HISTORY · EDUCATION