

# ELEMENTARY VISUAL ART SPECIALIST ENDORSEMENT SPECS

## *Competencies and Requirements to Earn the Endorsement*

This endorsement, when attached to a current Elementary or Secondary Educator License, qualifies an educator to teach any Fine Arts Visual Art course with an elementary course code. A list of Visual Art courses can be found [here](#).

## **Endorsement Type Requirements:**

**Professional Elementary Visual Art Specialist Endorsement-** Must meet all requirements.

**Associate Elementary Visual Art Specialist-** Complete at least one of the following requirements:

- PRAXIS II Visual Art Content Knowledge Test #5134 with a score of 158 or above;
- Earned a bachelor's or higher degree in the endorsement area; or
- Completed at least 3 of 10 Competency Requirement Areas for the endorsement.

## **Endorsement Competency Requirement Areas:**

1. Art History Competency
2. Drawing Competency
3. Painting Competency
4. 2-D Design and/or 3-D Design Competency
5. Ceramics and/or Sculpture Competency
6. Creative Process Competency
7. Additional Studio Work Competency
8. Elementary Visual Arts Teaching Methods Competency

## **University Coursework:**

For each of the following requirements, indicate the courses you have completed to satisfy the requirements. If the course description does not exactly match the

category, please include a syllabus for further review. Applicants must earn a C or higher in the course(s) taken.

## Praxis Exam:

The PRAXIS II Visual Art Content Knowledge Test #5134 is not required for all applicants. To get information or register for a test, go to [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis) and click "Register for a Test." To find information on the content of a particular test, click on the link "Prepare for a Test." Candidates must score at least 158 to use the Praxis exam to demonstrate competency.

## Competency-Based Portfolio:

Portfolio evidence of college-level competence in each category. Please see the checklist for each competency area.

## Earning the Endorsement:

For each of the following competency requirement areas, an individual may select the Coursework option or the other method of demonstrated competency. Only ONE option per competency area is required. Documentation must be submitted to satisfy each of the requirements.

### 1. Art History - (Western & Non-Western):

**Competencies.** Demonstrates basic knowledge and understanding of both Western and Non-Western art movements (including historical and contemporary examples and their defining theories, styles, landmark artworks and artists) with an understanding of how context, meaning, and formal qualities enhance historical inquiry.

***Options to Demonstrate Competency.***

- **University Courses** option
  - [Course List](#)
- **Professional Exams (one required)** option
  - PRAXIS II Visual Art Content Knowledge Test #5134 with a score of 158 or above
  - Passing score in AP Art History Exam (3 or above) in the last 10 years

## 2. Drawing:

**Competencies:** Demonstrates experience with drawing techniques and composition with varied materials/media.

**Options to Demonstrate Competency:**

- **University Course option**
  - [Course List](#)
- **Professional Exams (one required) option**
  - *Passing score in AP Drawing Exam (4 or above) in the last 10 years.*
- **Demonstrated Competency Portfolio**
  - 6-8 Total Drawings:
    - Three direct observational drawings that showcase your ability to accurately depict real-life subjects.
    - Two to three refined completed drawings that highlight your technical proficiency and attention to detail.
    - One to two conceptually driven drawings that demonstrate your ability to convey ideas or emotions through your artwork.
  - Evidence of Creative Process:
    - Include sketches, preliminary studies, or work-in-progress photos that reveal your creative process, from initial concept development to the final artwork.
    - Show examples of experimentation with different techniques, materials, or approaches to drawing.
    - Artist Statement for Each Work of Art:
      - Write an artist statement for each drawing in your portfolio. Explain the concepts, inspirations, or themes behind the artwork and provide insights into your artistic process and intentions.
      - Clearly articulate your thoughts and intentions in a concise and engaging manner.
      - Ensure that the portfolio demonstrates a range of drawing techniques and media, such as graphite, charcoal, colored pencils, ink, or other materials you have used.
      - Show diversity in subject matter, composition, and styles to showcase your versatility as an artist.
  - Organize the portfolio in a logical and cohesive manner, allowing for a smooth flow and easy navigation.

### 3. Painting Competency:

*Competencies.* Demonstrates substantial experience with painting techniques, composition, and color theory with varied materials/media.

*Options to Demonstrate Competency*

- University Course option
  - [Course List](#)
- Demonstrated Competency Portfolio
  - 6-8 Total Paintings:
    - Three representational paintings that showcase your ability to accurately depict real-life subjects or scenes using various materials/media.
    - Two to three refined completed paintings that highlight your technical proficiency, attention to detail, and mastery of painting techniques.
    - One to two conceptually driven paintings that demonstrate your ability to convey ideas, emotions, or narratives through your artwork.
  - Evidence of Creative Process:
    - Include sketches, prelim-studies, or work-in-progress photos that reveal your creative process, from initial concept development to the final painting.
    - Show examples of experimentation with different materials, techniques, or approaches to painting.
  - Artist Statement for Each Work of Art:
    - Write an artist statement for each painting in your portfolio. Explain the concepts, inspirations, or themes behind the artwork and provide insights into your artistic process and intentions.
    - Clearly articulate your thoughts and intentions in a concise and engaging manner.
  - Ensure that the portfolio demonstrates a variety of materials and media, such as oil paints, acrylics, watercolors, mixed media, or other materials you have used.
  - Show diversity in subject matter, composition, and styles to showcase your versatility as a painter.
  - Pay attention to the use of color and demonstrate an understanding of color theory through your choice and application of colors in the paintings.
  - Organize the portfolio in a logical and cohesive manner, allowing for a smooth flow and easy navigation.

**4. 2-D Design and/or 3-D Design Competency:**

*Competencies.* Demonstrates understanding of Elements of Art and Principles of Design essential to 2-D and/or 3-D composition.

*Options to Demonstrate Competency.*

- **University Course option**
  - [Course List](#)
- **Professional Exams option**
  - Passing score in AP 2-D Design or 3-D Design Exam (4 or above) in the last 10 years.
- **Demonstrated Competency Portfolio**
  - 6-8 Total Works:
    - Include 2-D and/or 3-D artworks that showcase a focus on form and composition.
    - Demonstrate the application of the Elements of Art (such as line, shape, color, value, texture, space)
    - Demonstrate the application Principles of Design (such as balance, contrast, unity, rhythm, proportion) in your artworks.
  - Artist Statement for Each Work of Art:
    - Write an artist statement for each artwork in your portfolio. Describe the design choices and techniques you emphasized in each piece.
    - Explain how you utilized the Elements of Art and Principles of Design to create visual impact, convey meaning, or establish a specific mood or atmosphere.
  - Show a range of 2-D and/or 3-D compositions to demonstrate your understanding of form and spatial relationships.
  - Pay attention to the effective use of the Elements of Art and Principles of Design in each artwork, showcasing your ability to create visual interest, balance, and harmony.
  - Consider the use of different mediums, materials, or techniques to highlight your versatility and creative exploration.
  - Organize the portfolio in a logical sequence, allowing viewers to understand the progression of your design choices and concepts.

**5. Ceramics and/or Sculpture Competency:**

*Competencies.* Demonstrates experience with ceramics/sculpture techniques and composition with varied materials/media.

*Options to Demonstrate Competency.*

- **University Course option**
  - [Course List](#)

## ELEMENTARY VISUAL ART SPECIALIST ENDORSEMENT

- **Demonstrated Competency Portfolio - ceramics**
  - 8-10 Total Finished Works:
    - Include a combination of handbuilt and wheel-thrown ceramics or sculptures.
    - 4-6 handbuilding techniques that illustrate a variety of forms and surface treatments.
    - 4-6 wheel throwing techniques that illustrate a variety of forms and surface treatments.
  - Evidence of Creative Process:
    - Include images or documentation that show your creative process, such as sketches, concept development, or work-in-progress photos.
    - Showcase your experimentation with different techniques, materials, or surface treatments.
  - Artist Statement for Each Work of Art:
    - Write an artist statement for each ceramic or sculpture in your portfolio. Describe the techniques, forms, and surface treatments used in each piece.
    - Explain your artistic intentions, inspirations, or concepts behind the artwork.
- **Demonstrated Competency Portfolio - sculpture**
  - 6-8 Total Works:
    - Include sculptures that demonstrate a variety of materials and techniques.
    - 2-3 works using subtractive techniques (carving, etching, or sculpting by removing material).
    - 2-3 works using additive techniques (modeling, casting, or assembling by adding material).
    - 2-3 works using constructive techniques (building, welding, or joining materials together).
  - Evidence of Creative Process:
    - Include images or documentation that show your creative process, such as sketches, maquettes, or work-in-progress photos.
    - Showcase your experimentation with different materials, tools, or construction methods.
  - Artist Statement for Each Work of Art:
    - Write an artist statement for each sculpture in your portfolio. Describe the techniques, materials, and construction methods used in each piece.

## ELEMENTARY VISUAL ART SPECIALIST ENDORSEMENT

- Explain your artistic intentions, inspirations, or concepts behind the artwork.
- Pay attention to the craftsmanship and attention to detail in your finished works.
- Consider the overall composition, balance, and aesthetics of each artwork.

### 6. Creative Process Competency:

**Competencies.** The application of critical, creative, and reflective thinking, both as a process and as an artistic end to express meaning.

**Options to Demonstrate Competency.**

- **University Course** option - demonstrated in studio courses
  - *Drawing*
  - *Painting*
  - *2D Design*
  - *3D Design*
  - *Ceramics*
  - *Sculpture*
- **Demonstrated Competency Portfolio** - demonstrated in studio portfolio
  - *Drawing*
  - *Painting*
  - *2D Design*
  - *3D Design*
  - *Ceramics*
  - *Sculpture*

### 7. Additional Studio Work Competency:

**Competencies.** Demonstrates advanced visual art skills and understanding in one or more visual arts media.

**Options to Demonstrate Competency.**

- **University Course** option
  - [Course List](#)
- **Professional Exams (one required)** option
  - PRAXIS II Visual Art Content Knowledge Test #5134 with a score of 158 or above.
- **Demonstrated Competency Portfolio**
  - Include 8 finished artworks that showcase your advanced skills and understanding across a variety of visual arts media or advanced studies.

## ELEMENTARY VISUAL ART SPECIALIST ENDORSEMENT

- Demonstrate proficiency in more than three different visual arts media or advanced studies, ensuring that none of them are repeated from the previous competencies.
- Evidence of Creative Process:
  - Include images, sketches, or documentation that provide evidence of your creative process for each artwork.
  - Show the development of ideas, experimentation with different techniques and materials, and any significant revisions or transformations.
- Artist Statement for Each Work of Art:
  - Write an artist statement for each artwork in your portfolio. Describe the concepts, techniques, and intentions behind each piece.
  - Explain the artistic choices, creative processes, and influences that shaped the artwork.
- Showcase your mastery of technical skills, including proficiency in various media, materials, and techniques.
- Demonstrate a diverse range of subject matters, styles, and themes to showcase your versatility and depth as an artist.
- Pay attention to composition, visual impact, and the effective use of color, texture, and form in your artworks.
- Present the portfolio in a cohesive and well-organized manner, allowing viewers to appreciate the breadth and depth of your skills and understanding.

### 8. Elementary Visual Arts Teaching Methods Competency:

**Competencies:** Demonstrates knowledge of and skill in:

- i. Incorporating evidence-based instructional approaches to art and arts integration curricula
- ii. Implementing developmentally-appropriate teaching in and through arts
- iii. Applying evidence-based strategies and methodologies to develop culturally-responsive art curricula that connect to diverse student experiences
- iv. Designing a long-term visual art instructional plan that aligns with Utah Core Visual Arts Standards
- v. Developing curricula that demonstrates enduring understanding in the visual arts
- vi. Employing a variety of assessment in visual art to determine student learning and growth
- vii. Incorporating art classroom management and engagement
- viii. Displaying student artwork in and beyond the classroom.



## ELEMENTARY VISUAL ART SPECIALIST ENDORSEMENT

- **University Course option**
  - [Course List](#)
- **Demonstrated Competency Portfolio**
  - Observation and Video of Teaching:
    - Include an observation and video recording of your teaching for one full class period.
    - Demonstrate your ability to incorporate evidence-based instructional approaches in art and arts integration curricula.
    - Showcase developmentally-appropriate teaching strategies and techniques that engage elementary students in the arts.
  - Design a scope and sequence instructional plan for a 20-week period.
    - Ensure alignment with the Utah Core Visual Art Standards and demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the standards.
    - Include essential questions, vocabulary, assessments, art standards, learning intentions, and other relevant elements.
  - Develop detailed unit and/or lesson plans for a 4-week period.
    - Address all four strands of the Utah Visual Arts Core Standards (Create, Perform/Present/Produce, Respond, Connect) and incorporate the Utah Effective Standards and Indicators.
    - Provide clear objectives, activities, materials, assessments, and differentiation strategies.
    - Provide examples of how you display student artwork in and beyond the classroom.
    - Showcase instances where you encourage students to showcase their creative work and celebrate their achievements.
    - Demonstrate your ability to employ a variety of assessment methods in visual art to determine student learning and growth.
    - Include samples of assessments you use to evaluate student progress and understanding.
  - Write a teaching philosophy statement that reflects your beliefs, values, and approaches to teaching visual art to elementary students.
    - Discuss your strategies for developing culturally-responsive art curricula that connect to diverse student experiences.
    - Explain how you apply evidence-based strategies and methodologies to foster enduring understanding in the visual arts.
  - Include a statement that outlines your approach to art classroom management and student engagement in an elementary setting.
    - Describe your strategies for creating a positive and inclusive learning environment.

## ELEMENTARY VISUAL ART SPECIALIST ENDORSEMENT

- Discuss how you foster student engagement and participation in art activities.
- Present your portfolio materials in a professional and organized manner.
- Use clear and concise documentation to illustrate your knowledge and skills in each area.
- Include student work samples, photographs of classroom displays, and any additional evidence that showcases your ability to effectively teach elementary visual art.

### **Applying for the Endorsement:**

Submit all documentation and application form to Educator Licensing through SM Apply (<https://usbelicensing.smapply.us/>). Transcripts must be submitted to [transcripts@schools.utah.gov](mailto:transcripts@schools.utah.gov) directly from your college or university.

Visual Arts Endorsement Glossary of Terms

**Western Art Movement:** Art from the European Tradition, including the United States.

**Non-western Art:** Art from beyond the European Tradition, including Pre-Columbian and Indigenous Americas, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.

**Contemporary Art:** Artwork from 1980 onwards. Many contemporary artists are still alive.

**Composition:** Composition is the term given to a complete work of art and, more specifically, to the way in which all its elements work together to produce an overall effect. Composition utilizes an understanding of elements of art and principles of design, in addition to design fundamentals such as an understanding of figure/ground (positive/negative shapes), juxtaposition, hierarchy, layering, opacity, Rule of Thirds, etc.

**Variety of materials/media in Drawing:** Some media that could be utilized in drawing are graphite, pen,

**Variety of materials/media in Painting:** Some media that could be utilized in painting are watercolor, tempera, acrylic, oil, mixed media, pastel.

**Variety of materials/media in Sculpture:** Some media that could be utilized in sculpture are clay, wire, books, cardboard, paper, wood, stone, and a wide variety of other materials.

**Critical Thinking:** Evidence of deliberate choices and problem-solving in regards to making artwork. This can include making design choices in a composition, selecting media and processes to express ideas, critiquing work and making revisions, etc.

**Creative Thinking:** Evidence of original thought and expression in regards to making artwork. This can include proper use of appropriation as opposed to plagiarism and combining ideas and iterations to create something unique.

**Reflective Thinking:** Evidence of evaluation and reflection, either by oneself or in conversation with others, in regards to making artwork. Reflection can be done in multiple ways including getting feedback from others, critiquing strengths and weaknesses of a work, explaining ideas and processes in written or oral format, etc.

**Express Meaning:** Works of artwork are created to communicate ideas, feelings, and express meaning in contrast to practice and skill development.

**Studio Courses:** Students are introduced to the rigor and routine of the art production process including: planning, producing, and reflecting on art. Students develop technical skills, foster their expressive abilities and employ the use of the

## ELEMENTARY VISUAL ART SPECIALIST ENDORSEMENT

elements and principles of art through a hands-on learning process. Studio courses include the creative classes taken which include painting, drawing, 2/D and/or 3D design, and ceramics and/or sculpture.

**Direct Observational Drawing:** Looking at an object and drawing it accurately, mimicking the shapes and proportions. This can be done in three dimensions or from a two dimensional reference.

**Refined Completed Drawing:** A drawing that shows a finished state rather than just a sketch. Attention is paid to detail and composition; there is obvious evidence of effort and time.

**Creative Process:** There are many models of the Creative Process, none of which is prescribed. Evidence could include preparation (research, gathering ideas, learning from other artists, brainstorming), exploration (experimentation, practice, thumbnailing ideas, talking things out with others), development (clarifying and challenging ideas), inspiration/illumination, execution of ideas, evaluation and refining/revising of the work.

**Artist Statement:** A written statement that adds insight and understanding to the viewer. An artist statement can talk about ideas, processes, artistic choices, influences, meaning, narrative, etc.

**Elements of Art:** The basic building blocks of art including point, line, shape, form, texture, value, color, and space.

**Principles of Design:** The way in which elements of art are arranged including unity, variety, rhythm, movement, proportion, scale, balance, emphasis, contrast, repetition.

**Handbuilding Techniques:** Clay techniques that include pinch, coil, and slab. Manipulating clay without

**Subtractive Techniques:** Process of removing material from an object, i.e., carving material from stone.

**Additive Techniques:** Processes of adding material, i.e., building clay on top of a wire armature.

**Handbuilding Techniques:** Ceramic forming techniques that involves creating forms without a pottery wheel, using the hands, fingers, and simple tools. The most common hand-building techniques are pinch pottery, coil building, and soft and hard slab construction.

## ELEMENTARY VISUAL ART SPECIALIST ENDORSEMENT

**Wheel Throwing Techniques:** technique of shaping round ceramics using a potter's wheel. The 'throwing' is the shaping part. Steps in the throwing process include, centering, opening, pulling walls, and trimming.