

Art Education

As an Art Education student at St. Ambrose, you will explore the value of art both to the individual and to various cultures throughout history, and learn how to instruct young people creatively in various art mediums according to age and level of ability. Emphasis is placed on motivating creative ability as well as learning to use the vocabulary of art and developing artistic responses in young people to works of art.

Contact Us

Leslie Bell, Department Chair
 BellLeslieB@sau.edu
 563/333-6123
 St. Ambrose University
 518 West Locust Street
 Davenport, Iowa 52803
 Visit the Art Department
 Web site at www.sau.edu/art
 For general information about St. Ambrose or how to apply:
 Admissions Office
 563/333-6300 or 800/383-2627
 email: admit@sau.edu
www.sau.edu

Degrees offered and required credit hours

St. Ambrose offers a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Art with a concentration in one of four areas of study: Art Education, Book Arts, Fine Arts or Graphic Design. Minors in Art or Art History are available, as well. The Art Education concentration requires 44 credits in the Art Department and additional Education Department credits. A minor in Art History requires 18 credits.

Program highlights and courses

Art Education students are offered the opportunity to develop their artistic talents and gain the information and experience necessary to become effective art teachers. A small faculty-to-student ratio ensures much individualized attention from professors.

Department faculty believe that art is an all-inclusive discipline in which ideas, forms and history are connected. Instructors teach their students how to understand and create art that speaks to this interconnectedness. Courses during the first couple of years include Drawing, Painting, Computers in Art, Art Through the Ages, 2-D and 3-D Design, Figure Composition and Anatomy, and Art of the 20th Century. See our course catalog at www.sau.edu/catalog for a full description of required and elective courses.

Due to the demands of the program, the Art Education major is very structured. Students apply for admission to the state-approved Teacher Education Program which includes areas of study necessary to prepare competent and professional classroom teachers.

Field experience

Field experiences are central to the Art Education major, and thus begin early in a student's career with time spent in the classroom observing and working with students. Later practicum experiences require preparation and teaching of lessons in a variety of settings. Student teaching is usually done during the last semester before graduation, and placement is every day for one semester. Field experience and student teaching assignments are made by the Education Department to public or private agencies, or at schools in the Quad Cities area.

Resources

Drawing and painting studios are equipped with easels, drawing benches and tabourets. They accommodate still-life setups, a model stand and critique areas. Individual studio space is available for upper-level Fine Art majors.

The printmaking studio has presses and support materials for relief, intaglio, silkscreen, and lithographic printing. Digital and photo-mechanical printmaking equipment includes an analog darkroom, stat camera, exposure units, and additional equipment necessary for burning screens, alternative processes, and photopolymer plates.

In the Book Arts studio, students will find a fully-equipped press room complete with an array of lead type and several presses including; a Vandercook 325, two Chandler & Price floor presses, and several proof presses.

The photography lab is geared to black-and-white photography with Beseler and Simmons-Omega enlargers supporting up to 16-by-20 inch prints and formats up to 4-by-5 inches. Digital photography applications also are carried out in the Mac lab.

The graphic design Macintosh lab contains scanners, color and black-and-white laser printers, Wacom tablets, digital cameras, and designated graphic design software. A smaller lab is set aside for upper-level majors.

Housed in the Galvin Fine Arts Center are the Catich and Morrissey Galleries which display revolving shows of fine and applied art from around the country as well as the work of seniors in Fine Arts, Book Arts and Graphic Design.

Financial assistance

St. Ambrose has many financial aid opportunities for students with special art talents. Demonstrated need is not a requirement for receiving a portfolio award although art scholarships are contingent upon all established financial aid policies. Awards are fully renewable every year until graduation. Art scholarship candidates must submit a portfolio of 10 to 15 pieces of artwork. Complete art scholarship portfolio review information, including the deadline for priority consideration, is available at www.sau.edu/art.

Alumni

Jobs held by Art Education alumni include:

- Art Teacher, West High School, Davenport, Iowa.
Graduated in 1974.
- Art Teacher, West High School, Davenport, Iowa.
Graduated in 1976.
- Instructor/Artist, University of Indiana, Columbus, Ind.
Graduated in 1980.
- Art Teacher, Bettendorf Community School District,
Bettendorf, Iowa. Graduated in 1981.
- Elementary Art Teacher, Geneseo, Ill.
Graduated in 2005.
- Associate Professor of Art, Xavier University, Cincinnati,
Ohio. Graduated in 1983.
- Curriculum Leader for Art, Bettendorf Community School
District. Graduated in 1987.

Further information about our Art Education alumni can be found at www.sau.edu/art.

About the faculty

Kathryn Anderson, MFA, Assistant Professor

AndersonKathrynM@sau.edu

Prof. Anderson teaches Introduction to Printmaking and courses in Graphic Design and Book Arts. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in visual communications-illustration from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. Her areas of interest include printmaking, drawing, mixed media, and the book arts. She began teaching at St. Ambrose in 2004.

Leslie Bell MFA, Professor and Department Chair

BellLeslieB@sau.edu

Prof. Bell teaches drawing, painting, photography, and illustration, helping to strengthen the bond between commercial and fine art. He believes that art principles are universal—that each discipline should inform the other. Prof. Bell received his Master of Fine Arts degree from Northern Illinois University where he was employed as an illustrator. He was a professional musician for years fronting bands and playing harmonica in the pit orchestra for Circa 21 Dinner Theatre's *Big River*. Prof. Bell began teaching at St. Ambrose in 1974.

Kristin Quinn MFA, Professor

QuinnKristin@sau.edu

Prof. Quinn teaches painting, drawing and foundation design. She received her Master of Fine Arts degree from Indiana University. She is a professional artist who says she is not sure that she ever consciously chose to be an artist, but that making art was something she can't remember not doing. Her love of the natural world is reflected in her painting as well as in her gardening, cooking and digging of fossils. Prof. Quinn began teaching at St. Ambrose in 1989.

Terri Switzer PhD, Associate Professor

SwitzerTerri@sau.edu

Prof. Switzer teaches Art History. After living in Eastern Europe and Russia during the 1990s, she received her doctorate in art history from Indiana University. Prof. Switzer has taught in both Europe and the United States, and has extensive museum experience through working at the curatorial and director levels since 1995. Her research focuses on Central European art, but she is equally excited by a wide range of interdisciplinary topics, from comic book heroines to Russian icons. Prof. Switzer began teaching at St. Ambrose in 2002.