

BFA with Emphasis in Art Education

The undergraduate art education program at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) prepares students to become critical teachers of visual culture while fulfilling the requirements for the State of Illinois K-12 art education certificate. The program advances critical citizenship in public schools by enabling teachers and their students to construct meaning and connect knowledge through inquiry and production of visual culture. Undergraduate students in the art education program learn skills, techniques, discourses, and performative practices to make, present, interpret, and teach visual culture. Art education students promote social change and agency by emphasizing activism, collaboration, innovation, professionalism, and social responsibility.

The BFA with emphasis in art education connects creative expression, theoretical knowledge, everyday experiences, and social critique, through studio, art history, liberal arts, and professional education classes. The professional education curriculum includes education seminars, pre-clinical field experiences, and apprentice teaching. The education seminars provide common ground for students to exchange ideas, build relationships, develop curriculum, and confront critical issues in art education. Students explore the purpose and function of art education and investigate connections between experiences inside and outside of public schooling within a larger framework of cultural and historical analysis. In this sense, the educational seminars help students understand art, education, and curricula as both products of history and potential sites for cultural change.

Pre-clinical field experiences and apprentice teaching allow art education students to apply their curriculum development through fieldwork in established elementary and secondary programs. Students are required to gain more than 600 hours of pre-clinical and apprentice teaching fieldwork under the supervision of a cooperating teacher and faculty member. Students meet with faculty on a weekly basis to discuss their fieldwork.

Undergraduate students who complete the art education program are eligible for a Bachelor of Fine Arts with Emphasis in Art Education degree and an Illinois State Teacher Certificate, Art K-12, which qualifies graduates to teach art to students in Illinois public schools, kindergarten through 12th grade. Art Education graduates have gone on to teach in, chair, or supervise art programs of public and private elementary, middle and secondary schools, junior colleges, and universities. Graduates also work as museum educators, gallery directors, arts administrators, special education specialists in art and other related fields.