Through the Department of Art Education, students have meaningful experiences creating and interpreting works of art with diverse audiences. Situated in a city with a plethora of art resources, the graduate student experience at VCUarts is particularly rich and full of possibility. Areas of emphasis within the department include: museum education, technology, curriculum, critical thinking, feminism, service-learning, aesthetics, assessment, program evaluation, gaming, culturally relevant pedagogy, and urban education.
ART EDUCATION

The department emphasizes research and experiences in school, museum, and community settings. Through engagement with theory, research, and emerging technologies, the MAE program prepares art educators to be mindful professionals who are active in their field.

PROGRAM

The department offers the Master of Art Education (MAE) degree. This competitive graduate program has two tracks. Students who enter the program with a teaching license earn their master's degree through rigorous required and elective courses. Many students choose to take art studio and art history courses as part of their elective credits. This degree is 36 credits.

Other students who wish to earn both a master’s degree and a teaching license (MAE + Licensure) follow a different schedule of courses that culminates in a student teaching semester. Students who apply to this track may have teaching experience from informal settings or private schools. The coursework is designed to meet the Virginia teaching licensure requirements for K-12 visual art certification (a reciprocal certificate in many states) and simultaneously earn a master’s degree. This degree is 49–52 credits.

STUDENTS

The graduate students work closely with faculty on special research projects, develop white paper panels for national audiences, present at national and state conferences, and take advantage of numerous learning opportunities available to them outside of the classroom and throughout the community. They win competitive museum internships, earn graduate travel grants, and lead new initiatives.

The number of graduate students in the program ranges from about 18–22, depending upon the year. The students are mostly full time, but some students teach art full time and pursue their MAE degree part time. Students range in age from those continuing right from their undergraduate degrees to people who are in the middle of their career. While some Art Education graduate students are Virginia residents, many are from across the United States, and around the world. The students in the program have a variety of different backgrounds including museum work, public school teaching, private school teaching, working for non-profit agencies, teaching English overseas, working as artists, working as studio assistants, and working in graphic design. The department values student diversity and highly encourages minority and international students to apply. Generally, there are scholarships or assistantships to help the most qualified students. All full time domestic students are encouraged to apply for financial aid through VCU.

FACILITIES

The Department of Art Education is housed in Franklin Terrace, in the heart of the VCU campus. The building was completely renovated in 2008 and features smart classrooms, a fully-equipped computer lab with a large format printer, a space for graduate students, and rooms that can be used for studio work. The Grad Zone, a large study room outfitted with several computers, is designated for art education graduate students. It accommodates groups of students working on projects and provides student storage space on campus. The department has a wide range of technology equipment that students can check out including digital cameras, video cameras, microphones, audio recording equipment, Wacom tablets, and portable projectors.

FACULTY

The seven faculty members all hold terminal degrees in art education, education, and philosophy. Faculty members are actively involved in the state, national, and international art education communities. Routinely, faculty members conduct research studies, publish articles and books, and receive grants. A particular highlight of the department is that two faculty members, Dr. David Burton and Dr. Pamela Taylor are Fellows of the National Art Education Association. This significant honor is given in recognition of a notable record of scholarly achievement. Further, Dr. Pamela Taylor recently received a $1.05 million research grant that has pushed her research into an international arena. In 2012, she received the Ziegfeld award in recognition of her outstanding and internationally recognized achievement in scholarly writing, research, and professional service.

FACULTY MEMBERS

- Dr. Sara Wilson McKay, Chair and Associate Professor
- Dr. Melanie L. Buffington, Associate Professor
- Dr. David Burton, Professor
- Dr. Sarah Cunningham, VCU Arts Executive Director of Research
- Dr. Nancy Lampert, Assistant Professor
- Dr. Ryan Patton, Assistant Professor
- Dr. Pamela G. Taylor, Professor

Use innovative technologies
Engage with international perspectives
Teach art abroad
OPPORTUNITIES
There are many opportunities available to students through the Department of Art Education, VCUarts, and through the many arts organizations in the Richmond area. In the last few years, students have accomplished the following:

- Repurposed a vacant building for a First Fridays Event for an interactive art space
- Received travel funding from the VCUarts to present at state, national, and international conferences
- Published articles independently and in conjunction with faculty members
- Interned in the education department of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Walters Art Gallery
- Received university funding to support thesis writing
- Organized art shows of graduate student work
- Planned and implemented a wide range of independent study projects to further their individual research interests
- Received fellowships to other universities to continue their study at the Ph.D. level
- Participated in study abroad service-learning opportunities in Guatemala
- Collaborated with the medical campus to develop observational skills showing links to clinical reasoning skills for nursing students
- Founded a non-profit creative reuse center

APPLICATION PROCESS
The application deadline is January 15 of each year for fall entry.
Students applying to the MAE program must meet the following criteria:

- An undergraduate GPA of at least 2.7 (3.0 preferred)
- 36 undergraduate credit hours of art and art history coursework
- An undergraduate degree in art education, studio art, art history, or a related field

Complete information for individuals interested in applying to the program can be found on the VCUarts website.

arts.vcu.edu/apply