Art Education Degree Descriptions

Art Education Major (860):

The art education major is designed to prepare students to become art teachers. In this program students earn a certificate to teach in secondary education and can earn endorsements in teaching art in either grades k-12 or grades 6-12. The art education major is a 30-credit art program that is designed to allow students to earn an endorsement in another secondary education content area.

Art Education Composite (862):

The art education composite is designed to prepare students to become specialized art teachers. In this program students earn a certificate to teach in secondary education and can earn endorsements in teaching art in either grades k-12 or grades 6-12. The art education major is a 45-credit art program that is designed to allow students to specialize in a specific emphasis area such as two dimensional studies, three dimensional studies, photography, etc.

Which degree should students choose?

As we work on getting information out to students through EPS, it is critical that students understand the difference between the two degrees so students really need the following information in addition to the basic descriptions listed above.

There are advantages/disadvantages to each degree.

The major allows for time to earn a second endorsement, allowing one to teach in more than one subject area. However, art skills are less developed. If a student’s goal is to teach in lower grade levels, such as grades 6-8, or wishes to teach in a smaller school setting, where more than one endorsement may be required for full time work, then this degree would be a good fit.

The composite only allows one to be endorsed in art. However the additional art credits allow one to specialize in an area, making him/her better qualified to teach in that emphasis. This degree would meet the needs of a student wishing to obtain a teaching position at a high school, where more specialized skills are necessary. It would also be desirable for one wishing to teach at any grade level in a larger school setting, where teachers often only teach in one endorsement area.

If a student is unsure about where they may end up after graduation, the composite would be the degree that would best prepare them to teach art at any level, and would be the recommended option unless a student is sure he/she will have a need for a second endorsement as listed in the descriptions above.

Art education classes (Art 314, Art 390, and Art 414) are offered every fall and winter semesters, but not during spring.