REQUIREMENT PURPOSE

The Arts requirement helps fulfill the mission of BYU “to assist individuals in their quest for perfection and eternal life” in seeking out the virtuous, lovely and praiseworthy. It is also designed to cultivate in each student “a lively appreciation of the artistic . . . achievements of human cultures” (Aims 6), an appreciation of the capacity of the visual and performing arts “to please the eye and gladden the heart” (D&C 59:18), and to address fundamental questions of human experience. Such appreciation is grounded in an understanding of elements, forms, and composition in the arts; in acquaintance with a variety of important works in their respective contexts; and in the development of critical skills and informed aesthetic judgment. Together these lay the foundation for lifelong enjoyment of the arts in ways that lift the spirit and enlighten the mind.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Courses meeting the requirement should help students develop:

1. Literacy or an understanding of the medium and organization of at least one art form (for example, visual arts, dance, music, theatre and film) or the ability to “read” works of artistic expression—that is, to apply the vocabulary and grammar, theoretical models, history, and analysis of artifacts and performances—in order to discover multiple meanings, and to appreciate, evaluate, and respond to them.

2. Spirituality or the ability to explore the complexity of human perception and expression in the visual and performing arts and experience the redemptive power and profound humanizing growth that accompanies engagement with the fine and performing arts, balancing the interrelationships among the individual, others, and Deity.

3. Lively engagement, grounded in an understanding of its underlying principles, with at least one art form, either through
   a. the development of critical skills and aesthetic judgment in analyzing works of art, with some attention to their historical or social setting, or
   b. direct participation as a performer or maker of art.

COURSE CHARACTERISTICS

Course experiences should emphasize and build upon such central elements as:
- the truths of human experience;
- respect for disparate viewpoints, and generosity of soul;
• commitment to developing infinite potential;
• awareness of beauty, complexity, and interconnectedness;
• sound thinking—both creative and critical;
• collaborative processes; and
• service orientation, and a focus on others.

The requirement may be met either through an approved Arts course or through an Arts-based Civilization 2 course. Although Arts courses may range along a continuum of varying degrees of engagement, all courses on this continuum should share

• an introduction to the elements, form, and meaning in at least one art, and
• an engagement with an art or combination of arts through critical analysis of reproductions, recordings, etc., or live performances/original works, or through participation in the art as performer or maker.