

ARTS

Foundation Document

Criteria for General Education Certification

Approved by FGEC January 8, 2015; amended April 19, 2018

Requirement Purpose

Revealed scripture invites us to seek after “anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report, or praiseworthy” (13th Article of Faith) and commits us to recognize and appreciate those things that “please the eye and gladden the heart.” (D&C 59:18) These commitments underlie the General Education Arts requirement at BYU, which ensures that each student develops “a lively appreciation of the artistic... achievements of human cultures.” (*Aims of a BYU Education*). The Arts requirement also helps students “acquire the basic tools needed to learn, including... the ability to engage successfully in... critical analysis... creative imagination, and independent thought” (*Aims*). Together, these lay the foundation for lifelong enjoyment of the arts in ways that lift the spirit and enlighten the mind.

Learning Outcomes

Through GE-approved Arts courses, students will:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the elements, forms, aesthetic and compositional principles of at least one form of artistic expression (e.g., visual arts, creative writing, dance, film, music, or theatre).
2. become acquainted with a variety of representative works in at least one art form.
3. demonstrate analytical literacy in at least one art form, meaning the ability to invoke the vocabulary, grammar, and theoretical models of the art form for the purpose of “reading” a work of art.
4. develop the ability to recognize multiple possible interpretations of an art work, and identify the work’s adherence to or departure from the genre’s traditions and conventions.
5. *For theory-based Arts courses:* demonstrate the ability to engage in critical analysis of works of art, including an understanding of the historical and cultural factors that should inform an appreciation of such works.
6. *For applied Arts courses:* develop increased creative imagination and independent thought by directly engaging with the art form as a performer or maker.

Course Characteristics

The Arts requirement is met through an approved Arts course. Although Arts courses may range along a continuum of varying degrees of practical and theoretical engagement, all courses must include:

1. introduction to the elements, forms, and interpretations of at least one art form.

2. engagement with an art or combination of arts through critical analysis. This can take place either via reproductions or recordings, live performances/original works, or through participation in the art form as a performer or maker.
3. assessment of the students' theoretical and analytical engagement.