

Fine Arts Endorsement FAQs

Pre-licensure Q's

I want to become a Utah Fine Arts educator, what do I need to do?

There are several bachelor's degrees options for Fine Arts teacher preparation programs across the state that will help educators earn their license and Fine Arts endorsement.

USB E Approved Fine Arts Teacher Preparation Programs*:

Institution	U of U	USU	SUU	UVU	WSU	BYU	Utah Tech
Music	K-12	K-12	6-12 *K-12 Extension Available	6-12 *K-6 Extension Available	K-12	K-12	K-12
Visual Arts	K-12	K-12	6-12 *K-12 Extension Available	6-12 *K-6 Extension Available	6-12	K-12	6-12
Theatre	K-12	K-12	K-12	6-12	6-12	K-12	6-12
Dance	K-12		6-12 *K-6 Extension Available	6-12	6-12 *K-6 Extension Available	K-12	
Media Arts	6-12						

*This chart is not inclusive of all Utah institutions that may offer approved courses for endorsements outside of approved teacher preparation programs.

I already have a bachelor's degree, what are my options?

Outside of attending a teacher preparation program, to earn a Fine Arts endorsement, you must first become a licensed educator. The information for that process is on [USB E's licensing pages](#). Once you are licensed, to be qualified to teach art specifically, you must earn a Fine Arts endorsement.

Do I need a license to teach Fine Arts?

Yes. Per state law, all Utah educators need to be licensed and qualified to teach in Utah schools.

Endorsement Q's

I already have my license. How do I get my Fine Arts endorsement?

You must fulfill the requirements listed on the endorsement application. There are **two documents** associated with the Fine Arts endorsements - the **application form** and the **spec sheet**. Both can be found on USBE's website under [Educator Endorsements](#). The spec sheet outlines the competencies and the pathway options and serves as a guide for evaluating each educator's specific scenario. The application form is what educators submit to indicate which option was selected for each competency area. The first step is to review both documents to determine if you have already fulfilled any of the requirements, and to determine which pathway you would like to pursue for the requirements that remain.

What is a competency-based endorsement?

Utah endorsements are competency-based, meaning that an educator can use various pieces of evidence to demonstrate competency for each competency requirement area. The endorsement spec sheet lists the types of evidence accepted. This includes coursework, an exam, a microcredential, or a demonstrated competency portfolio. Each competency has at least two pathway options. In the Fine Arts, specific professional artistic experiences, such as a performance, residency or workshop, may be considered to fulfill competencies. Contact the USBE Fine Arts Specialist if there are other professional experiences to be considered to show competencies. For more general information about endorsements, see the [Competency-Based Endorsements Flyer](#).

What is the difference between an associate-level vs. a professional-level Fine Arts endorsement?

An associate-level endorsement means that an educator has met a minimum threshold of requirements towards earning a Fine Arts endorsement, allowing them to teach in that content area **while they complete** all the endorsement requirements for a professional endorsement. An LEA-specific endorsement is an associate-level endorsement that is granted by your LEA (district or charter) and allows you to teach at your LEA only. To earn a professional-level endorsement, all competency requirements listed on the application must be met.

Once an associate-level Fine Arts endorsement is awarded, an educator is given a three-year time frame to complete all of the requirements for a professional-level endorsement.

Professional-level endorsements attach to a professional license. Educators with the qualifications to do so can go straight to a professional endorsement. It is the responsibility of the applicant to track their own progress towards a professional-level endorsement.

Do I have to take a Praxis exam to earn the endorsement?

No, the Praxis exam is no longer required; for some Fine Arts endorsements, it's a pathway option that may fulfill one or more competencies or help an educator earn an associate-level endorsement.

What requirements must be met to earn an associate-level Fine Arts endorsement?

For each Fine Arts endorsement, you are eligible for an associate endorsement if you have completed one of the following:

- Earned a bachelor's degree or higher in the endorsement area
- Have completed at least three of the competency requirement areas for the endorsement
- Passed a content-specific exam:*

Visual Arts	Dance	Music	Theatre
PRAXIS II Visual Art Content Knowledge Test #5134	Passing score on Dance Entry Level Teacher Assessment (DELTA) Exam	PRAXIS II Music Content Knowledge Test #5113	PRAXIS II Theatre Content Knowledge Test #5641

*There is not an exam option for the Film/Media Arts endorsement.

Endorsement Course Q's

Where can an educator take courses to meet the Fine Arts endorsement requirements?

It can be challenging to find accessible and affordable Fine Arts courses, and USBE is no longer facilitating Fine Arts courses through MIDAS. Educators can view a list of university courses and other endorsement options that have been approved to meet the [endorsement requirements](#). The list is not exhaustive and it's of note that not all higher education institutions offer open enrollment. Courses from institutions not offering teacher preparation courses or from out-of-state can be accepted if they fulfill the competencies. USBE-approved continuing education courses, community-based courses, and LEA facilitated courses will be offered through MIDAS on a continuous basis.

How do I know if my previous coursework will fulfill the requirements?

For courses not listed on the approved course list linked above, if the course is determined to have covered the competencies, it can be accepted. This may include a review of a course description or syllabus. When reviewing, the USBE specialist will cross reference the competencies listed on the endorsement application with the content taught in the course to make a determination.

I need a review of my credentials - a potential course I found that might fulfill a competency, my unofficial transcripts, feedback on my portfolio materials, etc. Who can help?

Please reach out to K-12 Fine Arts Specialist [Liz Bunker](#) for review purposes. When requesting a review of their endorsement progress or application, educators should first review both the spec sheet and the application for the endorsement they are working toward. In the request for review, please include:

- An indication if you are in the APPEL program and the name of your APPEL coordinator
- A draft of the application form with your previous coursework filled in **based on your understanding** of the competencies
- A copy of your transcripts, unofficial is fine
- Any portfolio materials you would like reviewed. Please first **prepare to the best of your ability** per the spec sheet requirements (do not submit a big or unorganized folder of docs/pics)

If you would like credit for a course, workshop, residency, artistic experience, etc. that's not listed on the [USBE Fine Art Approved Coursework](#) chart or through MIDAS, or if there is a course on your transcripts you're unsure of counting that you would like to be considered for your endorsement, please include in an email to the Fine Arts Specialist:

- A link to any online information
- A course title and description
- A few sentences explaining why you believe it fulfills the competency requirements

Demonstrated Competency Portfolio Q's

I would like to turn in a 'demonstrated competency' portfolio to show my competency for one or more competency requirement areas. How do I find information about the portfolio requirements and what evidence do I need to show?

Each endorsement's spec sheet will outline the portfolio requirements. The requirements are designed to be accessible for the applicants who already have the competency, and how a candidate interprets the requirements helps the specialist to evaluate the applicant's

competence and understanding of the subject. Please ensure all portfolio materials are clearly labeled, organized, and complete.

I can't afford to pay for a class. Can I just watch a quick tutorial online to quickly learn the competency and turn in a portfolio instead?

The portfolio pathway is designed for educators who **already have the knowledge and skills to show mastery of the endorsement competency area**. Portfolios allow educators to submit evidence such as lesson plans, unit plans, videos of teaching, artist statements, reflections, photos of work, videos of performances, set designs, short films, research papers, etc. At a minimum, portfolio materials should showcase the skills and quality of work that would be required to pass a college-level course. Portfolios are not meant to be a shortcut and may not be the best option for educators without a Fine Arts background, training, or previous professional experience.

Can my:

- Specialized/Technical resume
- IMDb profile
- 15 years of teaching ballet at a private dance studio
- Wedding photography business website

“count” as evidence?

While these artifacts may indicate fabulous professional experience, they alone are not evidence of proficiency. It is critical that applicants who want their professional experience considered for review **create a portfolio per the parameters of the spec sheet** to connect their experience to the competencies. Incomplete portfolios will not be considered. In the spec sheets, underneath each competency, there are bullet points indicating pathway options. In the ‘Demonstrated Competency Portfolio Option’, there are blank check boxes next to each requirement:

- Demonstrated Competency Portfolio Option
 - Video of instrument instruction, including:
 - Two or more instructional techniques

All requirements must be included and clearly labeled in a portfolio submission. Portfolios should be professional; they are required to be well-designed, organized, and labeled.

My endorsement application was denied. What now?

There is no penalty if your application is denied, you can simply reapply to SM Apply when you have remedied your application. In SM Apply, there is only one round of gathering information and sharing feedback. The specialist may return your application asking for additional information (they may also email you); if the response is not sufficient, your application may be denied.

Submitting My Endorsement Q's

How do I submit my endorsement application?

You will use a website called [SM Apply](#) to submit your application. See the [tutorial](#) from USBE's licensing team on how to use the site.

How do I submit my portfolio evidence?

In SM Apply, there will be a section where applicants can type in additional information for the specialist reviewing the application; you can type in a link (Google Drive, a website link, etc.) to the materials, or you can email documents/videos/photographs separately to the Fine Arts Specialist assigned to reviewing applications on USBE's 'Fine Arts' tab, currently [Liz Bunker](#). If you are using Google Drive or another cloud-based method, please ensure sharing permissions are enabled. **All emailed materials must be labeled and organized.**

Retired Endorsement Q's

What endorsement form can I use?

There are two generations of endorsement forms, the retired forms (created pre-competency-based) and the current competency-based form. Beginning July 2021, Utah's educator endorsements were redesigned through the lens of educator competencies. Educators who started their endorsement progress before the summer of 2023 can use the retired form until June 30, 2025. These forms have been taken off the USBE website.

I started working toward a Fine Arts endorsement a while ago, but I can't find the retired form on USBE's website?

Beginning July 2021, Utah's educator endorsements were redesigned through the lens of educator competencies. In order to use the retiring endorsement application, educators must have started required courses prior to June 30, 2023. If you'd like to use the retired form, they are accepted until June 30, 2025. If you **need a copy of the retired endorsement application**, please contact your APPEL Director or [Liz Bunker](#). Some of the Fine Arts endorsements were 'sunset' rather than retired, namely the Ballroom/Social Dance endorsement.

Arts Integration and Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program (BTS Arts) Q's

What is the Arts Integration endorsement?

The Arts Integration endorsement is a **supplemental** endorsement designed to give educators knowledge of an art form, arts integration skills for various contexts, implementation and assessment of arts integration, and skills related to leadership and advocacy for the arts and arts integration. Currently, this endorsement may be attached to an Utah Educator License with an Elementary or K-12 Special Education area of concentration. This endorsement does not qualify an educator to teach any Fine Arts subject but can be helpful for Arts advocacy and to advance educator lane changes.

I am interested in the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program (BTS Arts), do I need a special endorsement?

The BTS Arts program is an elementary-based arts integration grant program. It is a requirement of the BTS Arts program that participating educators are licensed and endorsed which is also state law for all Utah teachers. BTS Arts educators need an 'Elementary Fine Arts Specialist' endorsement. The Arts Integration endorsement does not qualify you to teach in the BTS Arts program.

K-12 Extension Q's

I am a secondary educator, but I'd like the option to teach Fine Arts at the elementary level. How do I obtain a full K-12 Fine Arts endorsement?

The K-12 Extension Endorsement allows an educator with a secondary professional license and a secondary professional Fine Arts endorsement to extend their credentials to elementary by simply acquiring the content-specific elementary methods competency, either in the form of a course or in the form of a demonstrated competency portfolio.

What endorsement do I need to teach in middle school/junior high?

You either need a secondary license and secondary Fine Arts endorsement, or an elementary license with a secondary Fine Arts endorsement. Both enable educators to teach K-8. To teach grades 9-12, you will need a secondary license.

Contact Info

For additional information about Fine Arts education in Utah, contact:

Fine Arts Endorsement Support:

Liz Bunker

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