

Ceramics



Through interaction with peers, faculty and individual attention, students engage in research that leads to personal artistic expression and creation.

Our Program

The ceramics program at Northern Illinois University offers a diverse approach to materials and processes, with aesthetics including functional works, contemporary vessels and sculptural forms. Class instruction includes wheel-throwing, hand-building and firing techniques. Students develop technical ability, conceptual understanding and historical knowledge of the material.

Clubs, Groups, Events

The ceramic student organization provides opportunities for you to experiment with marketing your work, organizing field trips and recruiting visiting artists.

Faculty and Opportunities

The undergraduate ceramics studio is furnished with electric wheels, working tables, extruders, spray booth, glaze areas and a clay mixing room with clay mixer and ball mill. A large kiln room contains both gas and electric kilns.

Faculty

Jim Kearns — jkearns1@niu.edu



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

School of Art and Design

College of Visual and Performing Arts

CERAMICS AT NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Degree Requirements

The ceramics program at NIU offers a diverse approach to the materials and processes with aesthetics including functional works, contemporary vessels and sculptural forms. Class instruction includes: Wheel-throwing, hand-building techniques, mold making, clay/glaze formulation and firing.



Basic Requirements (9 credit hours)

- ART 100 Drawing Foundation I (3)
- ART 102 2D Foundation (3)
- ART 103 3D Foundation (3)

Art History Requirements (12 credit hours)

- ARTH 282 Intro to World Art (3)
- ARTH 292 Intro to Modern Arts & Design (3)
- ARTH Elective 300/400 level (3)
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Core Studio Requirements (24 credit hours)

- ARTS 200 Beginning Life Drawing (3)
- ARTS 321 Water-based or ARTS 323 Painting I (3)
- ARTS 327 Beginning Illustration (3)
- ARTS 330 Introduction to Printmaking (3)
- ARTS 341 Beginning Ceramics (3)
- ARTS 351 Beginning Metalwork & Jewelry (3)
- ARTS 361 Beginning Sculpture I (3)
- ARTS 368 Intro to Fiber: Papermaking (3) OR
- ARTS 371 2D/3D Woven Construction (3) OR
- ARTS 372 Intro to Fiber: Print Dye (3) OR
- ARTS 374 Installation and Fiber Sculpture (3)

Ceramics Requirement (33 credit hours)

- ARTS 346 Intermediate Ceramics (12)
(taken over two to four semesters)
- ARTS 446 Advanced Ceramics (12)
(taken over two to four semesters)
- ARTS 406 Senior Project (3)
- ARTD 405 Interdisciplinary Seminar (3)
- 300/400 level studio elective (3)

TOTAL ART HOURS: 78

PORTFOLIO REVIEW

Review of your artwork after the first semester of Intermediate Ceramics is required in order to continue with future coursework.

Minimum Graduation Requirements for NIU:

- Minimum of 120 semester hours earned for degree.
- Forty of the 120 hours must be upper-level (300 and/or 400 level) courses.
- Fulfill university general education requirements (minimum of 33 semester hours).

Contact Information

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go.niu.edu/ceramics



Career Information

Students who graduate with a B.F.A. degree in ceramics may go into a variety of careers to choose from such as freelance artist, production potter, educator, art therapist and prop maker.

Career outcomes obtained from the Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook.



**Northern Illinois
University**