

Beginning Ceramics

Build Your Foundation

- Learn how the studio operates by getting comfortable with our tools, equipment, and processes so you can move confidently through each step of making.
- Understand the studio's rules, etiquette, and posted guidelines so you know how to share the space respectfully and help create a positive, creative environment for everyone.
- Discover handbuilding basics like pinch, coil, and slab to shape simple forms.
- Learn wheel throwing fundamentals: centering clay, pulling walls, trimming, and shaping.
- Get comfortable with clay's different stages from soft and pliable to bone dry and understand how and when to work with each.
- Practice essential skills like wedging, joining pieces securely, and proper drying techniques.
- Explore beginner surface decoration using texture and carving.
- Use simple, one layer, reliable glaze application techniques by following the posted steps until you get comfortable with how glazes work.
- Begin building creative confidence through experimentation and hands-on problem solving.

Intermediate Ceramics

Refine & Explore

- Review orientation and refresh your understanding of studio systems, rules, and etiquette.
- Improve your wheel throwing by creating more refined forms like bottles, jars, sets, and get acquainted with nonfunctional art.
- Develop more advanced handbuilding projects including larger or sculptural pieces.
- Experiment with surface techniques like underglaze, resist methods, and layered decoration.
- Deepen your understanding of form and function, how pieces work and feel, not just how they look.
- Practice troubleshooting, fix cracks, reshape work, and learn from critiques and firing results.
- Start exploring various new glaze application techniques.
- Get introduced to clay body formulas and glaze chemistry and how they all interact at a deeper level.
- Begin identifying your own style through more intentional design and creative choices.
- Practice making and recycling multiple pieces so your work feels less precious and you can focus more on experimentation, growth, and the learning process.

Advanced Ceramics

Advanced Practice & Creative Expression

- Develop a strong understanding of studio operations to model positive behavior for newer students.
- Create large scale or complex multi part pieces using both wheel and handbuilding techniques.
- Dive into advanced surface design including custom glaze mixing, spraying, air pen slip trailing, casting, and layering.
- Build a personal, concept driven body of work that reflects your unique artistic perspective.
- Use art history, contemporary influences, and mixed media to add depth and context to your pieces.
- Document and photograph your work, build a portfolio, and prepare for exhibitions or professional opportunities.
- Lead your own projects, take creative risks, and explore the edges of your abilities.
- Engage with the broader art community through gallery visits, artist talks, and opportunities to share your work and process.
- Explore leadership pathways in the studio, including mentoring peers or preparing to teach at the Kimball Art Center.