

Visual Arts Education and Workplace Readiness Skills

Virginia's visual arts instructional programs reinforce [Virginia's 22 Workplace Readiness Skills](#). These skills are organized around three core areas that promote opportunities and reinforce student understanding of Virginia's workplace readiness skills: Personal qualities and abilities, interpersonal skills, and professional competencies.

Personal Qualities and Abilities

- 1. Demonstrate creativity and innovation:** Employs originality, inventiveness, and resourcefulness in the workplace
 - Demonstrate creative thinking by employing originality, flexibility, fluency, and imagination in the development of artwork
 - Engage in creative process
 - Use materials resourcefully to create new works of art
 - Use a variety of technologies to create art in innovative ways
 - Maintain originality within artwork by expressing ideas and concepts inspired by personal voice and choice
 - Create original artworks based on experiments in different media or techniques
- 2. Demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving:** Uses sound reasoning to analyze problems, evaluate potential solutions, and implement effective courses of action
 - Respond to artmaking challenges and develop art products, including brainstorming, analysis, identifying and developing solutions to problems, and planning a project to meet specified goals
 - Brainstorm to identify a variety of ways to solve a visual problem
 - Solve unexpected problems in artmaking with a variety of creative solutions
 - Observe closely and analyze, interpret, and evaluate details
 - Interpret and evaluate art, looking for clues, using reasoning, and providing evidence to back up observations and opinions
 - Use sketchbook process and preliminary sketching to visualize and solve problems
- 3. Demonstrate initiative and self-direction:** Independently looks for ways to improve the workplace and accomplish tasks
 - Monitor processes and progress through the use of artwork and reflection logs
 - Make decisions as they become autonomous learners
 - Explore, research, investigate, and evaluate independently
 - Persist through challenges during creative processes

- Set individual goals and create a plan of action to achieve them by creating a timeline, seeking feedback, and refining work
 - Manage studio time to maximize productivity and work quality
- 4. Demonstrate integrity:** Complies with laws, procedures, and workplace policies; demonstrates honesty, fairness, and respect
- Collaborate to develop fair and equitable art studio rules and procedures with guidance
 - Create original works of art, respecting copyright and intellectual property guidelines
 - Observe appropriate intellectual property and use of source materials protocols, address plagiarism, and appropriate concerns, and act ethically and legally
- 5. Demonstrate work ethic:** Consistently works to the best of one's ability and is diligent, dependable, and accountable for one's actions
- Meets deadlines for art assignments and exhibitions
 - Manage time and maintain a schedule while preparing a portfolio of personal artwork
 - Work together on collaborate tasks, such as preparing for and running an art show
 - Track progress on projects and reflect on results

Interpersonal Skills

- 6. Demonstrate conflict-resolution skills:** Negotiates diplomatic solutions to interpersonal and workplace issues
- Work together as a community to resolve conflict and achieve common goals
 - Demonstrate shared responsibility and compromise to achieve a common artistic goal or collaborative artwork
 - Delegate roles and responsibilities to achieve a common goal
 - Communicate personal opinions of art and respond to other's differing opinions respectfully
- 7. Demonstrate listening and speaking skills:** Listens attentively and asks questions to clarify meaning; articulates ideas clearly in a manner appropriate for the setting and audience
- Interview professional artists
 - Participate in class discussions and ask clarifying questions about new skills, media, and techniques
 - Prepare artists statements to discuss themes, ideas, materials, and processes in personal works of art
 - Develop questioning strategies to learn more about works of art
 - Participate in critiques, communicating their intentions and receiving and providing constructive feedback

- Articulate what is being learned
 - Articulate and justify personal responses, beliefs, and opinions of visual arts
- 8. Demonstrate respect for diversity:** Values individual differences and works collaboratively with people of diverse backgrounds, viewpoints, and experiences
- Discuss artists and artworks from various places, cultures, and historical periods respectfully
 - Reference other artists, artworks and cultures in personal artworks respectfully
 - Examine how historical and cultural perspectives shape audience preferences and responses
 - Articulate beliefs and opinions regarding art, and treat opinions and beliefs of others respectfully
 - Research artists from different backgrounds and cultures and identify their unique perspectives
 - Make personal artistic connections to universal themes
 - Investigate the influences of people, locations, culture, and time periods for the creation of visual art
- 9. Demonstrate customer service skills:** Anticipates and addresses the needs of customers and coworkers, providing thoughtful, courteous, and knowledgeable service
- Interview professional artists about commissioned artwork and how they balance personal creativity with customer vision
 - Curate art exhibitions for a variety of audiences
 - Speak with community members, parents, peers, and teachers at exhibits about the work
- 10. Collaborate with team members:** Shares responsibility for collaborative work and respects the thoughts, opinions, and contributions of other team members
- Share responsibility for collaborative works of art that combine the skills of multiple students
 - Engage collaboratively in discussions about personal and others' works of art, including critiques
 - Act as responsible classroom community members, taking care of supplies and materials and respecting one another's artwork
 - Work together to create a design or art product, organizing ideas and roles within the project

Professional Competencies

- 11. Demonstrate big picture thinking:** Understands one's role in fulfilling the mission of the workplace and considers the social, economic, and environmental impacts of one's actions

- Investigate the roles of artists in their communities
- Plan and execute an art exhibition
- Plan and prepare a portfolio for post-secondary applications that meets specific submission criteria
- Examine historical, social, and political content and context of works of art
- Research art that has a social, cultural, economic, and environmental impact
- Use and dispose of used materials in environmentally responsible ways

12. Demonstrate career and life-management skills: Plans, implements, and manages personal and professional development goals related to education, career, finances, and health

- Balance personal, school, and family responsibilities with art studio time to achieve artistic goals
- Research and plan for continuing education
- Prepare a portfolio to submit to jobs or post-secondary education opportunities
- Investigate art-related careers and elicit portfolio feedback from experts to help plan for the future
- Use emerging technologies and innovative media to promote and manage professional goals and career opportunities

13. Demonstrate continuous learning and adaptability: Accepts constructive feedback well and is open to new ideas and ways of doing things; continuously develops professional skills and knowledge to adjust to changing job requirements

- Engage in problem-solving, creative risk-taking, and learning through trial-and-error
- Self-reflect, learning to take inventory of strengths and areas for improvement
- Participate in peer reviews and group critique, learning to give and receive constructive feedback for improved artwork and designs
- Self-evaluate personal artworks, processes, and techniques
- Maintain a sketchbook/journal and document ideas for possible use in future artmaking explorations
- Participate in school and extracurricular visual arts programs and exhibitions and develop lifelong engagement as an artist, arts supporter, advocate, and patron

14. Manage time and resources: Plans, prioritizes, and adapts work goals to manage time and resources effectively

- Manage resources effectively through the proper care of art materials and tools
- Develop timelines and goal setting for the completion of visual arts projects
- Adhere to a timeline required for some media to be successful, such as with the stages of drying and firing ceramic pieces
- Develop a task list and timeline for planning an art exhibition, including the selection and display of artworks

15. Demonstrate information literacy skills: Locates information efficiently, evaluates the credibility and relevance of sources and facts, and uses information effectively to accomplish work-related tasks

- Develop visual literacy, including discerning implicit and explicit meaning and messages in visual language
- Assess and use resources to conduct research
- Analyze information to develop ideas for works of art while citing sources as applicable
- Collaborate with library media specialists to use authentic resources for research-based projects
- Identify and use authentic and reputable sources, such as museum websites, for artistic research

16. Demonstrate an understanding of information security: Understands basic internet and email safety and follows workplace protocols to maintain the security of information, computers, networks, and facilities

- Practice safe and ethical use of the internet for research, online portfolio development, and communication
- Use social media safely to share personal art
- Protect private information and use safe practices when engaging with the community
- Promote upcoming events or exhibitions using appropriate and safe digital communication methods

17. Maintain working knowledge of current information-technology (IT) systems:

Maintains a working knowledge of devices, resources, hardware, software, systems, services, applications, and IT conventions

- Use various contemporary digital media to research, create, edit, and present artwork
- Create artworks using technology such as digital drawing, animation, 3D sculpting, and filter fabrication
- Maintain digital artwork portfolios by photographing personal artwork
- Use technology for composing artist statements and researching the history of art

18. Demonstrate proficiency with technologies, tools, and machines common to a specific occupation: Knows how to select and safely use industry-specific technologies, tools, and machines to complete job tasks effectively

- Use various tools, media, technologies, and processes for creating works
- Select and use tools and equipment related to specific media and based on the desired effect in creating artwork
- Use industry-standard software applications to create works of digital media, such as graphic design and 3D fabrication

- Ensure the safe storage of art materials and equipment

19. Apply mathematical skills to job-specific tasks: Applies mathematical skills to complete tasks as necessary

- Create observational drawings based on knowledge of proportions and perspective
- Organize the visual space of artistic compositions
- Measure for matting, framing or creating artworks
- Identify the Fibonacci sequence, rule of thirds, and the golden ratio in works of art and consider their use in original compositions

20. Demonstrate professionalism: Meets organizational expectations regarding work schedule, behavior, appearance, and communication

- Assume various leadership roles, taking responsibility to ensure group success
- Follow guidelines, adhere to timelines, and collaborate with others when planning an art exhibition
- Demonstrate professionalism in the care and presentation of works of art
- Interact with peers respectfully during class critiques

21. Demonstrate reading and writing skills: Reads and interprets workspace documents and writes effectively

- Write descriptions, analyses, interpretations, and evaluations of personal artwork and the work of others
- Read arts-related writings such as news articles, art show reviews, and arts research and data
- Read artist statements to understand artist intent
- Maintain visual journals
- Research to determine trends and learn how arts has shifted over time
- Write artists statements describing personal artworks and creative processes to different audiences

22. Demonstrate workplace safety: Maintains a safe work environment by adhering to safety guidelines and identifying risks to self and others

- Know and follow Material Safety Data Sheet recommendations and requirements
- Describe and practice safety guidelines for using art tools, equipment, safety equipment, and supplies
- Organize studio space following safety guidelines