



Fine Arts Graduation Guidance

In 1990, the Oklahoma Legislature included the arts in a core curriculum mandate and, for the first time, required access to arts education for every student. At that time, a sequential framework of student standards for the arts through 12th grade was developed and approved. Currently, one fine arts course credit is required for high school graduation. See Oklahoma ESSA Consolidated State Plan (<https://sde.ok.gov/ok-essa-state-plan>) and Oklahoma Statute (<http://bit.ly/2PFew2c>).

College Preparatory/Work Ready

Students shall complete the following college preparatory/work ready curriculum units or sets of competencies at the secondary level:

- One unit or set of competencies of fine arts, such as music, art, or drama, or one unit or set of competencies of speech

Core

Students shall complete the following core curriculum units or sets of competencies at the secondary level:

- Arts - One unit or set of competencies which may include, but is not limited to, courses in visual arts and general music

Fine Arts or Speech Graduation Credit

Students may take any fine arts course including dance, drama/theatre, music, visual art, or humanities for graduation credit. They may also take communication classes such as debate or public speaking for fine arts or speech graduation credit. The current high school subject code list is available on the OSDE website at: <https://sde.ok.gov/accreditation-standards-division>.

Teacher Certification Requirements

9-12 Courses	Teacher Certification
Dance	Dance Education
Drama/Theatre	Speech/Drama/Debate
Music	Either Instrumental or Vocal Music Education
Visual Art	Visual Art Education
Humanities	Music, Speech/Drama/Debate, or Visual Art Education, contingent on code utilized
Debate	Speech/Drama/Debate
Public Speaking	Either Speech/Drama/Debate or a closely-related subject area (i.e., ELA, social studies, etc.)

Critical Shifts

1. Oklahoma Academic Standards for Fine Arts

- **Currently**, new Oklahoma Academic Fine Arts Standards have been adopted for **dance, drama/theatre, music, and visual art** (see <https://sde.ok.gov/2020-fine-arts-standards>).

2. Meeting Fine Arts Requirements with Other Courses

- Beginning in the 2021-22 school year, the full arts standards **MUST** be included in any course that combines an arts class with another subject area.
- Beginning with the class of 2025, schools will **NOT** be able to count world history or English language arts classes as a fine arts credit unless the following qualifications are met:
 1. the course is taught by a teacher certified in a fine arts area (dance, music, speech/drama/debate or visual art) **AND**
 2. the course includes the complete standards for either world history or English language arts **AND** a fine arts subject area.

3. Fine Arts or Speech

- **Debate I-IV (codes 4015-4018)**

1. Students may take debate classes and receive a fine arts or speech graduation credit. Debate may also be integrated into Speech and Competitive Acting Classes (codes 4221-4224).

4. Fine Arts or Speech

- **Public Speaking I-IV (codes 4011-4014)**

1. Students may take public speaking classes and receive a fine arts or speech graduation credit. Teachers of this course should include various speech styles (informative, impromptu, etc.) and students should observe or read famous speeches. The curriculum should also encompass professional behaviors such as business etiquette, which includes introducing oneself, phone conversations, and professional email practices.

For More Information

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