

**School of Arts and Communication
Art Element**

**General Education Program
Pacific Lutheran University**

Framing Language and Program Goals

The School of Arts and Communication is a community of artists and scholars—students, faculty, and staff—dedicated to the fulfillment of the human spirit through creative expression and careful scholarship. The School of Arts and Communication offers professional education to artists and communicators within the framework of a liberal arts education. The school encourages all of its members to pursue their artistic and scholarly work in an environment that challenges complacency, nurtures personal growth, and maintains a strong culture of collegial integrity.

Members of the School of Arts and Communication strive to create arts and scholarship that acknowledge the past, defines the present, and anticipates the future. Art, communication, music, and theater are mediums of understanding and change that reward those who participate in them, whether as artist, scholar, learner, or audience. Performances by students, faculty, and guests of the school enhance the cultural prosperity shared by PLU and its surrounding environs. The school promotes venues for collaboration between artists, and scholars, among artistic and intellectual media, and between the university and the community.

General Education Element Description

Engaging Arts and Performance

The study and experience of art, music, theater, communication, and movement engage self-discovery and creativity while cultivating an appreciation for shared traditions of human expression.

Art, Music, Theater The arts celebrate creative expression through an exploration of individual talents, masterworks, and the role of artistic voice in building community and culture. Students are invited to study and/or produce artistic works.

Art: Provides students with a foundation relating to visual analysis, historical and contemporary cultural inquiry, and exploration of the creative process. We educate students to have an intricate role in art and society for the 21st century.

Music: Brings together students, faculty, and the public to explore, understand, present, and appreciate the musical arts in all forms, genres, and cultures.

Theater: Through a combination of scholarship and practice, the PLU program in Theatre creates opportunities for students to develop a critically reflective appreciation of the enduring challenges of the human condition through text and performance, and to understand the centrality of theatrical performance as a mode of knowing across cultures and societies.

General Education Element Learning Outcomes

The student will:

- learn about creative and artistic expression in one of two ways: through the creative activities and/or through theoretic/critical inquiry;
- students who choose creative activities will work to develop and present artistic expression through studio art such as drawing, performance art such as playing an instrument, or through expressive arts such as oral interpretation of literature; and,
- students who choose to focus on theoretical/critical inquiry will learn about the historical contexts and dynamics that provided opportunities that gave rise to artistic expression and they will develop an understanding and appreciation for critical reflection about creative expression.

Alignment to the ILO abilities

ILOs	For students focusing on creative activities:	For students focusing on theoretical/critical inquiry:
CRITICAL REFLECTION	<i>What theoretical and conceptual background is necessary for the creative product? How can the completed project be understood? For instance, should a student use film as opposed to digital images to create the desired outcome?</i>	<i>How did the choices of the artist or communicator influence and affect the recipients? What other choices could have been made? For instance, student in global media might analyze how certain advertising campaigns affected audiences from different cultures and within their own.</i>
EXPRESSION	<i>What media are appropriate for conveying the message and understanding of the creative or scholarly activity? What approaches are best for the intended audience? For example, how can a theatre set be lit to best convey the message and meaning of a play?</i>	<i>How can an artistic product be better understood and analyzed through a critical essay or presentation? For example, a student in music history may write an essay that analyzes a particular piece of music that is presented to a class.</i>
INTERACTION w/OTHERS	<i>How can the efforts of single or multiple artists be used to effectively create art and present it to the intended recipients? For instance, how could the Wind Ensemble work together to interpret and present a new piece of music that has not been publicly presented before?</i>	<i>What group projects, presentations, and/or debates could be used to better understand creative achievement? For example, students in a theatre history class may work together to complete a term project and may involve critical analysis and performance.</i>
VALUING	<i>What are the core values and influences that underscore the creative project and how will these affect the recipients? For instance, how does a play such as the Laramie Project challenge or reinforce artist and audience values?</i>	<i>How do artistic and creative works illustrate, promote, or diminish cultural and personal values? For instance, an art history class may examine Nazi creative projects to help students understand why and how certain choices were made to challenge or reinforce certain value frameworks.</i>
MULTIPLE FRAMEWORKS	<i>What techniques, approaches, and frameworks can be brought together to produce the creative and artistic project? For example, how could Asian glazing techniques be used in a ceramics studio to produce a particular effect on a work that has a European inspiration and origin?</i>	<i>How can artistic achievements be understood differently through multiple cultural lenses? For instance, how might a particular work of art be seen in one culture as different from another as happened with the Danish cartoons depicting Mohammed?</i>