

ACA Ceramics Requirements for Students (effective Fall 2024)

ACA is instituting the following practices for all students in order to maintain a well functioning studio and student experience. If you have any questions, please ask your instructor. With over 15 classes using the space each semester, it is critical that all of our students adhere to the following guidelines.

Classroom practices

- **PLEASE** keep a journal -either paper or digitally- even a note on your phone works great!
 - Purpose: to record what was made (what bisque work is yours), glazes used and combinations etc. This will help us troubleshoot if work is not firing correctly
- Take photos of your work to have a visual record so you are able to find your work easily. There will be hundreds of pieces in the room by the end of the semester.
- Label all work in process, and put your initials on the bottom of your work.
- All work will be **REMOVED** at the end of each semester. Work left on the shelves will be removed **UNLESS** there is a name and a note saying you are returning in the next semester.
- Please see the attached schedule for an easy guide to see the date of your class start, last day of class and when to stop using clay and start glazing. This should help to get work glazed and ready for pickup before the end of class term.

Cleaning at ACA IF YOU'RE WORKING WITH CLAY

1. Determine where your work is going:

<u>I need to keep working on this</u>	<u>This piece needs to dry out</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Put your initials on the bottom of the piece2. place on board	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. place on board2. lightly cover with plastic3. LABEL with name

3. cover with plastic 4. LABEL with name 5. put on appropriate shelf	4. put on appropriate shelf
<u>This is ready to be bisque fired and I like it enough to glaze it</u> 1. Take photo of work so you can identify it 2. place on Bisque fire shelf	<u>I don't really like this anymore</u> wedge if its wedgeable clay and return to bag OR place in drying colander in pieces if it's leather hard or drier

2. Dump clay water into buckets in the sink. Runoff any slip in the bottom of the container into the slop bucket. Use sponge to remove any excess clay off your hands.

3. Is your clay wedgeable?

If so, wedge and place into bag in the clay bin. Be sure to close the bag and bin.

Is your clay leather hard or bone?

Break into pieces and place in colander. ACA staff will move to slop bucket when it's dry.

4. Any trimmings or shavings should be placed in the colander or wedged back together if wet enough.

5. Get a clean sponge, clean tools in the buckets in the sink and put away.

6. Use a clean bucket of water and clean, damp sponge to wipe down wheel and all parts:

- a. wheelhead
- b. splash pans (DO NOT TAKE OFF SPLASHPANS. Do your best to clean them using the sponges. They are very tricky to take on and off.)
- c. tabletop
- d. Walls and floor

e. Stool

7. Wipe off canvas cloth, apron and wedging boards and return if applicable.

8. Check in with instructor or fellow students to see what else you can support. This is a collaborative space, community support is critical to a well functioning studio.

Glazing at ACA

1. Decide if you want to use Low or High fire glaze
 - a. Low Fire- wider color range ,not food safe, good for sculptural work
 - b. High Fire- less colors, food safe, more variability in glaze result

HIGH FIRE GLAZE GUIDELINES

1. Choose colors by examining test tiles. **Please note that the colors are approximate and there is no way to guarantee results!**
2. Gather supplies:
 - a. bisqued work
 - b. damp sponge
 - c. wax and wax brush (If desired)
 - d. board or canvas cloth to put glazed work on to dry.
 - e. Wash your hands to remove any lotions- they do not mix with glazing
3. OPTIONAL: Wax the bottom of your piece to prevent it fusing to the kiln shelf. Wax is not required.
4. Wipe off your bisqued piece with a damp sponge to remove any debris.
5. Take at least 5 minutes to stir chosen glaze(s). The sediment settles at the bottom and if not mixed properly can result in ruined work. **This takes elbow grease, if you are not feeling exertion, you are not mixing enough!**
 - a. Use the provided toilet brush to stir for 2 minutes in one direction, making an effort to reach the bottom material
 - b. Let the glaze come back to a standstill

- c. Use the brush to stir another 2 minutes in the opposite direction
6. Using the tongs, tip your piece into the glaze using one swift motion.
 - a. DO NOT leave your piece in the glaze for more than a second or two.
 - b. Pour out or briefly flip upside down to let excess glaze run back into the bucket.
7. Let the piece dry for a few minutes
8. If you choose to do a second color, follow the steps above
 - a. **do not dip the piece more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way into the glaze** to allow for glaze running in the kiln.
9. **WIPE your bottoms!** This is critical to ensure your work does not fuse to the kiln shelf. Using a damp sponge, wipe all traces of glaze off the bottom of the piece. Even if you have waxed, please check and remove any glaze residue.
- 10. Take a photo of your work and write down what glaze(s) you used**
11. Place your work on the HIGH FIRE shelves or carts for firing.

LOW FIRE GLAZE GUIDELINES

1. Choose colors from Low Fire shelf- look at example bowls to determine fired result
 - a. Please note that they are covered in a clear glaze - some Low Fire glazes can have a matte effect
2. Gather supplies
 - a. bisqued work
 - b. damp sponge
 - c. canvas cloth to cover work space
3. Wipe bisqued piece with damp sponge to remove debris
4. Use paintbrushes to paint on Low Fire glaze(s) Add layer of clear glaze if desired
5. **WIPE your bottoms!** This is critical to ensure your work does not fuse to the kiln shelf.

Using a damp sponge, wipe all traces of glaze off the bottom of the piece

6. Place on the Bisque and Low Fire cart (NOT HIGH FIRE)

Cleaning at ACA **IF YOU'RE WORKING WITH GLAZE**

1. Determine where your work is going:

<p><u>I need to keep working on this</u> Place on appropriate class shelf</p>	<p><u>This piece is ready to be fired</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Take photo of work2. Make note of what glazes you used3. Place on appropriate LOW FIRE or HIGH FIRE cart/ shelf
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2. Close lids and return glazes to appropriate locations

3. Using a clean container of water, rinse out brushes and sponges thoroughly. This water can be dumped down the sink and should NOT be dumped into the buckets.

4. Using a clean sponge, wipe off canvas, board and table if used

5. Check in with instructor or fellow students to see how else you can support. This is a collaborative space, community support is critical to a well functioning studio.