

UVM School of the Arts Ceramic Co-op Studio Information and Member Agreement

2026

Location and Contact :

Living/Learning Commons, Room 102, 633 Main St, Burlington VT 05405

The studio is located downstairs on the first floor of the Living/Learning Commons, next to Marche dining. For any questions not answered in this document, please contact the studio manager: Britton Blanchard, bcblanch@uvm.edu, 802-683-1651

Parking :

FREE parking near the studio is available at the Gutterson garage after 3:30pm and in the L/L Commons parking lot after 6:00pm. All parking is free on weekends.

PAID visitor parking is available on UVM campus, click the link for more information on parking <https://www.uvm.edu/transportation/visitor-parking>. For UVM campus map, which includes a parking map <https://www.uvm.edu/map/>

Members are encouraged to take public transportation or bike. Another option is to park in the Staples Plaza down the road, which is about a 12 minute walk.

Studio Operations:

At the SoA Ceramic Co-op, we are committed to furthering members' knowledge and understanding of ceramic arts. We are not offering structured classes at this time. The studio manager is there to help members when needed, but will not give full lessons. Members will be on their own self-driven ceramic exploration with guidance from the studio manager. We still encourage non-experienced folks to sign up (not for late blocks after 5pm, the manager won't be there)

At the SoA Ceramic Co-op, we have a full inventory of ceramic supplies and equipment. Our main equipment list for all your ceramic creating needs includes: Brent/Shimpo throwing wheels, wedging table, throwing bats, large slab roller, coil extruder, Pug Mill, and basic throwing/hand building tools. For clay bodies, we offer Stoneware and limited amounts of Porcelain clay. All clay and glazes are fired in a reduction atmosphere to cone 10 in our Bailey gas kiln. We offer a variety of house made glazes, slips, underglazes (Amaco), and oxides for decorating your work.

All clay/glaze/firing usage is free and included with each membership. Please be mindful of personal clay usage, this will affect the Co-op community and have an

environmental footprint on the world. If members exceed reasonable clay usage, the Co-op will change its clay policy.

Studio Access:

Studio block hours are listed below; each member will select a block time with 4 hours of studio time a week (make-up blocks are allowed). There will also be open studio sessions on Fridays, allowing members 2 extra hours a week (there will be a sign-up sheet). Members will have the choice to sign up for either hand building or wheel throwing and must stick to their selected technique (this is somewhat flexible depending on how full the studio is). One membership session will give you 13 working weeks in the studio.

Refund/Sign up Policy:

The Fall 2026 session starts August 31st and ends December 12th for a total of 14 working weeks. Sign-up for memberships is open until October 17th; after that, registration is closed (email manager if you're interested in joining past this date). A full refund (less a 7% credit card fee) will be issued if you decide to drop out before September 26th. If you drop out between September 26th and October 17th, you will receive half of your membership payment. After October 17th there will be no refunds. You may request to switch blocks if there is space in the requested block. If you have been waitlisted for a block, you are in line for a spot if someone drops out (which does happen). There might be other people ahead of you in the waitlist line.

Block Times:

There are 11 wheel-throwing and 6 hand-building spots per block.

- Monday/Wednesday: Block A 9-11, Block B 12-2, Block C 3-5, Block D 6-8 (see notes below*)
- Tuesday/Thursday: Block E 9-1, Block F 12-2, Block G 3-5, Block H 6-8 (see notes below*)
- Friday: Free Block Time 9am-8pm (members get two extra hours every other week)
- Saturday: Block I 9-1, Block J 2-6 (see notes below*)

Block session start/end for Fall 2026: August 31st – December 12th. The studio will be closed on: 9/7, 10/9, 11/23-11/29 (14 total work weeks)

***If you are a beginner/not experienced with ceramics, you must sign up for a weekday block M-Th (9am-5pm). Experienced ceramicist only for Blocks D, H, I, J. The manager will not be helping with late blocks or weekend blocks. You will be asked to leave Blocks D, H, I, J if you are not experienced.**

Visitor Policy:

Members may bring one visitor to the studio at a time. Visitors may not make work during their visit or use any of the studio's facilities. Please keep your guests' visiting time under 1 hour.

Minors (Under age 18) are not allowed in the studio per UVM policy. Pets are not permitted in the studio, for Emotional Support Animals please see UVM policies on ESA.

Member Expectations:

All Co-op members are expected to help create a physically and mentally safe space for the community's wellbeing. This includes respecting everyone's personal space and beliefs. Members are expected to keep working areas and tools clean after each session for the next incoming block. Overall cleanliness will improve everyone's experience and reduce harmful silicates (glass in clay) that can become airborne when clay becomes dust. It is recommended to wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty, the clay will stain clothes. Only employees are allowed to fire kilns and use dust hazardous materials (glaze and clay making materials).

Members will be assigned a personal storage area for pieces in their greenware state (not yet fired). Once pieces are bisqueware (first firing), you are expected to glaze a piece before the semester ends. All finished wares must be removed from the studio ASAP, we must be conscious of the limited space in the studio.

Safety Rules:

Members must follow all the safety rules below while in the SoA Ceramic studio.

- No food or drink while handling ceramic materials.
- Keep working area and shelves clean, only wipe down areas with a wet cloth or sponge to prevent airborne dust particles.
- Only wear closed toe shoes
- Avoid anything hanging loosely off of your body, jewelry, hair, or clothes.

- If you have a cut or open wound please cover it thoroughly with a bandage or use rubber gloves, we do not want to contaminate our clay supply.
- First Aid kit is located to the right of the main studio door.
- Clay will dry out your skin, especially in the winter months, if you find your skin is irritated apply moisturizer before and after studio session (we have some in the studio).
- Wash hands after handling glaze to avoid skin irritation.
- Do not sand clay no matter what state it is in.
- Do not enter kiln room without authorization.
- Do not open up any dry clay or glaze materials.
- NO outside clay (clay that is not from our studio) or pieces from another studio.
- Thoroughly wash hands with soap and water after studio time.
- Anything with glaze on it must be washed in the blue bin, not dumped down the sink
- Put all clay scraps and water in reclaim bins, and avoid putting clay down the sink drain.
- In case of emergency call 911, there is a landline phone located to the right of the studio's main door.
- The SoA Ceramic Co-op is not responsible for any lost or damaged goods.
- If you have any questions or concerns please ask the studio manager or one of the studio workers.

By signing up for a School of the Arts Ceramic Co-op membership, you are agreeing to follow all the rules above. If a member breaks a rule or causes serious disruptions, a talk with the studio manager will be had with potential loss of membership without a refund.