Contemporary Clay Minor



The Contemporary Clay Minor provides students the opportunity to explore several aspects of working in clay from the handmade to the mass produced, including utilitarian objects, unique sculptures, and installations utilizing the multiple. Students learn a combination of hand-building, potter's wheel throwing, slip-casting, glazing, and firing techniques as well as emerging digital technologies. Environmental and financial sustainability is also emphasized.

Eligibility

The Contemporary Clay minor is open to all majors. Students must be on track in their major and in good academic standing, with fewer than 6 credits behind and a cumulative GPA of 2.0.

Required Course	S	Credits
PRDS362	Beginning Ceramics	3
SCNG236	Ceramics (Sculpture)	3
	Ceramic Elective*	3
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Total Credits		15

^{*} Clay Electives include any ceramics class offered across the college, as well as other applicable courses on related topics as determined each semester by the Minor Area Head and Director of Interdisciplinary Studies. Examples include: CAIL200 Made in USA, LIBS314 Business of Creativity, ENTR300 Intro. to Entrepreneurship, INTR330 ST: Design Lab, and PRDS462 ST: Packaging.

Each enrolled student will receive an individual Academic Plan that outlines how this minor fits into their major.

For more information about the Contemporary Clay minor contact:

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Catalog Years: 2025-26

Contemporary Clay Minor

Program Learning Outcomes:

Contemporary Clay Minor student work will demonstrate:

Grow

Disciplinary knowledge and skills • Proficiency in industry-standard skills, technologies, and processes

Proficiency in ceramics techniques including hand-building, wheel throwing, slip casting, glazing, kiln stacking and firing, and an introduction to current digital technologies.

Cross-disciplinary awareness and practice • Audience-focused research, historical context, and field-specific discourse

Developed practice grounded in two or more disciplines, understanding the place of ceramics within historical and contemporary art, design, industry, and global cultures.

Dare

Innovation ● Experimentation and play ● Challenge to the status quo ● Bravery in their work and their interactions with others

Capacity to push the boundaries of what clay as a material can do in various contexts and for a variety of purposes (artistic, functional, industrial, etc.), and what ceramic artists/designers can do in combination with or in relation to their majors.

Reflect

Capacity to communicate (orally, written, and/or visually) about their practice

Ability to clearly articulate the relationship between their work in clay and their majors, and how these studies will help them achieve personal and professional goals.

Analysis of both ethical and aesthetic impacts of art and design

Analysis of the ethical and aesthetic impacts their work has on their fields of study as well as society, culture and the environment.

Connect

Ability to work well, collaborate, and build relationships across differences in identity, perspective, aesthetics and disciplines in a communal ceramics studio, and among local artists, designers and curators in the contemporary ceramics community.

Integration of skills and concepts

Successfully integrate skills, information and concepts between their majors and Contemporary Clay minor, while understanding and articulating their positionality in their chosen fields.

Shine

Ability to define aspirations, future goals and their role within the creative economy.

Defined aspirations, future goals and one's role as an interdisciplinary creative within the creative economy.

Compelling presentation and exhibition skills, through Annual Exhibition, Capstone, and portfolios.

Successful completion and presentation of original work in clay with or without other materials, that resonates with intended audiences.

Proficiency in budgeting, time and project management.

Functional knowledge of basic business practices, including budgeting, time and project management.

Catalog Years: 2025-26