New York State College of Ceramics

The College

The New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University was established April 11, 1900 as The New York State School of Clay-working and Ceramics at Alfred University. When legislation was enacted creating the State University of New York (1948), the College became one of what are now five statutory units of the SUNY enterprise, with the Ceramics College continuing to be operated by Alfred University on behalf of the SUNY Board of Trustees. As a state-supported unit of Alfred University, students, faculty and staff gain the benefits of both a high quality, small university environment and a high quality, public higher education system. Students benefit from a state-supported tuition rate.

Programs and Schools

The College of Ceramics is comprised of: the School of Art and Design, four programs within the Kazuo Inamori School of Engineering (Ceramic Engineering, Glass Engineering Science, Materials Science and Engineering, and Biomaterials Engineering), and the S.R. Scholes Library. Two additional engineering programs (renewable energy and mechanical engineering) are part of the Inamori School of Engineering, but are not state-supported; they are non-statutory programs.

The College's academic programs lead to the B.S. degree in engineering programs with various options; the B.F.A. with numerous concentrations in art and design and the B.S. in Art History and Theory; the M.S. in the engineering areas; the M.F.A. in three art and design areas; and the Ph.D. in Ceramics, Glass Science, and Materials Science and Engineering. Specific degree requirements for undergraduate degree programs are outlined on the following pages.

Additional Resources:

Institute for Electronic Arts
New York State Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology
Paul Vickers Gardner Glass Center
Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art
S.R. Scholes Library

Buildings and Equipment

The Ceramics College occupies a number of buildings on the Alfred University campus, including Charles Harder Hall, the McGee Pavilion, Binns-Merrill Hall, the Hall of Glass Science and Engineering, McMahon Engineering Building and Scholes Library.

Harder Hall contains many of the studios and labs for the School of Art and Design and art history lecture and seminar spaces. The building's central courtyard surrounds an impressive kiln room, containing both gas- and electric-fired kilns; the ceramic studios and glaze labs are in close proximity. Gallery space is available for faculty and student shows, as well as for a wide range of special exhibitions.

The statutory portion of the Inamori School of Engineering is housed mainly in the three-story John F. McMahon Engineering Building, which provides approximately 56,000 square feet of space for laboratories, classrooms and offices. Students are able to gain invaluable hands-on experience with high-tech and traditional processing and characterization equipment, starting in the freshman year with engineering communications and processing courses. The programs in renewable energy and mechanical engineering are housed in the Engineering Lab Building, which includes engineering laboratories as well as office space.
Binns-Merrill Hall houses activities and faculty from art and engineering, including laboratories for processing and testing ceramic and glass products, X-ray and microscopy, research and development, as well as lecture and seminar rooms. Drawing, neon, hot glass and sculpture studios, and administrative offices are also located in Binns-Merrill. The Hall of Glass Science & Engineering houses laboratories and faculty offices supporting the glass engineering program.

The Scholes Library is a significant resource in the areas of engineering and art; its print and non-print resources are more fully described on p. 75. The Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred is housed in temporary quarters on campus as plans proceed for a new building, now in the design stage.