

Washington Street Studios — Frequently Asked Questions

What's included in the class fee?

Everything you need! All materials, tools, clay, glazes, and instruction are provided. Just show up ready to get your hands dirty.

Do I need any experience to join?

Not at all. Unless specified, our classes are designed to welcome complete beginners, and more experienced students will find plenty to challenge them too.

How long is each class session?

Classes run for 6 weeks. Five of those weeks include an optional open studio hour in addition to your regular class time, giving you extra hands-on practice.

What will I actually make?

That depends on the course! Most beginner classes cover foundational techniques like centering, pulling walls, and basic hand-building. By the end of the 6 weeks, you'll have several finished, glazed pieces to take home.

What clay and firing do you use?

We work with a mid-range stoneware clay, which is durable, forgiving, and beautiful once fired. All work is kiln-fired at mid-range temperatures here in our studio.

What finishing options are available?

We have a wide range of finishing materials available, including glazes, stains, underglazes, and slips. Your instructor will introduce you to these throughout the course so you can experiment and develop your own aesthetic.

How do I get my finished pieces?

Your work is fired in our kilns here at the studio. Once your pieces are complete, you'll be notified to come pick them up. Firing schedules vary, so your final pieces may be ready a week or two after the last class.

How many students are in each class?

We keep class sizes intentionally small so every student gets personal attention from the instructor. The average class contains 6-8 students.

What should I wear?

Clothes you don't mind getting clay on! Clay has a way of ending up everywhere, so leave the dry-clean-only outfits at home.

Do I need to buy anything before class starts?

Nope — everything is provided. Some students eventually like to purchase their own tools, but it's never required.

Can I sign up if I've taken a class before?

Absolutely. Returning students are always welcome, and there's always something new to explore each session.

What is your cancellation policy?

You may cancel your enrollment up to 5 days before a class begins for a refund. Cancellations made less than 5 days in advance may not be eligible, so we recommend registering — and canceling if needed — with plenty of notice.

Where is the studio located?

Washington Street Studios is located at 1441 West Washington Street in Harpers Ferry/Bolivar, WV. We have free, onsite parking so access is easy.