ArtCenter
College of Design

Design your future.

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ArtCenter College of Design is much more than an institution of higher learning. We are a passionate community of dreamers, makers and doers. And we pride ourselves on a simple mission: Learn to Create. Influence Change.

Located in the creative capital that is the Greater Los Angeles area, ArtCenter is a private, nonprofit institution that attracts individuals from across the globe interested in pursuing disciplines from advertising to video games.

Our faculty of more than 530 practicing artists and designers match our students’ curiosity and drive with the knowledge and skills they need to strengthen their creative voice. And our alumni go on to create works you already know and love — everything from Hollywood blockbusters to work that turns heads at international art fairs.

Here at ArtCenter, we believe artists and designers from all backgrounds share a common language of curiosity, imagination and creativity. But we also understand that everybody who comes to the College brings with them a set of unique life experiences and an individual point of view.

We strongly believe that our students, faculty and staff need to reflect the diversity of both our local and global community.

Today, everybody from Fortune 500 companies to nonprofit organizations is clamoring for the unique insights that creative individuals bring to solving intricate puzzles. ArtCenter has long led the way in this arena.

We’re an ambitious collection of creatives, and we know the work we make here eventually touches us all.

At ArtCenter, you’ll discover and strengthen your voice. You’ll receive a well-rounded education. You’ll learn why the best way to tackle a challenge is to dive in and get your hands dirty. And you’ll put your new skills and knowledge to the test in real-world situations.

We know you want to make a difference. We’re ready to help you make it happen.
As designers, we introduce new objects into the world. ArtCenter made me realize the impact I could have on the world if these objects are better than what exist today.

Andrew Kim (BS 13), designer, Apple
ArtCenter by the numbers

(All figures reflect Fall 2021 data unless otherwise specified.)

- **15** sponsored projects per year, bringing the world's biggest brands into our classrooms
- **24,000** students awarded internships each year
- **19.9** average age of new undergraduate students
- **530** working professional faculty
- **2,028** undergraduate enrollment
- **$22M** more than in scholarships administered each year
- **$68,000** median salary (Fall 2020 grads)
- **26,000** alumni, connecting via alumni chapters worldwide
- **8:1** average student-to-faculty ratio
- **40** exchange and study-away opportunities per year
- **17** ranked art and design college by The One Club
- **15** more than
- **250+** students awarded internships each year
- **#1** more than

A global community of 24,000 alumni, connecting via 17 alumni chapters worldwide.
A campus life of opportunity.

Welcome to your new home away from home. Here’s where you’ll find your people—individuals who are excited and dedicated to making great things.

ArtCenter stretches across two campuses in Pasadena. Nested in the hills above the Rose Bowl, the modernist glass-and-steel Hillside Campus is a historic landmark surrounded by 165 wooded acres. Situated in a decidedly more urban environment, South Campus is a dramatic and evolving adaptive reuse complex that includes a former supersonic wind tunnel.

As you settle into your new surroundings, you may discover that beginning college as a new student takes some adjustment. Getting used to life in a new city and, for many of you, living on your own for the first time is a big deal. But don’t worry—ArtCenter has your back.

We’ll provide you with plenty of resources on campus to support your physical and emotional well-being, including short- and long-term academic planning, personal counseling, social outings, international student advisement, disability support and accommodations, housing information, a range of activities celebrating our diverse student body, and dozens of student-led clubs and organizations across a number of academic and cultural interests.

Hillside Campus has been designated a local historic landmark by the City of Pasadena.

South Campus is located in the heart of downtown Pasadena’s Innovation Corridor.

I found my people during my first terms at ArtCenter. Through projects, I got close to my team members, as well as to students in different disciplines.

Madison Bucher (BS 20), user experience designer, Amazon
Get your hands dirty.

Here at ArtCenter, we take “making” seriously. And we have the labs, shops and makerspaces to prove it.

 Anything you’ll need to transform your creative vision into a reality is available for you on campus. Our rapid prototyping labs have all the tools, plus the knowledgeable staff, to assist you in completing everything from woodworking to 3D printing.

 Want to bend minds with augmented reality, virtual reality or anything in between? Our Immersion Lab is for you. Interested in the latest industrial design developments? Learn all about them in our Color, Materials and Trends Exploration Lab (CMTEL).

 Looking for space to shoot a film or project? We offer two fully equipped 4,600-square-foot stages. Need a break from digital? Get analog in our Archetype Press, California’s largest letterpress printing facility.

 Looking for inspiration? Our rotating slate of exhibitions brings work by established artists and designers directly to you. And our library has 100,000 volumes of art and design books, periodicals, databases and collections available for your perusal.

 Walk through our gallery of recent student work at Hillside Campus, and you’ll find everything from sculptural work to tech-infused athletic apparel. What can you make with the wealth of resources at your disposal at ArtCenter? The only limit is your imagination.

 The Shops are where students of all disciplines bring their creations to life.

 Explore AR, VR, MR and more in our Immersion Lab.

 Survey material sample collections from more than 150 manufacturers at CMTEL.

 The Student Gallery at Hillside Campus always has high-caliber student work on view.

 It’s rewarding to capture how I felt during a moment in my life, and make people feel the same feeling.

Take a stand.

Something else we take seriously here at ArtCenter? Innovating for social impact.

We know you care deeply about the future. Just in your lifetime, you’ve seen how poor decisions lead populations down unsustainable paths. And you’ve seen how information, when disseminated thoughtlessly, can be used to sow discord in times when we should be uniting.

At ArtCenter, we’ll offer you courses and other opportunities that promote the ability of art and design to effect social change. Our students work on social impact projects with nonprofit institutions both locally and globally. Recent partners include Homeboy Industries, Braille Institute and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Whether you’re interested in creating innovative ways to deploy resources or finding new ways to tell stories, we’ll provide you with the skills and knowledge you need to begin making a difference when you graduate.

Here at ArtCenter, we believe art and design can change the world. We also believe it’s not the radius of the change that’s important, but rather the act of creating change itself.

I think a lot about the choices that we make in order to create change within us to create that bigger change around us.

Jackie Amézquita (BFA 18), artist who walked from Tijuana to Los Angeles for her work Huellas que Germinan
We love L.A.

At ArtCenter, a world of inspiration is right outside your door. Literally.

We’re located in Greater Los Angeles, a region which has long attracted creative and driven people from across the globe. Why is Greater L.A. such a magnet? First, yes, it’s true: We do, indeed, enjoy a moderate Mediterranean climate. But more importantly, here in L.A., virtually anything is possible. Want to go hiking in the mountains, enjoy an authentic Ethiopian dinner and attend an outdoor concert—all in one day? That’s a packed agenda, but yes, here, it’s possible!

As the unofficial western capital of the U.S. and eastern capital of the Pacific Rim, as well as the gateway to Latin America, L.A. contains a plethora of worldviews, cultures, cuisines and languages. The largest city in California—a state that boasts the fifth-largest economy in the world—L.A. offers unparalleled opportunities in the fields of film and entertainment, and the region is also a hub of innovation in advertising, art, automotive design and technology.

Just 10 miles from downtown Los Angeles, ArtCenter’s hometown of Pasadena claims multiple architectural masterpieces, including the spectacular Gamble House by Pasadena architects Greene & Greene. The city also boasts an impressive collection of cultural institutions—including the Norton Simon Museum and the USC Pacific Asia Museum—as well as frequent ArtCenter collaborators Caltech and NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

We tend to draw from real experiences, because we feel a film becomes more authentic if you are honest with your audience.

Kim and Florine Nüesch (BFA 16), directing duo, Through the Storm
ArtCenter’s co-founder and first president was advertising man Edward “Tink” Adams. In 1930, frustrated by the poor quality of the work being created by recent art school graduates, Adams took matters into his own hands and pioneered a no-nonsense curriculum to prepare artists and designers for roles in publishing, advertising and industrial design. The Art Center School, as it was then called, proved both visionary and effective. Even during the Great Depression, our alumni found employment. While we’ve changed dramatically since those days, our educational model is still rooted in Adams’ forward-thinking vision. Over the decades, we’ve forged strong relationships with organizations both large and small to offer you unparalleled opportunities to work directly with influential people in your field of interest.

From the General Electric Space Capsule in 1960 to the more recent New Car Experiences with Jaguar Land Rover and Intel, hundreds of industry-funded projects have taken place at ArtCenter. As an ArtCenter student, you’ll have the opportunity to participate in Sponsored Projects, our industry-funded classroom studios. In these studios, industry partners will present you with a specific challenge. You and your colleagues across a range of disciplines then immerse yourselves in an experience that mirrors the real world, including presenting your solutions to a panel of the company’s leaders. Everybody benefits: You gain experience and own the intellectual property you create, and our partners get access to your fresh, bold thinking.
Kickstart your career.

Our commitment to your career doesn’t end in the classroom. Through regular recruitment events, we invite employers from around the world to visit open studios, view student work and discuss positions available in their organizations.

We’ve also partnered with numerous companies to enhance your education with real-world experience via internships. Internships will provide you with an opportunity to grow creatively, diversify your skillset and build your professional work.

Companies that have recently offered internships or participated in recruitment events at ArtCenter include 72andSunny, Adidas, Apple, Blizzard Entertainment, Disney Animation, DreamWorks, Droga5, Facebook, Ford Motor Company, Fuse-project, Google, Hasbro, Honda R&D Americas, IDEO, Insomniac Games, Microsoft, Nestlé, Nike, Pixar Animation Studios, Snapchat, Sonos, Tesla Motors and Volkswagen.

A good network will go a long way toward furthering your career prospects, and ArtCenter alumni are famously supportive of one another. Here, classmates become close friends and professional collaborators. Alumni—24,000 and counting across the globe—know their fellow graduates have a method of approaching clients and tackling challenges that gets results.

It’s also not uncommon for alumni to start their own businesses together. Have an entrepreneurial spirit? The College offers several resources you can access both as a student—including the option of earning a Business Minor while studying at the College—and as an alum.

ArtCenter taught me that translating a dream into a day-to-day reality is one of the most rewarding endeavors one can take on.

Joann Jung (BS 02), design director, interior design, Lucid Motors
Academics

ArtCenter offers 11 undergraduate degree programs, each highly specialized and with a distinct curriculum. Our students apply directly to a major after carefully considering their choices, with the exception of our First Year Immersion program. First Year Immersion allows a select cohort of students to start their education undeclared before deciding on a major.

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)

Creative Direction
Film*
Fine Art
Graphic Design
Illustration
Photography + Imaging

Bachelor of Science (BS)

Entertainment Design
Animation / Concept / Game Design*
Interaction Design
Product Design
Spatial Experience Design*
Transportation Design

First Year Immersion
(undeclared)

Minors

Business
Creative Writing
Material Science
Research
Social Innovation

ArtCenter also offers MFA, MS and MDes degrees. To learn more about our graduate programs, visit artcenter.edu/grad.

* Department or track does not participate in First Year Immersion.

First Year Immersion

Delivering on ArtCenter’s mission to expand access to its educational offerings, the First Year Immersion program opens up an alternate pathway into the highly specialized education the College offers.

In First Year Immersion, burgeoning artists and designers still deciding how to focus their creative energies spend their first two terms taking courses that both expose them to ArtCenter’s different majors and help them build broadly applicable skillsets needed for success.

After those first two terms, students select a major and can then complete their degree in six additional terms.

ArtCenter’s First Year Immersion includes courses in visual acuity and a variety of drawing classes.

I love that first stage of the design process—visualizing a story. With a great foundation, a project can become a terrific saga.

Sang Won Lee (BS 20), automotive exterior designer, Volkswagen
Integrated Studies

At ArtCenter, we learn by making. We believe the eye, mind and hand are all vessels of thinking and understanding. As a student, you’ll learn how to train them to work in unison. But before you get busy prototyping, testing and iterating, we’ll arm you with a strong set of foundational skills. In Integrated Studies—a department whose classes are automatically incorporated into most students’ first-year course of study—you’ll learn the tools that drive a thriving creative practice: basic visual vocabulary, compositional techniques, color theory, craftsmanship and a variety of technical skills.

Integrated Studies courses will also provide you with an opportunity to meet and collaborate with peers from other majors and to form friendships in the process. By observing and learning from one another, you’ll discover there are many ways to solve the same problem, which will only help broaden your repertoire of solutions. As an upper-term student, you’ll have the option of enrolling in Transdisciplinary Studios, where you’ll experience deeper levels of collaboration and team building while also gaining real-world design experience.

Learning by making will help you find your personal voice and gain critical awareness.

Technical skills are needed for any creation, whether it’s 3D-printed or molded by hand.

I don’t touch the computer until something is clear. Sometimes it may be sketching that makes it clear, it might be writing poetry, or it might be making music.

Ini Archibong (BS ’12), designer, whose clients include Hermès, Knoll and Se

The Indigo TDS featured guest instructor demonstrations by Gasali Adeyemo and Christina Kim.
Humanities + Sciences

While dedication to craft and learning by making are core ArtCenter tenets, we also strongly believe in the importance of educating the whole person. In our Humanities + Sciences (H+S) department—whose faculty comprises writers, historians, scientists, philosophers, critics, activists, researchers and entrepreneurs—you’ll take courses that develop ethical and critical capacity; promote literary, historical and scientific literacy; and encourage new modes of collaboration and cross-cultural thinking. The department’s offerings range from foundational classes in history, writing and research to courses more acutely geared to artists and designers.

Through the department, you can also earn an academic minor in four areas: Business, Creative Writing, Material Science, and Research. Each minor consists of 15 credits, beginning with a foundational course. These minors allow you to focus your required H+S credits toward a particular goal.

I think it’s essential, as an artist, to create new experiences and to step outside of your comfort zone.
Grace Lynne Haynes (BFA 17), artist, whose work has appeared in ELLE, The New Yorker and Vogue
Designmatters

At ArtCenter, we know art and design can act as a positive force in society. One way we know this is because our trailblazing social impact program, Designmatters, has long been fostering future creative leaders who become catalysts for change.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the societal inequalities it has unearthed prove we need artists and designers now more than ever. Society needs our unique insights into the human condition to help build a more sustainable, resilient and equitable world.

Designmatters courses vary each term and include academic and studio-based offerings that engage students across all majors and embody the College’s experiential approach to education.

Through Designmatters, we also offer an academic minor in Social Innovation, which includes 15 units of study that add up to a toolkit of skills and strategies for designing for social impact. This minor can be completed concurrently with six of our undergraduate degree programs.

Whether creating systems that encourage L.A. residents to increase their physical activity or holistic healing environments for pediatric burn treatment facilities in Chile, Designmatters students and alumni are putting their skills to work to create real change.

For the program’s extraordinary service to society, ArtCenter was the first art and design school to be awarded status as a Nongovernmental Organization (NGO) by the United Nations. With a growing array of projects realized both locally and around the world, Designmatters and its methodologies have had a proven impact.

Every designer is a social impact designer. We all have an impact on somebody else in our life.

Mariana Prieto (BS 12), founder, Design for Wildlife
Infographics for Social Change was the subject of a workshop led by Designmatters Resident Jessica Bellamy.
Fine Art

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)

The continual practice of imagination and discipline is essential for a career in art and a life of compelling vision that questions and transforms our way of seeing, thinking and engaging with the world. In ArtCenter’s Fine Art program, students discover new pathways through a process of training, questioning and self-discovery. Our internationally recognized faculty offer the breadth of knowledge necessary to support a spectrum of disciplines—drawing, painting, sculpture, installation, film/video, photography and an array of art and design hybrids—and encourage the type of healthy fearlessness crucial to making meaningful work.

See more student work at artcenter.edu/fineart/gallery.

Stephanie Marcelino / Naturalization / Post Re-Thinking Art / Ricky Weaver

Fanting Liu / Way / Installation Concepts / Jimena Sarno

Chet Taylor / Untitled (detail) / Studio Practice / David Schafer
Photography + Imaging

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)

Images are the new global documents. Serving as the literacy and currency of our time, they continue to be the most essential component of compelling stories in a world with an insatiable need to be informed. To thrive in these times, image-makers must be more technically capable, conceptually knowledgeable, professionally confident, ethically responsible and culturally aware than ever before. In ArtCenter’s Photography + Imaging program, we’ll challenge your assumptions about the medium, nurture and promote originality and encourage you to develop an individualized practice, whether your goal is to become a commercial photographer, an artist, or both.

See more student work at artcenter.edu/photo/gallery.
Amanda Villegas / personal project / Term 5

Elleanor (Nori) Rasmussen / personal project / Term 6

Zixuan (Stefy) Lin / Fashion / Term 6

Meihui Wu / Still Life / Term 1
Film

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)

In the ever-evolving entertainment industry, one fact remains constant: Filmmakers must be strong visual storytellers. In ArtCenter’s Film program, you’ll begin shooting immediately, with access to the latest production and post-production tools. And you’ll do it all here in Los Angeles, the world’s entertainment capital, with a faculty of distinguished working filmmakers. Our small classes foster close, mentoring relationships. Regardless of which track you choose—Directing, Cinematography or Editing—you'll discover and refine your voice, collaborate with students from other disciplines, and develop a thorough understanding of the entire filmmaking process.

See more student work at artcenter.edu/film/gallery.

Andres Nuno / Perfect Gift / Directing 3 / Victoria Hochberg
Entertainment Design

Bachelor of Science (BS)

Whether they're conjuring fantastic universes or creating interactive experiences, at their core entertainment designers are storytellers. ArtCenter’s Entertainment Design program consists of three symbiotic tracks: Concept, for students interested in creating objects, characters and worlds for film, TV, video games, theme parks and more; Game Design, for students looking to build rules, plots and puzzles for video games; and Animation, for students drawn to storyboarding, modeling, art direction, lighting and character animation for 2D and 3D animated films. Near the completion of the degree, students in all tracks develop an in-depth project that showcases their personal focus within entertainment.

See more student work at artcenter.edu/entertainment/gallery.
Illustration Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)

Though rooted in tradition, the medium of illustration has a modern and innovative part to play in contemporary communications. In ArtCenter’s Illustration program, you will learn the art of draftsmanship at the highest level as you develop concepts and critical thinking, along with gaining historical knowledge of illustration. We offer several curricular tracks for a variety of career pursuits, whether you’re interested in illustration for licensing, print and publishing; designing for 3D space and VR; working in the gallery environment; feature animation, games and consumer products; or fashion accessories, textile design and soft goods.

See more student work at artcenter.edu/illustration/gallery.

Brandon Gully / Into the City / Composition and Painting for Film / Bill Perkins

Sophia Kiuchi / The Passion of Questlove / Illustrating for The New York Times / Paul Rogers, Brian Rea

Alice Yang / Paris Street Scene / Graphic Design for Entertainment Arts / Paul Rogers

Keiji Ishida / Socks / Surf and Skate / Carrie Hansen, Randy Hild
Creative Direction

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)

Creativity defines, builds and grows brands, setting quick thinkers and opportunity seekers apart from companies that are satisfied with the status quo. ArtCenter’s Creative Direction program prepares you to take the reins in steering marketing and advertising in unexpected directions and to influencing how a company looks, feels and presents itself to the world. Our program will establish your visual and verbal fluency in the language of communication. And we break the conventional classroom structure to give you a true sense of the experience you’ll encounter working for a creative agency or major brand with a team of peers.

See more student work at artcenter.edu/creative/gallery.
Creative Direction

Kiki Dahl, Nando Chauffier

Weber / Crashvertising / Gary Goldsmith

Xumeng Zhang, Ho Yeon Yoo / Simply Gum / Crashvertising / Gary Goldsmith

Gabrielle Balzan / Away Luggage / Crashvertising / Gary Goldsmith

Khi Dahl, Nando Chauffier / Weber / Crashvertising / Gary Goldsmith
Graphic Design

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)

Graphic design has evolved to become much more than ink on paper; it has left the page to conquer space, motion and interaction. In ArtCenter’s Graphic Design program, you will be guided by a faculty of noted professionals who will teach you how to integrate the definitions of designer, artist and entrepreneur. You will develop sophisticated typographic and image-making skillsets while working across both emerging and traditional media—everything from letterpress to generative design. You’ll learn how to create emotionally resonant messages and push mediums to their very limits, discovering new things about yourself in the process.

See more student work at artcenter.edu/graphic/gallery.

Jo Iijima / Rock in Japan / personal project

Hyun-joon Kim / Museum of Moving Images / Communication Design 4 / Simon Johnston

Eugene Hyun / Stranger Than Fiction title sequence / Sequential Design 2 / Ming Ta
Interaction Design

Bachelor of Science (BS)

Interaction profoundly shapes the way people think, feel and behave. Whether you’re creating an app, a piece of wearable tech or a social network, as a student in ArtCenter’s Interaction Design program, you will learn to shape user experience while considering design, human factors, societal impact and emerging technologies. Our program emphasizes core methods, STEM, interface tools and processes in tandem with industrial and communication design. Students develop ideas from concept to advanced prototypes across multiple canvases, including VR/AR, Artificial Intelligence and physical computing. If you’re interested in designing interactions that are innovative and delightful, there’s no better training ground.

See more student work at artcenter.edu/ixd/gallery.

Aziza Tanjung / B&BRX by Bath & Body Works packaging system / Packaging Design 2: Branding / Jessica Deseo

Mikiko Yamabayashi / Make Make Make: Magazine (Make: Magazine rebrand) / Communication Design 5: Transmedia / Annie Huang Luck
Product Design

Bachelor of Science (BS)

In addition to being increasingly recognized as crucial to commercial and organizational success, designers today are being acknowledged as a vital force for improving society. In ArtCenter’s Product Design program, we provide a foundation of the professional practice of design, based in a human-centered approach. Along with gaining core visual, creative, technical and analytical skills, you’ll benefit from our rigorous focus on technology, manufacturability and sustainability. Choose from five product design pathways: three highly focused, advised concentrations in Hard Goods Product, Wearables and Soft Goods, and Design Entrepreneurship; and two areas of focus in Design Research and Strategy, and Digital Experience/UX/UI.

See more student work at artcenter.edu/product/gallery.
Every space you enter presents an opportunity to tell stories, engage emotions and establish dynamics. ArtCenter’s Spatial Experience Design program focuses on the total experience of the built environment, from the first moment of encounter to the last moment of interaction. We look beyond single objects, moments and places to weave rich narratives in every environment in which we live, work and play. By studying scenography—the staging of spaces—you will enhance your ability to make meaningful connections in all that you design, whether it’s architecture, interiors, furniture, lighting or interior component design.

See more student work at artcenter.edu/spatial/gallery.
Soojung Yoo / Hola / Senior Studio / Emil Mertzel


Jenny Chen / Kairos / Lighting Topic Studio: Illumination / Dan Gottlieb, Penny Herscovitch

Soojung Yoo / The Wooden Chair / Topic Studio

Spatial Experience Design


Soojung Yoo / Hola / Senior Studio / Emil Mertzel

Jenny Chen / Kairos / Lighting Topic Studio: Illumination / Dan Gottlieb, Penny Herscovitch

Soojung Yoo / The Wooden Chair / Topic Studio
Transportation Design

Bachelor of Science (BS)

Not since the birth of the automobile has the transportation industry seen such rapid change—and with these changes come great opportunities for designers. In ArtCenter's Transportation Design program, we help students gain fluency in drawing and in physical and digital modeling, as well as develop an understanding of vehicle architecture, materials, process and aerodynamics. Students choose to focus in one of three advised areas: Vehicle Exteriors, Vehicle Interiors (including UX/UI), and Alternative Transportation (including motorcycle, personal mobility and public transit). No matter what type of transportation draws your passion, we'll help prepare you to make an impact in the field.

See more student work at artcenter.edu/transportation/gallery.

Andrew Kwon / Subaru BRX Concept / personal project

Leeyle Jeraffi / Harley-Davidson Sportster / Power Sports Design / Alex Earle

Leeyle Jeraffi / Jeepster Commando / Internship: Jeep (Exterior Studio)

Yongquan Wang / BEV McLaren Hypercar Project / Transportation Studio / Jordan Meadows
Admissions

ArtCenter welcomes applications from students who are committed to pursuing or furthering a career in visual arts and design. We are committed to bringing together a diverse and motivated group of students to work with our exceptional faculty.

We hope you will visit us, spend time on our campus, view our student work and become familiar with the accomplishments of our alumni and faculty. Our Admissions counselors will guide you through the application process, provide portfolio advice, answer your questions and serve as your admissions mentors.

Your application will be evaluated by a committee, which will base its admission decision primarily on the strength of your portfolio and on your academic record in high school and college. Your application essays and other application responses will also be important. Your acceptance is independent of whether or not you apply for scholarship or financial aid.

Applicants will be notified of the Admissions Committee’s decision in writing as soon as possible after receipt of all application materials—usually, within three weeks, except during Early Action and Priority Date reviews. ArtCenter reserves the right to rescind an offer of admission at its discretion in the following circumstances: Any information contained in the application is found to be incomplete, inaccurate or misleading; any submitted documents, materials, or test scores are inaccurate or are the result of wrongful or fraudulent activity; or additional information leads to serious concerns.

For detailed information and application steps, please visit artcenter.edu/how-apply.
Application requirements

ArtCenter College of Design requires prospective students to submit both an application and a major-specific portfolio. For full information on our application process and portfolio requirements, visit artcenter.edu/app-requirements.

1. Application form
The College’s application for admission is available online at artcenter.edu/apply.

2. Application fee
There is a nonrefundable application fee of $50 for all applicants. Fee waiver requests can be submitted from the College Board or requested by a guidance counselor or financial aid officer and sent to admissions@artcenter.edu.

3. Transcripts
Transcripts from all high schools and colleges attended are required. Unofficial transcripts that clearly list your name and the institution’s name can be uploaded through the online application or submitted through the applicant portal. While unofficial transcripts are accepted during the application process, if you are admitted, your enrollment will be contingent upon receipt of official transcripts from all high schools and colleges attended by one week prior to the start of the term.

High school transcripts or a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) must be submitted by all students except those holding a prior bachelor’s degree. Students must have completed or anticipate completing high school or a GED prior to their enrollment. Home-schooled students should submit transcripts that include course titles, grades and credits, as well as the signature of the home-school administrator. College transcripts should be requested from each individual college attended.

4. Portfolio
Your portfolio is the single most important aspect of your application. For detailed information on portfolio requirements, go to artcenter.edu/portfolio, find your major of interest, and pay close attention to the department’s application and portfolio requirements. Some majors also require a supplemental video essay. Applicants for all programs can submit their portfolio and video essay for free through the online application.

Additionally, we strongly recommend that prospective students attend our portfolio development workshop and meet with an Admissions counselor for advice on preparing the portfolio. For an in-person, virtual or phone counseling session, make an appointment at artcenter.edu/appt.

5. Essays
In addition to the portfolio, one short-answer essay and two additional essays are required for all students, and some majors have specific prompts. Essays can be submitted as Word or PDF documents through the online application. To view the prompts for each major, go to artcenter.edu/essay.

Optional SAT or ACT scores
The submission of SAT or ACT scores is optional. We are happy to receive copies of your scores if you choose to provide them. However, submission of scores is not required for either students applying directly out of high school or those who are in college.

English as a foreign language proficiency
Undergraduate applicants who have not completed a high school diploma or bachelor’s degree in which the language of instruction was English must take the Internet-Based TOEFL (iBT), IELTS or Duolingo English Test. The committee may request testing from students who took ESL or English-language acquisition classes (including English/Writing for multilingual speakers) in high school or college. In addition, the committee may review the individual scores on each section of the test. The committee may request testing and/or an interview for any student whose command of English is in doubt.

Application dates
ArtCenter has a rolling admission deadline policy, and prospective students may apply at any time. However, there are some dates and deadlines to consider.

Applications open
Fall term: August 1 (of the year prior)
Spring term: April 1 (of the year prior)

Early Action deadline
Fall term: November 15

The Early Action deadline is ideal for applicants who are well prepared to submit their application, portfolio and all required materials by November 15. Early Action applicants will be notified of a decision by January. If you are applying for financial aid and/or scholarship, you will receive early notification of your financial aid offer as well. U.S. citizens and permanent resident students must submit a FAFSA by this date in order to receive consideration.

Priority dates
Students can be considered for scholarship and financial aid at any time during the admissions cycle, but priority dates by which to submit the application materials and FAFSA to ensure the earliest possible consideration are:

Fall term: February 1
Spring term: October 1

Priority Deadline
(Entertainment Design only) Please note that Entertainment Design has set deadlines of February 1 for the Fall term and October 1 for the Spring term; applications will continue to be reviewed beyond this date only if room is available.
General information

Length of study
There are three scheduled 15-week terms (semesters) in each academic year: Fall, Spring and Summer. Progress toward the degree is dependent on the course load chosen by the student. Most students will enroll in a program that takes a minimum of eight 15-week terms (semesters). Students entering the Bachelor of Science degree programs should expect the possibility of eight to nine semesters for completion.

ArtCenter Extension
ArtCenter Extension (ACX) provides excellent avenues through which to strengthen or develop your portfolio in preparation for applying to the degree program. ACX offers courses for students in grades 9–12 and courses for adult students. For more information, visit artcenter.edu/acx.

Transfer students
Students who have completed humanities and sciences and/or studio course work at another college may receive transfer credit. Advanced standing is based not only on earning studio course work in line with the major curriculum to which an applicant is applying, but also on the competencies demonstrated in the admission portfolio. We recommend that students interested in transferring meet with an Admissions counselor to develop a plan for a transfer pathway. Visit artcenter.edu/transfer for more information.

International students
ArtCenter welcomes international students and the cultural diversity they bring to our campus. Please visit artcenter.edu for detailed information about applying as an international student, including information about English-language proficiency exam requirements.

If accepted, international students will be issued an I-20 to apply for an F-1 student visa. The process will be detailed with your acceptance letter. For more information about programs and services for international students, visit artcenter.edu.

Veterans
ArtCenter is approved for veterans' study under several GI bills, including the Yellow Ribbon Program. Veterans should contact the Financial Aid Office at 626 396-2215 for information.

Special Nondegree Student Status
ArtCenter occasionally admits applicants to its Special Status program, which is intended for those who have had significant work and educational experience. These students are allowed to attend ArtCenter courses for up to three terms on a non-degree basis. This program is available for most majors at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. To qualify, applicants must show an advanced-level portfolio for one major and meet the same admissions requirements as degree program candidates. Special Status students cannot transfer to the degree program once they have enrolled as nondegree students, nor are they eligible for financial aid or scholarships.

Tuition and expenses
ArtCenter’s Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 undergraduate tuition is $24,471 per term. Each term’s tuition covers a full-time program (12–19 units). Students should expect tuition increases on an annual basis, with increases occurring in the Fall term.

A $500 Universal Access Fee (UAF) is charged each term to all students to cover specialized costs associated with technology and equipment usage that facilitate learning and making specific to art and design education across departments.

ArtCenter does not currently offer dormitories, and living costs vary greatly based on the type of housing a student chooses. However, we estimate a generous average amount for rent and food per term to be $6,765 for students not living at home and $4,342 for those living at home. Students should also allow $1,849 for miscellaneous/personal expenses, $1,397 for transportation, and $2,000 for supplies each term.

Nondiscrimination policy
ArtCenter has a long-standing commitment to promoting equal opportunities and will not engage in any unlawful discrimination based on race, color, sex, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, medical condition, physical or mental disability, military or veteran status, genetic information or any other basis prohibited by law.

Financial aid and scholarships
ArtCenter administers over $22 million in scholarships per year, with more than $52 million in total financial aid awarded. We encourage all students who need financial assistance to apply for aid. Applying for financial aid and scholarships in no way affects your admission decision. For detailed information about how to apply for financial aid and scholarships, go to artcenter.edu/fa-eligibility.

ArtCenter aims to use our scholarship resources to build and support a diverse student body and to create access to an ArtCenter education for as many qualified applicants as possible. ArtCenter scholarships are highly selective and are awarded to students who demonstrate financial need and show exceptional potential in their portfolio and academic record. We do not offer merit-only scholarships.

Scholarship notification is issued post-acceptance by the following dates:

Fall term (Early Action): January 15
Fall term: April 1
Spring term: November 15

The Admissions and Financial Aid offices partner to provide monthly online financial aid information sessions for students and parents. Register for an upcoming session at artcenter.edu/fa-info.
Ready to take the next step?

We would like to start working with you early on in your application process. Get in touch with us!

Meet with a counselor.

Want personal guidance on portfolio preparation and on the admissions process? Schedule a virtual or in-person appointment with an Admissions counselor. These sessions are not formal admissions interviews but are instead intended to help you direct your portfolio development. Sign up at artcenter.edu/appt.

Take a tour.

We offer tours of the Hillside and South campuses Monday through Friday during academic terms. Please preregister at artcenter.edu/tour.

Join us online.

Can’t visit us in person? Engage with us virtually! Online tours, info sessions, portfolio development workshops and more can be booked at artcenter.edu/tour.

Contact us.

Contact our Admissions Office by phone at 626 396-2373, by text at 626 389-2373 or via email at admissions@artcenter.edu. Or visit artcenter.edu/contact to find your Admissions counselor’s contact information.