

Transferring to UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture for Architectural Studies, Art, Design | Media Arts Majors

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What do I need to do to apply to the visual arts at UCLA?

A: The application process for visual arts (Architectural Studies, Art, and Design | Media Arts) is different than for most other majors. These programs require a supplemental application that is unique to each department, and each requires a portfolio of creative work.

Supplemental application procedures can be found at www.arts.ucla.edu/supplemental-info

Q: What is the most important to the faculty during the review process?

A: The portfolio submission is given the greatest emphasis in the faculty's review of applications. The portfolio can be developed in class, in a work environment, and/or independently. In addition to the portfolio and other supplemental application information, faculty consider personal statements and academic history.

Following their review of supplemental applications, faculty recommend admission for selected candidates whose applications, in turn, are then also reviewed by UCLA Undergraduate Admission to ensure UC eligibility requirements are met. (See below for information regarding UC eligibility.)

Q: What courses do I need to complete in my selected major in order to transfer?

A: For students transferring from community college or other four-year institutions, the departments encourage prospective students to take the lead and select coursework that:

provides a supportive studio environment with proper resources for making creative work
includes faculty and peer critiques, and encourages the development of creative work and independent ideas
best matches the content and description of similar UCLA lower division preparation for the major courses **and** is UC transferable.

Community college transfers: While the visual arts majors do not have pre-approved articulation agreements with other institutions, the website ASSIST.ORG may help guide applicants in determining what courses from their current institution may be UC-transferable.

For ALL transfer applicants: Substitutions for lower division preparation for the major coursework are determined during the summer following admission, following the review of official transcripts by UCLA

By Laura Young, Director of Enrollment Management, admissions@arts.ucla.edu – Sept 2014

Undergraduate Admission. Substitutions for course requirements are not based upon professional experience, nor non-UC-transferable courses.

Q. What General Education courses do I need to complete in order to transfer?

A: Completion of the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC), UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture general education requirements, or another UC campus' breadth requirements is highly recommended for applicants to the School of the Arts and Architecture.

While UCLA's visual arts supplemental application will emphasize review of the supplemental application/portfolio and arts studio coursework, UCLA Undergraduate Admission will also require completion of certain lower division coursework in order to be eligible to transfer. Requirements for academic eligibility and qualifying coursework may be found in the UCLA Transfer Admission Guide: http://www.admissions.ucla.edu/prospect/adm_tr/tradms.htm

An exception to general campus policy regarding junior-level transfers: the Departments of Art and Design | Media Arts will review sophomore-level transfers, but applicants must still meet minimum academic eligibility requirements.

Architectural Studies admits junior-level transfers only – no freshmen or sophomore level applicants.

Q: Can I meet with a UCLA counselor to determine what visual arts courses I should take?

A: UCLA does not conduct pre-reviews of transcripts, nor do the departments advise on what transferable courses to take.

However, the UCLA General Catalog (see link and step-by-step navigating instructions below) includes curricula and course descriptions for all UCLA majors/departments, and prospective applicants can access this on their own as a resource for selecting similar lower division courses at their home institutions:

Go to UCLA General Catalog: <http://www.registrar.ucla.edu/catalog/catalog-curricul.htm>

Select major (Architectural Studies, Art, Design | Media Arts), which takes you to the department navigation page. Under the link "Undergraduate Study", refer to the courses listed under "Preparation for the Major", which are lower division requirements, i.e. what students will take if they started at UCLA from freshman year.

Back on the navigation page, there is a link for "[Major] Course Listings", which lists course descriptions of the classes listed under "Preparation for the Major". Best match UCLA major preparation course descriptions, with UC-transferable course descriptions from your home institution. The match may not be perfect, but please use your good judgment.

Q: Do I need to take all of the recommended lower division courses in order to be admitted?

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A: The faculty can recommend admission on the strength of the portfolio even if not all of the recommended major preparation coursework is completed. However, students will have to complete remaining lower division prep coursework upon enrollment at UCLA, which may mean that it could take more than two years for completion of all degree requirements.

Also note that the UCLA degree is awarded based upon completion of University, School, **AND** Major requirements. For information about School of the Arts and Architecture's degree requirements, please visit the UCLA General Catalog: <http://registrar.ucla.edu/catalog/catalog13-14-49.htm>.

Q: What do I put in my portfolio? What does a good portfolio look like?

A: In the portfolio review, faculty will be interested in what conceptual choices you make as much as your technical execution. The faculty will want to know why you do what you do:

- What sources your creative intent?
- What problems are you attempting to solve?
- What message(s) is your artwork trying to convey?

These types of considerations are just as important as what materials/programs you are using in order to show your ideas.

There is no right or wrong way to approach the portfolio. The departments intentionally do not give specific, technical portfolio assignments because they want their applicants to feel free to submit their best, finished, self-directed work.

Q: If my current classes only focus on technique, then how do I learn how to come up with ideas?

A: Developing your self-concept usually means pursuing enrichment opportunities outside of the classroom.

Successful transfers in the visual arts are those who use the listed lower division coursework as a guide, but are self-directed in investigating and expanding their knowledge base in pursuit of their creative maturity.

Q: The UC application essay asks me to talk about my intended major. Can I cut and paste this essay for the artist statement?

A: The majors for Architectural Studies and Art ask for an additional artist statement that accompanies the portfolio and supplemental application. Your audience for the artist statement is the faculty of the department, and the faculty will read the artist statement first.

The faculty may refer to your UC essay if they are seeking additional information about your application. It is in your best interest to make your UC essay distinct from your artist statement.

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Best Practices for the Portfolio Supplemental Application

When applying to UCLA's visual arts majors, it is important to thoroughly educate yourself on your intended department and institution. Answering the following questions will aid in your research, which may ultimately inform how you prepare and edit your portfolio and other supplemental materials.

- What do I know about the department to which I am applying?
- What are their educational and professional goals for their students?
- How do they seek to prepare their students?
- What kind of work is the faculty doing?
- What kind of work are the students doing?
- Who has lectured/guest-taught?
- *What environment / resources / culture does this department offer that support your goals?*

When you are assembling and editing works for your portfolio:

- How am I creating a visual narrative/story for the faculty? How do I want to sequence my portfolio work?
- Considering everything I know about the department, how can I communicate to the faculty that their department is the ideal environment for me to advance my work?
- Does my artist statement correspond with/illuminate/complement my visual work? Is the writing directed at the department faculty? (for Architectural Studies and Art majors only)