

CCA Student Transfer Handout

This guide is designed to provide you with essential information as you explore transfer opportunities to other institutions.

Key Transfer Considerations

1. Starting your Search

- **Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design (AICAD) Schools:** Students interested in art schools can use the Browse function at the top of the AICAD home page (aicad.org). Keep in mind that each school has its own curriculum, teaching philosophy, and areas of emphasis. Some programs are more conceptual and interdisciplinary, while others are more technical or skill-focused. As you research and apply, consider how closely each school's approach aligns with the type of education and creative experience you are seeking.
- **Confirm Accreditation:** College accreditation ensures that institutions meet established standards of quality. Examples: National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).
- **Non-Profit vs For-Profit Institutions:** Nonprofit colleges prioritize educational quality and student success, while for-profit colleges operate as businesses focused on generating profit.
- **Bachelor of Arts (BA) vs Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA):** Most of CCA's programs award a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree, which emphasizes intensive studio practice. BFA programs typically require a higher proportion of studio coursework—approximately 60% studio classes and 40% academic courses. Bachelor of Arts (BA) programs generally place greater emphasis on academic coursework or maintain a more balanced 50/50 split between studio and academics. This distinction can significantly affect both the types of classes you will take at a new institution and how your CCA coursework may transfer or apply toward degree requirements.
- **STEM Option (International Students):** If you earn a degree in a field that appears on the US government's official list of STEM fields, you may be eligible for the 24-month OPT extension.

2. Application Process and Deadlines

- **Application Deadlines:** These dates are set by the prospective college. Be sure to check the specific transfer student deadlines for each school you are interested in.

Applying earlier often results in earlier decisions and better chances for scholarship consideration.

- **Scholarship Deadlines:** Many colleges have separate deadlines for transfer student scholarships. Do not assume the application deadline is the same as the scholarship deadline.
- **Fee Waiver:** Inquire directly with the admissions office of your target institution about the availability of an application fee waiver. Many colleges offer waivers for students transferring due to the closure of an institution.

3. Preliminary Transfer Credit Review

Understanding how your CCA credits will transfer is critical to planning your path to graduation.

- **Preliminary Credit Evaluation:** To request a preliminary idea of how your courses will be evaluated, you should provide the unofficial transcript available to download as a PDF from the Academics Hub in Workday. Not all schools offer this service.
- **Credit Portability:**
 - Be prepared for institutions to conduct a full credit evaluation *after* you have been accepted, not before.
 - Many art and design programs have specific sequencing or foundational requirements. Review the proposed course load at your target institution.

4. Financial Aid and Cost Implications

The cost of attendance is a major factor in your transfer decision.

- **Review COA:** Carefully review the Cost of Attendance (COA) on the prospective college's website. This includes tuition, fees, and estimated living expenses.
- **Financial Aid:** Ask the admissions or financial aid teams at the transfer college about their financial aid options, including transfer-specific scholarships, grants, and federal aid eligibility.

5. International Students

Transferring to another SEVIS-approved school in the US.

- **SEVIS Record:** You must request that International Student Services (ISS) release your SEVIS record to your new school. More information can be found on the [Transferring F-1 SEVIS record out of CCA](#) page on CCA Portal. The timeline to transfer with an active SEVIS record is something students should discuss with ISS, so please schedule an appointment to review all information.

6. Directing Your Inquiry

The fastest and most accurate way to get answers about your transfer path is to contact the admissions teams at your prospective schools. They are the definitive source for information on application status, fee waivers, credit evaluation policies, and financial aid.