



Updated 7/24/2024 for Fall 2025 Admission

MFA Graduate Application Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Do you accept applications on a rolling basis?

No, the department of Design Media Arts accepts applications only once a year – for Fall quarter admission.

When is the application due?

The Design Media Arts MFA application is due by January 4 for Fall quarter admission. This is a strict deadline. Late, incomplete, or hard-copy applications will not be considered.

What are the application requirements?

Visit the [DMA website](#) for application requirements.

What are the portfolio requirements?

Students are accepted into the MFA program in media arts based on evidence of academic achievement and creative talent. A portfolio consisting of up to ten (10) pieces of original work [up to five (5) of which can be videos] is required. Select your best current works that represent your media emphasis and potential for advanced specialized study. **DMA's MFA program in media arts is not a graphic design program. Traditional graphic design portfolios will not be considered.**

*Note: A maximum of five (5) pieces of videos is allowed in your portfolio. Each video file may not exceed two (2) minutes. A link to the full video can be provided accompanying the project.

Still images, interactive media, and sound will also be accepted. Interactive projects such as websites or games should be submitted as a still shot or video. A still shot or video documentation of an interactive project can also be accompanied by a link to the actual project.

Please see the DMA MFA Application Information for instructions on file sizes and types.

Where do I submit my portfolio?

Submit your portfolio only through the general [UCLA Application for Graduate Admission](#).

Can I apply to more than one graduate program?

No, applicants may only apply to one graduate program at UCLA.

Is the MFA program in Design Media Arts a STEM-designated program?

Unfortunately, the MFA program in Design Media Arts is **not** a STEM-designated program and thus does not fulfill the STEP OPT extension requirement.

Is there a portfolio review day?

The department does not hold portfolio reviews.

What is the minimum grade point average (GPA) requirement?

A minimum grade point average of "B" (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) cumulative, or its equivalent, in undergraduate study or in graduate level study, if any, is required for graduate admission.

I graduated from a school outside of the United States. Am I eligible to apply?

Please send your inquiry to dmainfo@arts.ucla.edu and include: what institution(s) you graduated from and which degree(s) you've earned.

Am I eligible for an application fee waiver?

[Please visit this page](#) and select the Fee Waivers tab. If you requested a fee waiver, it may take several business days *after* you submit your application for your documentation to be reviewed. If it is determined that you are not eligible for a fee waiver, you will receive an email notice with instructions for paying the fee.

How many letters of recommendation are required?

All applicants are required to provide 2 letters of recommendation. Recommenders can be undergraduate, graduate, or professional contacts; they should be people who can speak to your creative ability and potential. In the UCLA Application for Graduate Admissions, you will see a section to "Add a Recommender." All letters of recommendation must be submitted by the application deadline.

GRE, TOEFL, and IELTS exams – do I need to take it?

The GRE is not required.

If your first language is not English, you must certify proficiency in English when you apply to UCLA by submitting either the TOEFL scores or the IELTS scores in your application. Applicants are required to submit a minimum TOEFL score of at least 560 on the paper and pencil test or 220 on the computer based test or 87 on the internet-based (iBT) test. An IELTS overall band score of at least 7.0 is the minimum required. Applications are not considered complete without the test scores. Please be sure to list the TOEFL institution code for UCLA 4837 and department code 15. IELTS scores should be sent to the department and the Graduate Division. Please note that TOEFL scores are considered valid for only two years, and that if several scores are submitted, only the most recent is considered.

Am I exempted from the TOEFL or IELTS?

If you hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a university located in the United States or in another country in which English is **both** the primary spoken language of daily life (e.g., Australia, Barbados, Canada, Ireland, Jamaica, New Zealand, United Kingdom) **and** the medium of instruction; have completed at least two years of *full-time study* at such an institution, you are exempted from both the *TOEFL/IELTS*. Please be sure to include such

information in your application.

How do I confirm my TOEFL or IELTS scores have been received by UCLA?

Test scores sent electronically may take several weeks to match up *after you have submitted your application*. Your name and other personal information (name and date of birth) must be exactly the same on the application as on the test materials to make a match. You may upload a PDF of your test taker's score report in the Supplemental Materials section as unofficial documentation of your scores.

Please do not email or call to inquire about receipt of documents as it will delay our efforts to process application material.

Are official transcripts required?

Transcripts from all educational institutions attended (beyond secondary school or community college) must be uploaded in the online application by the application deadline. Unofficial transcripts will be accepted during the application process. Official transcripts and documents are only required **after** you have been admitted. If you are a university/college senior, do not wait for senior-year grades before submitting your application and transcript.

Applicants who are officially notified of admission will be required to submit official transcripts.

Are college seniors required to send transcripts if they haven't graduated?

If you are a university/college senior, do not wait for senior-year grades before submitting your application and transcript. You may list in-progress coursework in the application. If you are admitted provisionally, you are required to submit your final transcript showing the degree has been awarded with the date of conferral. The department must receive the final transcript prior to the first month of the quarter. Failure to send final transcripts will result in a hold in your student account.

Do you accept E-transcripts?

E-transcripts can be emailed to the department at dmainfo@arts.ucla.edu. They must be sent directly from the institution, not from the applicant.

What if I do not hold a bachelor's degree in Media Arts?

The applicant's bachelor's degree need not be in media arts, though applicants with degrees in interdisciplinary programs that emphasize media arts are preferred. Applicants are expected to have working knowledge of a variety of software. Additional experience with video, interactive media, or 3D modeling and animation is expected.

When will admissions decisions be emailed to me?

Admissions decisions will be sent in between March and April.

How much is tuition for the program?

Please visit the UCLA Registrar's Office [Annual Fees for UCLA Graduate Programs](#).

What kind of financial support is offered to admitted students?

Various merit- and eligibility-based financial support is available to entering and continuing graduate students at UCLA. Entering DMA graduate students are offered financial assistance at the time of admission based on the strength of their application; continuing students are usually informed of their financial support before the beginning of their second and third year of study. Additionally, all students are given the opportunity to apply for Teaching Assistantship positions which offer a quarterly salary and a partial fee remission during the term(s) of employment. More information on financial support, including extramural awards, is available through the [UCLA Graduate Division](#).

Are there scholarships I can apply for?

Explore the UCLA Graduate Division's fellowships, scholarships, and grants for entering students [here](#).

How do I know if I am a good fit for the program?

We encourage applicants to explore the [graduate curriculum](#), [graduate student profiles](#), the [DMA faculty profiles](#), and [alumni profiles](#) to see how your interests align with the department.

What classes do MFA students take in this program?

Please see our [Program Curriculum](#). For a complete outline of degree requirements, visit [Program Requirements for UCLA Graduate Degrees](#).

Other questions:

Please email dmainfo@arts.ucla.edu or visit the [DMA website](#).