ARTS : Design Media Arts

Graduate Application
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Thank you for your interest in the MFA program in media arts at UCLA Department of Design Media Arts (DMA). Application to DMA includes the following deadlines:

January 15, 11:59 pm PST
- UCLA Application for Graduate Admission (http://www.grad.ucla.edu/apply)
- Unofficial copy of transcripts via the UCLA online application
- Two (2) letters of recommendation via the UCLA online application
- TOEFL or IELTS score (if required)

January 20, 11:59 pm PST
- DMA Supplemental Application (https://supplemental.arts.ucla.edu/grad/)

How do I login to the DMA Supplemental Application?
Click HERE to register and login to the DMA Supplemental Application. Use the same email address you provided on the UCLA Application.

Why am I unable to register for the DMA Supplemental Application?
Please note that the UCLA Application for Graduate Admission and the DMA Supplemental Application are linked, and there is a brief communication delay between the two systems. If you started your graduate application very recently, it may take a full day for the Supplemental Application to recognize your login information. Please try again after 5:15 pm (PST), the business day AFTER you started your UCLA Application for Graduate Admission.

If you are still having trouble registering, please double check the following items are listed correctly in the UCLA Application for Graduate Admission: 1) Name 2) Email 3) Date of Birth 4) Major: Design Media Arts

What is required in the Supplemental Application?
Please see the Supplemental Application Worksheet for more information on statement prompts and portfolio requirements.

Where do I submit my portfolio?
Submit your portfolio ONLY through the Supplemental Application. Portfolios submitted through the UCLA Application for Graduate Admission will not be reviewed. Portfolios

cannot be emailed to the department. Please see the dmainfo@arts.ucla.edu to see portfolio guidelines.

I'm having trouble uploading images and videos to the Supplemental Application.

Have you tried using a different web browser? Is your browser updated to the most recent version? Have you checked if your files are formatted correctly using the formatting guidelines on page 3 of the [Supplemental Application Worksheet](#)? If you are still having problems, screenshot the error and email it to dmainfo@arts.ucla.edu.

How many letters of recommendation are required?

All applicants are also 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 postmarked by January 15.

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.

How do I know if I must take the TOEFL/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 can I check if my transcripts, letters of recommendation, and/or scores have arrived?

You may check the status of your submissions using the UCLA application. Official transcripts are only required for applicants who are officially notified of admission.

Is the Personal History Statement (on the UCLA Application for Graduate Admission) required?

This statement is optional and should not duplicate the Statement of Purpose.

Do I have to write two different Statements of Purpose for the UCLA Application for Graduate Admission and the DMA Supplemental Application?

No. You can submit the same Statement of Purpose on both applications. Please use the following prompt (from the Supplemental Application Worksheet): *"Please state your purpose in applying for graduate study. Describe the role of new technologies in the field of media arts and your proposed contribution to the field through graduate study at UCLA. Briefly describe experiences that have prepared you for advanced study or research, and provide any additional information that may aid the selection committee in evaluating your preparation and aptitude for graduate study at UCLA. This statement should be no longer than 3000 characters (approximately 500 words)."*

Are official transcripts required?

Transcripts from all educational institutions attended (beyond secondary school or community college) must be uploaded in the online application by January 15. 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. You may send transcripts to the following address:

Graduate Advisor
UCLA Department of Design Media Arts
Broad Art Center
240 Charles E. Young Drive, Suite 2275 Box 951456
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1456

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. 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.

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.

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 March.

How much is tuition for the program?

Please visit the UCLA Registrar's 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 second-year financial support before the beginning of their second-year of study. The most common form of financial support is through teaching assistantships, which typically include fee remissions and health insurance. More information on financial support, including extramural awards, is available through the UCLA Graduate Division.

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

Visit our Graduate Gallery to see the type of work our students create. Visit our Faculty Profiles to see whether your interests align with any of our faculty. Please note we do not conduct portfolio reviews.

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.

Can I visit the department and take a tour?

The MFA Open House will be on Tuesday, October 23, 2018. Please register for the event here.

Other questions:

If you encounter technical issues on the UCLA Application for Graduate Admission, contact dmainfo@arts.ucla.edu or visit our DMA website.