California College of the Arts

Pre-College

Summer 2016

Four weeks
3 credits
June 27-July 22

Scholarship application deadline: March 14
cca.edu/precollege
800.447.1ART
Contents

05 Introduction
08 Program Details
12 Course Descriptions
40 General Info
47 On-Campus Housing
48 International Students
50 Tuition and Fees
52 How to Apply
53 Scholarships
54 Applying for Scholarships
56 Important Dates and Deadlines
Immerse yourself in a college-level curriculum and become part of a creative community, meeting and working with other talented, serious students from diverse backgrounds. While taking classes on CCA’s beautiful four-acre Oakland campus, you can explore the Bay Area’s rich culture and geography. Pre-College provides a perfect platform to expand your knowledge, grow as an individual, develop strong portfolio pieces, and get a taste of college life.

The San Francisco Bay Area’s thriving urban centers and wild open spaces have always held an attraction for creative individuals. There is an abundance of culture and history here: the commercial creative endeavors of Lucasfilm, Pixar, and Zynga; the legacy of the 1950s Beat poetry scene; cutting-edge design firms such as IDEO; world-renowned museums, including the de Young and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and architectural projects by Renzo Piano, Daniel Libeskind, and Herzog & de Meuron.

CCA’s Pre-College Program is an exciting opportunity for high school students to study art, architecture, design, or creative writing in an art-school setting while earning 3 units of college credit.
Pre-College students find CCA’s beautiful and historic Oakland campus an inspiring environment for their summer art experience. The campus stretches over four acres of landscaped grounds and is surrounded by a charming residential neighborhood. College Avenue—a two-mile stretch of cafés, independent bookstores, boutiques, and restaurants—runs between CCA and the University of California at Berkeley. The campus is within walking distance of the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Rockridge station, from which it is approximately 20 minutes by train to downtown San Francisco.

“Creativity and excitement are always in the air. Plus, the Oakland campus is GORGEOUS!”
The Program

Four weeks: June 27–July 22

Pre-College is an all-day program. Classes are held Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., on CCA’s Oakland campus, with a one-hour lunch break at noon. Required studio hours are on Mondays and Wednesdays, 4–6 p.m. Evening activities such as life-drawing sessions, artist talks, and hands-on art and design workshops enhance the overall program experience and are typically scheduled Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 5–8 p.m.

Students must attend the entire four weeks of the program. (Please note that there are no classes on Monday, July 4, in observation of the Independence Day holiday.) The last day, Friday, July 22, consists of final critiques and concludes with a major exhibition and reception from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in which student work is exhibited throughout campus and in all college galleries.

Pre-College is an immersion experience. In addition to scheduled class time, students develop and complete assignments outside of class. Students should not make outside commitments or summer plans that interfere with their ability to focus on the program.

Who Should Apply

CCA’s Pre-College Program is an ideal environment for highly motivated high school students who want to develop their art, design, or creative writing skills. Eligible applicants will have just completed their sophomore, junior, or senior year by summer 2016. Students must be at least 15 by June 2016, and no older than 18.

For students who will have just completed their freshman year of high school, CCA offers a three-week Summer Atelier Program. Visit cca.edu/atelier for more info.
Faculty

Pre-College faculty members are dedicated and highly accomplished artists, architects, designers, and writers who are interested in sharing their professional insights and experiences. The majority of them also teach in CCA’s undergraduate degree programs.

Placement

We make every effort to place applicants in the studio of their first choice. However, due to the popularity of certain studios, some students may be assigned to their second or third selection. Early application is recommended.

College Credit

Students receive a letter grade and earn 3 units of college credit upon successful completion of the program. Transcripts are mailed to students at the end of August.

Accreditation

CCA is a private, nonprofit college, accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD), the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), and the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA).
Courses

Each studio is designed to challenge students at all levels of experience. Participants may choose to try something new or explore in greater depth a discipline in which they are already interested. In addition to studio work, art and design courses include individual and group critiques and slide lectures that delve into the rich history of the chosen discipline. Critiques help students develop an understanding of their work in the context of their classmates’ responses and project objectives. Some courses last all day, and others are paired with a complementary discipline. Class sizes range from 12 to 18 students, depending on the discipline.
Animation

An all-day studio

Pre-College Animation students learn essential techniques of character animation, experimental motion, and cinema through individual projects and group exercises. Students choose among 2D Animation, 3D Computer Animation, and Stop Motion Animation. Classes spend time evaluating animated sequences from classic cartoons as well as independent and experimental films. Students gain technical skills in storytelling, squash and stretch distortion, staging, timing, exaggeration, and many other animation principles.

A guest animator from a local studio such as Pixar, located just three miles away, visits the class. Students also take a trip to the Walt Disney Family Museum, located in the Presidio of San Francisco—a truly inspiring place for aspiring animators.

2D Animation

This studio focuses on working by hand with drawing tools and capturing with pencil test software. Projects include drawings, flipbooks, acting sketches, storyboards, and QuickTime movies. By the end of this course, students will understand the fundamentals of animation and should be able to animate characters successfully using dynamic design, smooth motion, and acting.

3D Animation

This all-digital studio is an introduction to the basic principles of 3D computer animation using Autodesk Maya. Students learn essential animation principles to create dynamic movement and expressive acting using a pre-rigged character while gaining experience with Maya’s powerful interface.

Stop Motion

This studio teaches the principles of animation through a variety of stop-motion techniques. Students experiment with animating found objects, cutouts, simple puppets, and pixilation to create believable movement and acting. Students also gain a familiarity with the use of cameras, lights, and capturing software to create their films.
An all-day studio

Introducing ways of architectural seeing, thinking, and making, this course explores architecture as a two- and three-dimensional spatial discipline through sketching, drafting, model building, and digital representation. Projects include analytical and sculptural explorations focused at the scale of the body, the room, and the city, culminating in the design of a building in an urban site.

Daily lecture and discussion sessions examine the history and theory behind current and traditional ideas of architectural space. Students learn how architects bring form and material to abstract concepts, generate architectural rhythms, and capture space and light through form. The class makes a field trip to San Francisco—a city of world-renowned architecture and cutting-edge design—to visit architectural firms and directly experience important building projects.
Ceramics

An all-day studio

Clay is one of the most dynamic and versatile mediums for translating the creative impulse into three-dimensional forms. By rendering ideas in space, participants in this studio learn to push the limits of their visual imaginations. They work with sculptural hand building, the potter's wheel, and plaster molds to fully explore the intersection of art, craft, and design.

Finishing techniques, glazing, and surface design bring the works to completion, emphasizing ceramics as both a utilitarian and a sculptural medium. CCA's spacious ceramics facility is one of the best in the Bay Area, with lots of natural light, fully equipped hand-building and wheel-throwing areas, gas and electric kilns, and a glaze room.

Creative Writing

An all-day course

In this hands-on course, students practice the craft of writing in a lively artistic atmosphere under the guidance of faculty from CCA's Writing and Literature Program. Using short works by great writers as models and drawing parallels and inspiration from the visual arts and music, participants create their own poetry, stories, creative nonfiction, and cross-genre writings. Through in-class prompts, drafts, peer workshops, revisions, and instructor feedback, students develop their distinctive voices while investigating essential aspects of the craft: description, imagery, rhythm, point of view, character, tension, epiphany, and resolution.

The Bay Area has a rich literary history and a vibrant contemporary writing scene, and this class incorporates visits from published guest writers. Students also take a field trip to a San Francisco museum and have the opportunity to collaborate with other disciplines such as film and graphic design.
Drawing

Drawing is paired with Illustration (page 26) or Painting (page 31).

Drawing is the most direct, basic means of artistic expression. In this studio, students learn new concepts and techniques for drawing and are challenged to look at and respond to stimuli in unfamiliar ways. They work on gesture, proportional accuracy, perspective, contour, and position in space as they draw from the figure (five class sessions are devoted to working from a nude model) and natural and human-made objects.

Emphasis is on developing hand-eye coordination. Students explore issues of line, shape, texture, pattern, composition, value, realism, abstraction, content, context, point of view, and the frame. Media used include charcoal, graphite, Conté crayon, sumi brush, and ink wash.

Visits to San Francisco galleries and museums enhance the studio experience.

Drawing / Painting

Drawing/Painting is paired with Sculpture (page 37).

Some ideas are better expressed in 2D; others are better realized as 3D. This studio is designed for students who are eager to experiment with the boundaries between drawing and painting, combining the two practices without regard to their historical hierarchy.

The technical focus is on composition, value, color, form, and line, with a strong emphasis on creative problem solving. Most importantly, students throw away any preconceived distinctions between the two disciplines and make great drawings/paintings with a wide variety of tools, media, and formats.

This studio is not recommended for beginners.
Fashion Design

An all-day studio

Students explore the full range of what it means to be a fashion designer, from concept development to communicating ideas through fashion drawing to creating wearable pieces. Participants work with both traditional fabrics and new alternative materials as they delve into the sculptural silhouette of the human form.

Participants explore how contemporary culture, international trends, and historical references can influence a fashion collection as they work on building their own collection.

The San Francisco Bay Area is on the cutting edge in developing new, innovative, high-tech sustainable fabrics and contemporary activewear. Field trips and guest designers enrich the studio experience.
Film

An all-day studio

CCA has long been in the vanguard of the media arts. In this introduction to filmmaking and modern cinema, students experience the immediacy and flexibility of the vast and hybrid medium of film. They work within multiple genres, such as documentary and narrative fiction, compiling a well-rounded, professional video reel. Working with film language, digital cameras, lighting, sound recorders, scriptwriting, and Adobe Premiere, students immerse themselves in the conceptual and technical fundamentals of narrative and non-narrative filmmaking.

The class uses screenings, critiques, and research to inform individual and collaborative projects. Students gain inspiration as they develop their own voices as artists and filmmakers.

A highlight of the class is a field trip to the Carmen M. Christensen Production Stage on CCA’s San Francisco campus, where students make a short film, or film scripted scenes, using the green screen setup.

Graphic Design

An all-day studio

Graphic designers create some of the most exciting images in the world today, from packaging to branding to websites. In this studio, students express concepts graphically, create visual metaphors, and learn the fundamentals of type design, integrating text with images while emphasizing both creativity and craft. They are encouraged to incorporate photography, drawing, and various experimental processes into their projects. They experiment with type and create graphic elements using their hands, a copy machine, and computer applications.

Students learn the basics of Adobe Creative Suite (Illustrator, Photoshop, and InDesign), the software used by today’s professional graphic designers, dividing their time between the design studio and the computer lab. The class includes engaging lectures, slide/video presentations, and group critiques, as well as a field trip to San Francisco.
Illustration

Illustration is paired with Drawing (page 20).

Illustrators enhance, explain, decorate, and reinforce the printed word. From magazine covers to children's books, posters, video game landscapes, fashion drawings, animated characters, movie storyboards, graphic novels, and web images, the work of the illustrator is everywhere in our visually conscious world.

Students explore the craft of drawing through class exercises, presentations of professional work, and group critiques. Progressing from dry media to watercolor to a mixed-media approach, they gain an understanding of the expressive and communicative possibilities of the many mediums available in an artist's arsenal.

This studio includes a visit to San Francisco to see artwork that is relevant to the class.

Industrial Design

An all-day studio

Who designs the everyday items in our lives: cell phones, athletic shoes, chairs, computers, cars, bikes, even wearable devices? Industrial designers are responsible for many of the most exciting products in the world today—products that transcend the sometimes mundane nature of their use. The best new designs incorporate not just beauty and utility but also a deep understanding of the user experience. They integrate sustainability by minimizing their ecological footprint and maximizing energy and resource efficiency.

In this hands-on studio, students learn and apply the fundamentals of the industrial design process: defining needs, sketching ideas, making physical models, and creating working prototypes that communicate concepts with power, grace, and confidence.

The course includes a field trip to a cutting-edge San Francisco design firm (last year’s class visited IDEO).
Interior Design

An all-day studio

Interior design is one of the fastest-growing and most exciting design fields in the country. The class explores the fundamentals of form, space, and material while developing an understanding of design elements and principles, including light, color, texture, scale, proportion, and how these can affect relationships between human behavior and the built environment.

Students also learn the necessary verbal and graphic skills for communicating their design ideas, using a variety of techniques to prepare beautiful and effective design presentations.

Field trips supplement the studio class experience, including a private tour of interior design showrooms at the San Francisco Design Center.

Jewelry / Metal Arts

An all-day studio

Metalworking is an ancient technique that predates Ancient Egypt. Few materials have metal's longevity, malleability, and rich history. From small-scale, intimate objects such as jewelry, hardware, and flatware to large-scale sculpture, architecture, and modes of transportation, metal surrounds us in all different forms.

Students gain an understanding of its historical and contemporary uses and learn the specialized techniques—sawing, texturing, forming, torch soldering, finishing, and more—involving in transforming wire and sheets of metal into original works of art. Participants also learn how to incorporate found materials into their pieces. They develop an individual aesthetic approach with an underlying conceptual basis, successfully communicating their ideas through well-designed, sophisticated pieces of jewelry or sculpture.

A field trip to San Francisco supplements the studio experience.
Painting

Painting is paired with Drawing (page 20).

Cave paintings dating back 25,000 years testify to humanity’s profound urge to create images. Students in this studio learn the formal aspects of painting, from organizing the picture plane to mixing colors. They also explore new ways of thinking about space, form, line, texture, and pattern as well as various approaches to applying paint.

Class projects are primarily structured around observed subjects, such as the still life and the figure, but they also include exercises that pull from the imagination or expand into abstraction. Students learn to ask themselves not only “How do I paint?” but also “What do I paint, and why?”

Visits to San Francisco galleries and museums enhance the studio experience.
Photography: Black & White + Digital

An all-day studio

Effective images express ideas and a personal vision. In this studio, students make a deep exploration of both digital and analog black-and-white photography. By integrating the two, they gain a comprehensive understanding of how to record and manipulate light. Images are captured on black-and-white film and printed in the darkroom. The prints are then digitally scanned at high resolution, adjusted in Adobe Photoshop, and outputted on an inkjet printer. The end result is a digital archive of scanned black-and-white prints as well as large-format (approximately 30 × 40 inch) inkjet prints.

The basic principles of digital and film camera operation are identical, but processing real film is slower and requires more care, which means that students in this course gain a solid technical foundation that crosses the analog/digital divide. Through lectures, critiques, and class discussions, they develop their ability to think and talk critically about images and image making. For the final project, each student produces a limited-edition zine of their pictures and walks away with a boxed set of everyone's zines at the end of the course.

Field trips to galleries and artists' studios supplement the class experience.
Photography: Experimental

An all-day studio

This studio explores new visual possibilities and ways of seeing through instruction on the technical and aesthetic aspects of a variety of experimental photographic techniques. By combining both digital and analog processing, color and monochromatic outputs, and traditional and experimental modes of image capture, participants are pushed to work (and rework) their photographs to express ideas and develop a personal vision.

Working seamlessly between two often-separate photographic workflows (a digital lab and an analog darkroom), students play with and exploit this fascinating intersection. Slide discussions and field trips to galleries and artists’ studios demonstrate the varied roles of photography, both contemporary and historic. By the end of the course, students have a portfolio of images in a variety of mediums, a set of small handmade zines, and a strong conceptual understanding of how photographs are used and interpreted. Participants must have consistent access to the same digital camera for the duration of the course.

The class includes engaging lectures, slide/video presentations, group critiques, and a field trip to San Francisco.

Techniques covered:

- Advanced metering and exposure using a digital SLR
- Cyanotype printing (hand-coated non-silver process)
- Van Dyke printing (hand-coated silver process)
- Pinhole camera construction and use (black-and-white darkroom)
- Alternative origins of digital images (scanning/re-photographing/collage)
- Manipulating digital images using Adobe Photoshop
- Making digital negatives using inkjet transparency media
- Self-publishing techniques and DIY magazines
- Large-format color inkjet printing
Screenprinting

Screenprinting is paired with Textile Design (page 38).

Screenprinting is a versatile printmaking technique that allows an artist to reproduce an image from a multitude of mediums—from pen and ink to paint, spray paint, the computer, or photography—onto a wide range of materials (paper, fabric, wood, and canvas).

The Screenprinting class paired with Textile Design highlights the aspects of screenprinting that are most exciting and relevant for textile designers. Students employ screenprinting for commercial/design applications (such as making their own patches, tote bags, and T-shirts) and for social and political engagement (through poster making). Because screenprinting is a technique that enables multiple reproductions, students make editioned prints to exchange with one another, and they also make artists' books, sculptures, and installations.

Sculpture

Sculpture is paired with Drawing/Painting (page 21).

Some ideas are better expressed in 2D; others are better realized as 3D. This studio is an exploration in working three dimensionally to understand the interaction between form and space. By experimenting with a variety of materials and techniques, including woodworking, mold making, casting, wirework, and site-specific installation, participants experience the ways in which these choices affect a sculpture's form.

Students investigate the concept of occupying space by considering line, plane, volume, composition, rhythm, balance, color, proportion, and scale, as well as how context and presentation influence the perception of a piece. Class discussions address ideas of positive versus negative, interior versus exterior, static versus dynamic, and representational versus abstract. While creating everything from object-oriented pieces to experimental, time-based, and collaborative work, students explore conceptual approaches to sculpture in order to express ideas and issues.

This studio includes a field trip that explores San Francisco’s dynamic public art scene.
Textile Design

Textile Design is paired with Screenprinting (page 36).

Textiles are currently on the cutting edge of contemporary art and design practice, and CCA is home to one of the premier textile programs in the nation. In this hands-on studio class, students learn to design and print cloth through experimentation with dye chemistry, resist methods, block printing, screenprinting, and digital print technology.

Using both hand-drawn and computer-generated imagery, students research and develop images, colorways, repeat patterns, and layering effects to create personally expressive fabrics that can be applied to fashion, interior design, and fine arts.

Visits to Bay Area galleries and artist residencies enhance the studio experience.

“My Pre-College experience was all that I hoped it would be. It gave me confidence in my ability to be independent. I met amazing people who feel like family now, and I had amazing teachers.”
Workshops
Numerous workshops are scheduled on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, between the hours of 5 and 8 p.m. They are optional and open to students in all disciplines. Topics range from ring making and screenprinting to design lectures, software-specific tutorials, and figure-drawing sessions. Supplies are provided.
CCA’s Enrollment Services Office offers one-on-one portfolio reviews and hosts a talk on applying to art school.

Weekend Activities
Weekend activities take students off campus to various locales, including the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, the Oakland Museum of California, the neighborhood farmer’s market, and Oakland’s historic Paramount Theatre.

Closing Ceremony
The Pre-College Program culminates in an exhibition and reading of student work on Friday, July 22. Families are encouraged to attend. Formal invitations to this event are mailed at the end of June.

San Francisco Field Trip
All classes visit CCA’s San Francisco campus, followed by an experience relevant to their discipline, such as visits to museums, galleries, or local architecture and design firms.
The A2 Café is located at the center of campus, close to student housing and classes. It is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (hours subject to change). Meals are not included in the cost of housing; however, the A2 Café offers an optional breakfast meal plan for $140 and an optional lunch meal plan for $160, available to both commuter and resident students.

Students living in campus housing have refrigerators and access to shared kitchens. There is a supermarket around the corner from campus; cooking dinner together can be an enjoyable part of student life. There are also numerous neighborhood cafés and restaurants within walking distance of campus.

Transportation

The campus is served by AC Transit and, by connection, other Bay Area public transit systems. The BART Rockridge station is within walking distance (eight blocks). Many Pre-College students commute via BART from San Francisco and other Bay Area cities. Visit cca.edu for detailed directions to campus.
Health Insurance

All students are required to have health insurance coverage for the entire duration of the program and must submit proof of insurance before their arrival. Students who do not submit proof of insurance by May 2 risk losing their place in the program, and those who fail to submit proof of insurance will not be allowed to attend. CCA has a vendor for students who need to obtain insurance coverage. Please call 510.594.3638 for more information.

Students with Disabilities

For information about CCA’s support services for students with disabilities, please call 510.594.3638.

Personal Conduct

In order to ensure a positive and safe learning environment, students are required to adhere to the policies and standards of the program. A contract outlining CCA’s policies and rules is included with the Pre-College admission notification. Students and their parents/guardians are required to sign, acknowledging their understanding and acceptance.
Living in campus housing can be a great learning experience and a lot of fun. All of CCA's residence halls (one of which received an award for its design from the American Institute of Architects, San Francisco) are safe, secure, comfortable, on-campus communities that support and complement the Pre-College Program.

CCA housing is staffed and supervised by area coordinators, resident advisors, and a graduate student intern. Area coordinators are professional, live-in staff members who oversee all aspects of residential life. Resident advisors are currently enrolled CCA students who are trained in community building, problem solving, and carrying out emergency procedures.

Because housing is limited, early application is recommended.

Accommodations

The halls can accommodate a maximum of 160 Pre-College students. All residents live in shared rooms. Each room is fully furnished with beds, desks, dressers, a mini refrigerator, and a microwave. All residents have access to shared kitchens, lounge areas, laundry facilities, and Internet. Students must provide their own linens.

A nightly curfew of 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, is strictly enforced. Residential students are not allowed to bring vehicles. Additional information regarding residential policies will be provided to accepted applicants.
Costs
The cost of living in the residence halls is $1,100. An additional $150 refundable damage deposit is charged to all residents. Damage deposit refunds are issued four weeks after the program ends, less any cleaning or damage charges that have been incurred.

International Students
International students are welcome to attend CCA’s Pre-College Program. Students in past years have come from France, Mexico, Poland, Thailand, Turkey, and many other countries. Attending Pre-College is a wonderful way to pursue your artwork while experiencing American culture and college life.

If you are not a US citizen or legal permanent resident, you are considered an international student and must obtain an F-1 student visa to participate in the Pre-College Program. You may NOT attend the program with a tourist visa (B1/B2) or visa waiver (ESTA), because while participating in the Pre-College Program you are studying full time.

In order to accommodate travel and visa arrangements, early application is recommended.

Student Visa and I-20 Process for International Students
1. Apply to CCA’s Pre-College Program and be accepted for admission. Once you have been admitted, we will email you the I-20 Request Form.

2. Complete the I-20 Request Form and mail it, along with bank documents that show that you have sufficient funds to support your education at CCA and a copy of the biographical page of your passport, to the Pre-College Program coordinator.

After the above materials have been received, reviewed, and approved, CCA will generate an I-20 and send it to the address provided on the I-20 Request Form.

3. Once you receive your I-20, pay the SEVIS I-901 fee (instructions will be included with your I-20) and make a visa appointment at the US consulate closest to where you live. You will then take your CCA I-20, the I-901 fee receipt, the original bank statement(s), and your CCA letter of acceptance to your visa interview to obtain an F-1 student visa for entry into the United States.

English Language Proficiency
International students must have strong English language skills; the program is conducted in English only. If you are applying from a country where English is not the primary language, you must submit a letter from a school counselor or English teacher that describes your skills in listening to, speaking, reading, and writing English. If you have completed the TOEFL, TOEIC, or IELTS, submit your scores along with the letter.
Refund Policy

Students who withdraw for any reason must do so in writing. The postmark date will be honored as the withdrawal date. Please allow two weeks for processing. All refunds issued in the form of a check are made payable to the student.

Refunds are made according to the following schedule:

Withdrawal on or before May 2: 100 percent tuition refund (minus the nonrefundable $35 application fee, $200 tuition deposit, and $100 housing deposit). No housing refunds will be issued after May 2.

Withdrawal on or before May 16: 50 percent tuition refund only (minus the nonrefundable $35 application fee and $200 tuition deposit).

Withdrawal after May 16: No refund.

Students who apply to the program after May 2 must pay in full. If a student is asked to leave the program for violations of school policies or regulations, no refund will be issued.

Tuition and Fees

Application fee: $35
Registration fee: $10
Tuition: $3,050

On-campus housing: $1,100

Housing damage deposit: $150 (refundable)

Optional meal plans are available for all students.

For policies regarding refunds, please see cca.edu/precollege.
How to Apply

Your Pre-College application must include:

A completed Pre-College application (apply online or download the PDF at cca.edu/precollege).

$35 application fee (nonrefundable)

$200 tuition deposit (nonrefundable)

$100 housing deposit, if you are applying for housing (nonrefundable). Students who live within a commutable distance from the Oakland campus are given second priority for housing, but we are often able to accommodate them. Students who apply after March 14 should contact the Pre-College Office to inquire about housing availability.

Official high school transcript that includes your fall 2015 grades

This must arrive in a signed, sealed envelope, either enclosed with your application or sent directly from your school.

International applicants must submit a letter from a school counselor or English teacher that describes their skills in listening to, speaking, reading, and writing English. The Pre-College Program is conducted in English only. If you have completed the TOEFL, TOEIC, or IELTS, submit your scores along with the letter.

Scholarships

In addition to more than $100,000 in Pre-College scholarships awarded by CCA, at least one full-tuition scholarship is awarded each year in memory of Marcella Cleese through a generous endowment created by her friends.

CCA offers highly competitive merit scholarships in amounts up to $2,600. Awards are based on academic achievement, creative ability (as demonstrated by the portfolio), and the essay submitted with the application.

Merit Scholarships

Scholarship assistance is available to students with documented financial need. Award amounts vary and are based on academic achievement, demonstrated artistic promise, financial need, and the scholarship essay. Students who submit all required scholarship application materials for a need-based scholarship by March 14 are automatically considered for merit scholarships.

"I got to try lots of new things, get feedback, and learn different ways to approach the creative process. I can see how much better my work is now than it was before."
Applying for Scholarships

A merit scholarship application must include:

All required materials for application to the program, including the application fee and deposits.

An online or CD portfolio of your artwork. Send five to eight pieces. No original artwork accepted. If you submit photographs, indicate whether they were printed commercially or by you. Video submissions are accepted for Film applicants only. Creative Writing applicants should submit two to five pages of writing samples.

A half-page essay describing your artistic interests and goals, and specifically the reasons for your interest in CCA’s Pre-College Program.

All of the above items must be postmarked by March 14 for scholarship consideration.

A need-based scholarship application must include:

All required materials for application to the program, including the application fee and deposits.

An online or CD portfolio of your artwork. Send five to eight pieces. No original artwork accepted. If you submit photographs, indicate whether they were printed commercially or by you. Video submissions are accepted for Film applicants only. Creative Writing applicants should submit two to five pages of writing samples.

A half-page essay describing your artistic interests and goals, and specifically the reasons for your interest in CCA’s Pre-College Program.

A copy of your family’s 2015 U.S. federal income tax return. Your family should also document any child support received (or paid) and any other money received that is not reported on the tax return. On an individual basis, where necessary, CCA may request further financial documentation. You will not be considered for a need-based scholarship if you do not include the 2015 U.S. tax return.

A written statement describing why you need financial assistance to attend the program. Preferably a parent or guardian should write this statement, although a high school counselor or art teacher may also write it.

Students who apply for need-based scholarships are automatically considered for merit-based scholarships.

All of the above items must be postmarked by March 14 for scholarship consideration.
Important Dates and Deadlines

Rolling Admissions

Applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. We will not review your application until ALL materials are received.

Early application is recommended. Because space in each studio is limited, we cannot guarantee placement in your first-choice studio selection. In the event that your first choice is full, you will be waitlisted and placed in the next available studio selection. You will be notified immediately if space becomes available in a studio for which you are waitlisted.

Scholarship Deadline: March 14

All need-based and merit scholarship application materials must be postmarked by March 14. Scholarship applications postmarked after this date will not be reviewed.

Tuition & Housing Balance Deadline: Postmarked May 2

Tuition and fees (housing fees and optional meal plans), less the $200 tuition deposit, $100 housing deposit (if applicable), and any scholarships awarded, are due on May 2 or two weeks after your acceptance date, whichever is later. Applications received after May 2 must include full payment of tuition, fees, and housing (if desired). All art supplies, evening workshops, and transportation for field trips are included in the price of tuition. Payment may be made by check (payable to California College of the Arts), Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover. Please note that failure to pay the tuition and housing balance in full by the deadline could lead to forfeiture of the student's studio selection and housing reservation. A late fee of $100 will be charged if the balance of all tuition and fees is not received by the deadline.
Notification

Notification of studio placement and housing is sent within two weeks of CCA’s receipt of your complete application, including transcripts, application fee, and deposits. Students applying for need-based and merit scholarships will be notified of awards by April 18.

Students who apply to the program after May 2 must pay in full. To check availability of studios and housing, please call our office at 510.594.3638

A TYPICAL WEEKDAY

8 a.m. Roll out of bed and grab breakfast at A2 Café
9 a.m.–noon Morning class
noon–1 p.m. Have lunch and window shop on College Avenue, or picnic with friends on the campus lawn
1–4 p.m. Afternoon class
4 p.m. Head over to a lecture on sustainable design, or hop on BART to take in an exhibition in San Francisco
6 p.m. Cook dinner with friends in the residence hall kitchen, or go for sushi (or almost any other kind of international food you can imagine) on College Avenue
7:30 p.m. Do homework, visit a figure-drawing session, or meet with friends for a screening of the Rocky Horror Picture Show (courtesy the resident advisors!)
10 p.m. Curfew check-in

“I would strongly recommend this program to any high school student who is passionate about making art.”