

All Bachelor of Fine Arts or Bachelor of Science degree courses may be taken at ArtCenter, or some credits may be transferred from another accredited college. There are two categories of credit that can transfer to ArtCenter—studio art and general education—and at the time of admission we will inform you of your placement in the program and transfer credits offered. Generally, qualifying courses weighted 3+ units are transferred equivalent to a 3-unit course at ArtCenter. A maximum of 60 units of academic and studio credit may be transferred. ArtCenter does not require specific courses to be completed prior to applying/transferring. This information is subject to change without notice.

Portfolio Requirements

The portfolio is the single most important part of the admissions process at ArtCenter College of Design. Please refer to the ArtCenter catalog or website for the portfolio requirements for your proposed major, and meet with an ArtCenter admissions counselor. To schedule an appointment, please call 626-396-2373 or schedule online via www.artcenter.edu.

1. Studio Art Credit

Studio credit is based on your portfolio as well as evaluation of your transcripts. For that reason, there are no classes that will automatically transfer. Your portfolio is evaluated at the time of admission for any possible studio credit. We do not provide studio credit based solely on your transcript. Refer to ArtCenter’s website for portfolio requirements for each major. We will determine whether your portfolio demonstrates the same type of content and level as our own required classes. You must have a grade of “B” or better to transfer a studio class. Our goal is to place you at the right level so that you will be properly challenged, but not overly challenged, by our program. Receipt of studio transfer credit is the only means by which to shorten the actual time required to complete the degree. If you need help deciding what studio classes to take to prepare your portfolio, schedule an appointment with an admissions counselor who can suggest classes and resources upon reviewing your portfolio.

2. General Education Credit

For the Bachelor of Fine Arts or Bachelor of Science degree, ArtCenter requires 45 units in general education. However each major/program has limitations on the number and type of general education transfer credits that must be completed. Transfer credits fall within four categories or “distribution requirements” as listed in the table below. General education credits do not shorten the total number of terms needed to complete your degree but do lighten your course load within a term or provide room for electives. Berkeley City College general education classes that are UC/CSU transferable are typically considered for transfer to ArtCenter. ESL and CABOT courses are not transferable.

Within the general education area, classes considered “Electives,” can be transferred with a “C” or better or “Pass,” and more specialized classes called “Program” classes require a “B” or better. Some general education classes can be taken prior to entering ArtCenter; most specialized “Program” or required courses can only be taken at ArtCenter. A class completed for Program credit cannot be double counted for Elective credit. For a full explanation of Elective and Program classes by major, visit ArtCenter.edu/admissions.

GENERAL EDUCATION ELECTIVE DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS BY MAJOR (in units/credits)						
UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR	BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE	HUMANITIES	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	SOCIAL SCIENCE	+ ANY QUALIFYING CATEGORY	TOTAL
ADVERTISING	3	3	3	3	15	27
ENTERTAINMENT-ANIMATION	3	0	3	3	3	12
ENTERTAINMENT-CONCEPT	6	3	3	3	9	24
ENTERTAINMENT-GAME	3	3	3	3	21	33
ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN	3	3	3	3	6	18
FILM	3	3	3	3	21	33
FINE ART	3	3	3	3	9	21
GRAPHIC DESIGN	3	3	3	3	15	27
ILLUSTRATION	3	3	3	3	21	33
INTERACTION DESIGN	6	3	3	3	12	27
PHOTOGRAPHY & IMAGING	3	3	3	3	18	30
PRODUCT DESIGN	3	3	3	3	6	18
TRANSPORTATION DESIGN	3	3	0	3	9	18

Grade Policy: All required general education or studio art program courses must be completed with a grade of “B” or better. General education elective units may be completed with a grade of “C” or better.

Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate Policy: ArtCenter accepts general education AP exam results of 4 or 5, and IB Higher Level Exam results of 5, 6 or 7. Official reports must be sent directly from College Board or the IB qualified institution in order to receive credit. ArtCenter does not accept AP/IB studio art credit or IB standard level courses.

All transfer credit must be finalized by the end of the student’s first term at ArtCenter. No transfer credit will be accepted for course work done after the student has enrolled in a degree program. It is the student’s responsibility to declare and provide final official transcripts from all colleges attended. Unofficial transcripts will not be considered.

If you have questions regarding our application or portfolio requirements, visit ArtCenter.edu/admissions. Call 626-396-2373 to schedule an appointment with one of our admissions counselors or to tour the College.

PROGRAM REQUIRED COURSES and SMC EQUIVALENCIES	
REQUIRED COURSES FOR ALL ARTCENTER MAJORS	
COURSE NAME	SMC COURSE OFFERING
WRITING STUDIO One writing course with a grade of “B” or better fulfills the course requirement and waives the writing placement test. <i>Course cannot double-count as a Humanities elective.</i>	ENGL 1, 2, 31
REQUIRED COURSES FOR FINE ART AND ILLUSTRATION MAJORS ONLY	
COURSE NAME	SMC COURSE OFFERING
HISTORY OF ART 1 or 2 One Art History course with a grade of “B” or better. <i>Course cannot double-count as a Humanities elective.</i>	AHIS 1, 2, 3

ELECTIVE COURSES and SMC EQUIVALENCIES	
BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES ELECTIVES: Refer to table on page 1 for specific major requirements.	
COURSE TYPE	SMC COURSE OFFERING
Accounting	ACCTG 1, 2, 6, 7, 10A-C, 11, 12, 16, 21, 45
Business/Management	BUS 1, 5, 6, 46, 50, 54, 62, 63, 64, 65, 67, 72, 76, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83
Computer Programming	CS 3, 5, 6, 8, 40, 41, 60, 61
Communications	BUS 32, 51; COMST 9, 16, 30, 31, 35-37; JOUR 1, 43; MEDIA 1, 3
Economics	ECON 1, 2, 6, 15
Marketing	BUS 20, 22, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 52
Speech	COMST 11, 12, 21

HUMANITIES ELECTIVES: Refer to table on page 1 for specific major requirements.	
COURSE TYPE	SMC COURSE OFFERING
Art History	AHIS 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 52, 71, 72; ET 61, 62; INT ARC 41, 42; PHOTO 52
Creative Writing	ENGL 30A, 30B; ET 2; FILM 20, 21; JOUR 18
English	ENGL 1, 2, 31
Film Studies	FILM 1, 2, 5-9
Foreign Language	ASL 1, 2; ARABIC 1; CHNESE 1-4; FRENCH 1-4, 31A; GERMAN 1-4, 31A; HEBREW 1-4; ITAL 1-4; JAPAN 1-4; KOREAN 1-4; PERSIN 1, 2; PORTGS 1; RUSS 1, 2; SPAN 1-4, 11, 12, 31A; TURKSH 1
Gender Studies	MEDIA 10; WOM ST 10, 20, 30

History	HIST 1-6, 10-16, 19-22, 24-30, 32-34, 38, 39, 41-62
Humanities	HUM 26, 28; LIBR 1; LING 1; TH ART 2, 5
Literature	ENGL 2-10, 14-18, 26, 32, 34, 38, 39-41, 45, 49-61; FILM 11
Music History	MUSIC 30-37, 39
Philosophy	PHILOS 1-7, 9-11, 20, 22-24, 41, 48, 51, 52
Religion	REL ST 51, 52

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES (Science Lab not required): Refer to table on page 1 for specific major requirements.

COURSE TYPE	SMC COURSE OFFERING
Anatomy	ANATMY 1, 2
Astronomy	ASTRON 1-10
Biology	BIOL 2, 3, 4, 9, 15, 21, 22, 23; BOTANY 1, 3; MCRBIO 1
Chemistry	CHEM 9, 10, 11, 12, 21, 22, 31
Cognitive Psychology	PSYCH 2
Computer Programming	CS 5, 6, 10, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20A, 20B, 32, 33, 36, 37, 42, 50, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 61, 65, 66, 68, 80-87
Engineering	ENGR 1, 12, 16
Geology	GEOL 1, 3-5, 10, 31
Physical Geography	GEOG 1, 3, 5
Math	MATH 2, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 21, 26, 28, 29, 54
Physical Anthropology	ANTHRO 1, 5, 10
Physics	PHYSCS 6-9, 12, 14, 21-24
Physiology	PHYS 3

SOCIAL SCIENCE ELECTIVES: Refer to table on page 1 for specific major requirements.

COURSE TYPE	SMC COURSE OFFERING
Cultural Anthropology	ANTHRO 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22
Cultural Geography	GEOG 2, 7, 8, 11, 14
Culture Studies	CHNESE 9; ENVRN 7, 14, 20, 22, 32; GLOBAL 3, 5, 10, 11; JAPAN 9; SPAN 9, 20
Gender Studies	MEDIA 10; WOM ST 10, 20, 30
Political Science	ECON 5; GLOBAL 10; PHILOS 51, 52; POL SC 1-5, 7, 8, 14, 21-23, 31, 47, 51, 52
Psychology	ENVRN 40; PSYCH 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 11-14, 19, 25, 35, 40
Sociology	SOC 1, 2, 4, 12, 30-34; URBAN 8

Humanities & Sciences (General Education) Elective Distribution Categories

Business and Professional Practices

Accounting	Economics
Business	Management
Communications	Marketing
Computer Programming	Speech

Humanities

Art History	History
Creative Writing	Humanities
Critical Theory	Literature
Design History	Music History
English	Photography History
Film History	Philosophy
Foreign Languages	Religion

Science and Technology

Anatomy	Geology
Astronomy	Marine Biology
Biochemistry	Math (College Level)
Biopsychology	Oceanography
Biology	Physics
Chemistry	Physical Anthropology
Cognitive Psychology	Physical Geography
Computer Programming	Sustainability
Ecology	Zoology
Engineering	

Social Science

Cultural Anthropology	Political Science
Cultural Geography	Psychology
Culture Studies	Sociology
Gender Studies	