# Undergraduate – OCAD University

## About

Established in 1876, OCAD University was the first school in Canada dedicated exclusively to the education of professional artists in fine and commercial art. Today, we are one of the largest art and design universities in North America.

Specializing in creativity and innovation, we are building on our traditional, studio-based strengths and adding new approaches to learning that champion cross-disciplinary studies, collaboration and the integration of emerging technologies.

We are located in the heart of Toronto, one of the world’s most multicultural cities and Canada’s largest centre for art, design, culture and business. We encourage our students to take full advantage of the university’s downtown location, which links to an extended campus of design studios, art galleries, artist-run centres and museums.

Our professors are leading artists, designers and scholars who represent Canada’s largest art and design faculty. Our unique learning environment allows you to receive individual attention and work with educators in smaller class settings.

The 5,000+ student population represents a wide variety of geographical, cultural and educational backgrounds, and creates a vibrant, energetic atmosphere.

## Programs

[Browse Programs](https://www.ouac.on.ca/apply/undergraduate/en_CA/profile/current-status)

## Key Dates

### Admission Points

The fall semester, beginning in September each year, is the only admission point for all programs.

### Deadlines

The recommended deadline to apply for all programs is **January 31, 2025**. We will consider applications received after January 31, 2025, as space permits, but some programs may not accept applications after this deadline.

## Admission Requirements

### Group A Admission Requirements

For [**Group A applicants**](https://www.ouac.on.ca/guide/undergrad-guide/#groups), we require an Ontario Secondary School Diploma with an overall academic average of at least 70% in six 4U/M courses, including ENG4U (or EAE4U) with a minimum final grade of 70%.

[Admission for Group A Applicants](https://admissions.ocadu.ca/apply/academic-requirements)

### Group B Admission Requirements

#### Canadian High School Students From Outside of Ontario

We require a senior high school graduation equivalent to Grade 12 in Ontario, with an overall academic average of at least 70%, including a university preparatory Grade 12 English with a minimum final grade of 70%.

[Admission for Canadian High
School Students From Outside of Ontario](https://admissions.ocadu.ca/apply/academic-requirements)

#### International Applicants

We require a senior high school graduation, equivalent to Grade 12 in Ontario, with an overall academic average of at least 70%.

We also require satisfactory documentation to demonstrate proficiency in English through an acceptable academic English course and/or a language proficiency test.

[Admission for International Applicants](https://admissions.ocadu.ca/apply/academic-requirements)

#### Transfer Applicants

**First-year Transfer**

If you are a first-year applicant coming from another university or college, we will review your Grade 12 and/or postsecondary school grades to ensure you have the equivalent of our academic entrance average requirements for those applying directly from high school.

You must also meet our English prerequisite, which you can fulfill with an appropriate Grade 12 English course or postsecondary English course (or equivalent) with a minimum grade of 70% or equivalent.

[First-year Transfer](https://admissions.ocadu.ca/apply/academic-requirements)

**Upper-year Transfer**

If you are applying to an upper year (year 2 or 3), you must have at least 1 year of postsecondary education that is the equivalent of the first year of the selected program. This equivalency must be documented by transcripts and course syllabi from recognized, accredited educational institutions.

Year-level placement and acceptance is based on the strength of your portfolio or supplemental application and academic history. You must also provide proof of English proficiency through an acceptable academic English course and/or a language proficiency test.

[Upper-year Transfer](https://admissions.ocadu.ca/apply/academic-requirements/transfer-pathways)

**Articulation and Transfer Pathways**

You are eligible to apply within this category only if you qualify for current articulation agreements or transfer pathways.

[Our Articulation Agreements](https://admissions.ocadu.ca/apply/transfer-options/articulation-agreements)

#### Mature Students

You are a mature applicant if you have not engaged in formal education for at least 2 years and are at least 20 years of age by September 1 of the intended enrollment year.

We consider previous educational experience in reaching an admission decision if you are applying under this category. Official transcripts from all secondary and postsecondary institutions attended must be submitted.

You must demonstrate proficiency in English through an acceptable academic English course and/or a language proficiency test.

[More About Admission for Mature Applicants](https://admissions.ocadu.ca/apply/academic-requirements/transfer-pathways)

### Other Admission Requirements

#### Additional Admission Information

If you are a Group A applicant, we require a non-refundable $25 fee, payable in advance in your OUAC Undergraduate application, to cover the cost of the portfolio assessment or review of supplementary application materials.

If you are a Group B applicant, we require a $90 non‑refundable supplemental evaluation fee to process each application. Submit this fee in your OUAC Undergraduate application.

The OUAC will not process your application until you pay the supplemental fee.

## Supporting Documents

### Transcripts

Official transcripts from all institutions that you have previously attended or are currently attending, including high schools, colleges and universities, must be submitted in support of your application for admission.

If you are currently attending or have attended a British Columbia high school, a CEGEP, an Ontario college or an Ontario university, you may be able to order transcripts through your OUAC Undergraduate application.

All other official transcripts must be sent to us directly from the school(s) that you are attending or have attended. School officials may **submit documents by email**, through electronic transcript submission methods or by mail.

### Language Requirements

The language or medium of instruction at OCAD University is English. It is important for your success at the University that you demonstrate proficiency in both spoken and written English.

In addition to meeting academic entrance requirements and English prerequisite course requirements (if applicable), if your first language is not English, you are required to:

* submit results of an English-language proficiency test,
* complete an approved language pathway program or
* provide proof of qualifying for an exemption from this requirement.

[More About English-language Proficiency Requirements](https://admissions.ocadu.ca/apply/english-language-proficiency)

### Supplemental Documents

In addition to academic requirements, there are supplementary writing sample assignments required for admission to our Visual and Critical Studies (Bachelor of Arts) program. We will notify you of further details and deadlines by email after we receive and process your application.

Admission to our Bachelor of Design and Bachelor of Fine Arts degree programs is based primarily on a portfolio submission and assessment.

Portfolio requirements may vary by program. All offers based on the strength of the portfolio are conditional upon successful completion of the academic entrance requirements. You must submit a portfolio to be considered for admission, and we review portfolios primarily in February each year. We will notify you of further details and deadlines by email.

[More About Portfolio Guidelines and Submission](https://admissions.ocadu.ca/apply/preparing-portfolio)

## Scholarships, Bursaries and Financial Aid

[**Tuition and Funding**](https://www.ocadu.ca/admissions/tuition-and-funding) provides information about the cost of attending, scholarships and awards, financial assistance programs and ways to connect with our Financial Aid and Awards team.

## Accessibility Services

We provide individualized support services for students with accessibility needs. We keep all information confidential. We encourage you to identify yourself so that [**Student Accessibility Services**](https://www.ocadu.ca/student-services/student-accessibility-services) may accommodate your needs.

## Residence

We do not have student residence facilities. There are excellent housing resources and referrals, including links to independent residences around Toronto, available from [**Housing Information**](https://admissions.ocadu.ca/afford/housing-partners).

## Campus Tours and Events

Throughout the year, we offer information sessions, portfolio-building events and tours that are a great introduction to life at the University.

[More About Campus Tours and Events](https://admissions.ocadu.ca/visit)

## Contact

The Admissions & Recruitment department makes every effort to help you throughout the application process. Feel free to contact us with any questions.

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