

SCAD admission information

First-year admission requirements



Official U.S. high school diploma or equivalent program

Unofficial and official transcripts

First-year applicants may receive a preliminary offer of admission based upon unofficial high school transcripts/mark sheets. If an offer of admission is made, an official transcript/mark sheet from the last high school/secondary school attended showing all years of the student's grades and proof of completion of the high school/secondary school or equivalent program should be received prior to Aug. 1 for fall enrollment.* All transcripts/mark sheets must be in English or accompanied by a certified English translation. The admission department must receive all official transcripts prior to the first day of class. Failure to comply with this requirement may prohibit the student from attending classes for that quarter.

SCAD reserves the right to verify all documents submitted in an application for admission. Offers of admission are contingent upon receipt of official documentation, and SCAD reserves the right to revoke any offer of admission should discrepancies be found. Any falsification of admission documents, portfolio, or audition materials constitutes grounds for termination of application procedures or dismissal from SCAD.

* Non-U.S. students, please refer to the international admission requirements for details. For U.S. students, a certificate of General Educational Development from the American Council of Education is considered equivalent to a diploma from a U.S. high school. For applicants from countries other than the U.S., SCAD generally uses the standards established by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers to determine the equivalent academic achievement. For homeschooled applicants, an academic portfolio is also acceptable and may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Verification that the homeschool has been recognized by the state of residence of the applicant.
- Detailed outline of the homeschool curriculum, including subject areas studied, time spent on each discipline, and, if applicable, grades awarded. A homeschool transcript may fulfill this requirement.
- Writing sample that is academic in nature, but not necessarily a graded assignment or one used for coursework.
- Résumé of classes taken outside the home. If classes have been taken at a college or university, official transcripts are required.



Evidence of English proficiency for students whose first language is not English

English proficiency requirements

English is the language of instruction for all classes at SCAD. Students are required to demonstrate their current level of proficiency to receive an English as a Second Language (ESL) waiver or take a placement test administered by the SCAD Language Studio (SLS) during international orientation.

ESL waiver

ESL courses may be waived upon successful performance on the ESL proficiency test or if one of the following conditions is met and supporting documentation is provided:

- The student's native language is English.
- The student has Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) minimum scores (SCAD does not accept TOEFL MyBest scores) of 85 on the internet-based test, with a minimum score of 20 on each section.
- The student has an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) composite score of at least 6.5, with a score of at least 6.5 in both reading and writing.
- The student has a Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score of at least 550 on the reading portion, or an ACT score of at least 22 on both the reading and writing sections.
- The student has transcripts that show extensive study (attended all high school years) at an institution in which English is the primary language of instruction.
- The graduate student has earned an undergraduate or graduate degree from a college or university where English is the official language of instruction. Documentation of the official language of instruction is required (and requires approval from SCAD or additional proof of proficiency will be required).
- A transferring student has completed at least one year of potential transferable credits in an institution where English is the primary language of instruction, earning an average GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in significant academic coursework. Final decisions are considered at the discretion of the SCAD review committee.
- The student has a Graduate Record Examination (GRE) verbal section score of at least 153.
- The student has completed SCAD Language Studio (SLS) coursework less than two years before starting their degree program.

Students who meet the minimum required composite score but who do not meet the minimum section scores are evaluated on a case-by-case basis for possible exemption. No exceptions are made if the minimum composite score is not met. All decisions are final.

Any student who has provided an ESL waiver or exemption and fails any single course due to language deficiencies (as determined by the director of the SCAD Language Studio and the academic department chair) will be required to take SLS English language placement test. Results of the English language placement test will be used to determine what level or levels of ESL instruction, if any, are required.

ESL placement test

Otherwise-qualified applicants who do not meet the minimum scores for an ESL waiver may be considered for admission to SCAD. These students must take a placement test administered by the SCAD Language Studio, regardless of other test scores.

The SLS Placement Test assesses student skills and determines the necessity of ESL classes and placement into the appropriate level of ESL upon enrollment. The two-hour test consists of listening, structure, reading, vocabulary, and writing questions. Additionally, there is an interview with each student to determine proficiency.



Achievement profile

An achievement profile, or list of achievements, can include extracurricular activities, awards, community service, volunteer work, leadership positions, work experience, and other relevant accomplishments.



Recommendation

One letter of recommendation may be submitted by professors, teachers, counselors, or community leaders with whom the applicant has had immediate contact. Recommendation letters should address the applicant's level of commitment, as well as attributes such as creativity, initiative, motivation, character, and academic achievement, to aid in assessing the applicant's reasonable potential for success as a student at SCAD. The recommendation letter may not come from friends or family members except in the case of a teacher-parent.



Supplementary materials

Applicants who do not meet the preferred criteria for admission are encouraged to submit supplementary materials. Application materials cannot be returned. Exceptions to the general rules of admission may be made for applicants with exceptional drive and passion for the arts. Supplementary materials may include one or all of the following:

- **Additional recommendations**

Additional recommendations may be submitted by professors, teachers, counselors, or community leaders with whom the applicant has had immediate contact. Recommendations should address the applicant's level of commitment, as well as attributes such as creativity, initiative, motivation, character, and academic achievement, to aid in assessing the applicant's reasonable potential for success as a student at SCAD. Recommendations may not come from friends or family members except in the case of a teacher-parent.

- **Statement of purpose**

The statement should be no more than 500 words in length and should give an overview of the applicant's academic and personal experience, describing preparation for and commitment to further study at SCAD, as well as educational and professional goals and aspirations.

- **Portfolio, audition, or writing submission**

A portfolio is scored according to a rubric relevant to the type of submission. View portfolio guidelines on <https://www.scad.edu/admission/portfolio-and-writing-guidelines>.

- **Personal or telephone interview**

This interview may be scheduled by contacting the admission department.

- **SAT/ACT scores**

SCAD is a test-optional university, meaning students may choose to submit test scores for the SAT/ACT if available, but applications from student without test scores will also be considered. The lack of test scores will not impact the university's evaluation of a student's application or scholarship consideration. For students who choose to send scores, applications should use SAT code 5631 or ACT code 0855 on the test forms.