A bachelor’s degree or its equivalent

Unofficial and official transcripts
Graduate applicants may receive a preliminary offer of admission based upon unofficial transcripts/mark sheets from their last degree-bearing institution. If an offer of admission is made, official transcripts/mark sheets from their last degree-bearing undergraduate institution should be received prior to Aug. 1 for fall enrollment. Prior to enrollment at SCAD, proof of completion of the bachelor’s degree (or its equivalent) must be received by SCAD.* All transcripts/mark sheets must be in English or accompanied by a certified English translation. The office of admission must receive official degree-conferred 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.

* SCAD uses the standards established by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers to determine the equivalent academic achievement of a bachelor’s degree. Transcripts are evaluated to determine the conferment of bachelor’s degrees from institutions that are approved by the U.S. Department of Education and hold appropriate institutional accreditation, or have appropriate specialized or programmatic accreditation, or have been evaluated and proven to have comparable course content and level of instruction to SCAD, or are recognized by the ministry of education or equivalent agency in the applicant’s home country. Course content is evaluated by comparing the curricula of other institutions with that of SCAD and assessing whether or not foundation studies, general education, and major discipline courses are comparable to those offered at SCAD.
Portfolio, audition, or writing submission

The portfolio should be specific to the intended course of study, should represent the applicant’s best work examples, and should demonstrate a high level of craft presented as professionally as possible. The portfolio, audition, or writing submission is scored according to a rubric relevant to the intended course of study and type of submission.

View the graduate portfolio, audition, and writing guidelines at https://www.scad.edu/admission/portfolio-and-writing-guidelines/graduate-portfolios.
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Recommendations

Two letters of recommendation should be provided by professors, advisers, supervisors, or community leaders who have had immediate contact with the applicant, and who have knowledge of the applicant’s level of commitment and history of achievement.

Recommendations should provide relevant information about the applicant’s creativity, initiative, motivation, character, and achievements, thus assessing the applicant’s reasonable potential for success as a student at SCAD. Recommendations may not come from friends or family members.
Résumé

The résumé should document educational credentials as well as professional and other employment such as internships or field experience in the intended area of graduate study, and should list commissioned works, exhibitions, performances, publications, honors, memberships, interests, and activities, including volunteer work.
Statement of purpose

The statement should be a 500- to 750-word overview of the applicant's academic and professional accomplishments and should demonstrate a high level of interest in and a highly developed understanding of the discipline. The applicant should describe knowledge of the discipline, approach to past work, qualifications for graduate study and intended focus, as well as personal and professional goals.
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 ESL waiver or take a placement test administered by the SCAD Language Studio. For applicants whose transcripts show extensive study at an institution at which English is the language of instruction, no additional proof of English proficiency is required for admission evaluation, but applicants may be asked to take an English placement test upon enrollment at the university.

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

- The student’s first language is English.
- The undergraduate student has received a final credential diploma or degree from another college or university where English is the official language of instruction. Documentation of the official language of instruction is required.
- 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.
- The undergraduate student has passed the equivalent of English 123/193 at an accredited/recognized college or university with a “C” (2.0/4.0 scale) or better, or qualifies for the equivalent transfer credit for English 123/193 through accepted IB, AP, CAPE, A-Level or CLEP test scores. Refer to policies on transfer credits for required scores on the appropriate test.
- The student is a Fulbright/Humphrey exchange scholar or is a participant in the Taiwan Ministry of Education Scholarship Program for overseas study in art and design.
- The student has a Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score of at least 550 on the critical reading portion, or 22 on both the reading and writing sections of the ACT.
- The student has a Graduate Record Examination (GRE) verbal section score of at least 500 (for tests taken before Aug. 1, 2011) or 153 (for tests taken after Aug. 1, 2011).
- The student has a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or TOEFL iBT Home Edition minimum score of 85 on the Internet-based test with a minimum score of 20 on each section (SCAD code 5631).
- The student has an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or IELTS Online composite score of at least 6.5 with a score of at least 6.5 in both reading and writing.
- The student has an American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) score of at least “advanced high” on the writing proficiency portion of the test.
The student has passed the Pearson’s PTE Academic with an overall score of 58 with a 53 minimum in each category.

The student has been determined as ESL-Exempt by SCAD Language Studio directors upon completion of the SCAD Language Studio placement exam.

SCAD does not accept TOEFL MyBest or Duolingo scores.

Students who meet the minimum required composite score but who do not meet the minimum section scores of any test 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.

Documentation on proof of language proficiency must be provided two weeks before the start of the quarter in which you are admitted.

**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 are required to take a placement test administered by the SCAD Language Studio, regardless of other test scores.

Our SCAD Language Studio placement test assesses a student’s language skills and determines the necessity of ESL classes as well as placement into the appropriate level of ESL upon enrollment. The two-hour test consists of sections on listening, reading, structure/grammar, vocabulary, writing, and speaking. Some test items, such as the listening/writing section, are integrated and assess students on multiple skills at the same time. Every student who takes the SLS placement test will have a 10- to 15-minute interview with a trained SLS faculty member to further assess listening and speaking skills.

The SCAD Language Studio (SLS) program is a six-level English for Academic Purposes Pathway Program. Students are placed into a level upon completion of the SCAD Language Studio placement test. Students must satisfactorily complete ESL coursework through completion of Level VI in order to exit the program. While enrolled in SLS classes, students cannot exit the ESL program by providing proof of language proficiency (e.g., TOEFL or IELTS scores).
Optional personal or telephone interview
While not required, graduate applicants may elect to participate in a personal or telephone interview to help bolster the overall strength of their application. Interested applicants may schedule an admission interview by contacting the admission department or their admission adviser by logging in to MyAdmission.
GRE scores (if applicable)

GRE scores strongly recommended for applicants to certain programs
While not required of most applicants, submission of GRE scores is strongly encouraged for applicants to architectural history, art history, and creative business leadership. Performance on the GRE may assist in demonstrating adequate educational preparation and ability to succeed in academic coursework at the graduate level.

Applicants whose bachelor’s degrees are conferred by institutions that are not approved by the U.S. Department of Education and/or do not hold appropriate institutional accreditation, or do not have appropriate specialized or programmatic accreditation, or have not been evaluated and proven comparable in course content and level of instruction to SCAD, or are not recognized by the ministry of education or equivalent agency in the applicant’s home country, are required to take the GRE and submit official scores to SCAD.
In order to enter the United States as a student, applicants must first obtain a U.S. visa.

To apply for a U.S. visa, international students must gather the appropriate personal and financial information to submit to government officials. This will include a certification of financial support and additional forms specific to your personal situation.

Additional admission materials for international applicants
In addition to the requirements relevant to first-year, undergraduate transfer, or graduate applicants, international applicants should submit the following information with their admission materials.

**Proof of medical insurance**
In order to protect students from unexpected costs of health care, SCAD requires all enrolled international students on F-1 visas to have adequate medical insurance. These students must enroll in the SCAD international health insurance plan, and the charges are automatically added to the student account. Visit the health care page on https://www.scad.edu/life/student-services/international-student-information/health-care-international-students for additional information and fee structure. Exemptions may be granted for students who are already covered under certain government- or embassy-sponsored plans.

**Additional documentation**
SCAD reserves the right to verify all documents submitted in an application for admission. Any falsification of admission documents or portfolio or audition materials constitutes grounds for termination of application procedures or dismissal from SCAD. A copy of the first page of each international applicant’s passport is requested, though not required. A copy of the first page of the passport for any dependent accompanying the international applicant also is requested. These documents are used to verify correct spelling of names, correct birth dates, and other information vital to student registration.