SCAD admission information
International student | Graduate admission requirements

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 all postsecondary institutions attended. If an offer of admission is made, official transcripts/mark sheets from each college/university attended 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 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.

*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 regional 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. Level of instruction is evaluated by comparing the percentage of faculty at other institutions who hold graduate and terminal degrees with the percentage of faculty at SCAD who hold graduate and terminal degrees.
**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 scad.edu/admission/portfolio-and-writing-guidelines/portfolio-guidelines-and-tips#graduate.

**Recommendations**

Letters of recommendation from two 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

Qualifying test scores for English proficiency

English is the language of instruction for all classes at SCAD. In addition to meeting or exceeding all other SCAD admission criteria, applicants who wish to be admitted with no further English proficiency requirements must demonstrate their current level of proficiency by providing official minimum scores on one of the following:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) minimum scores (SCAD code 5631):
  a. 550 on the paper-based test.
  b. 85 on the Internet-based test with minimum score of 20 on each section.

  Students who meet the minimum required composite score but 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.

- 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.

- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) score of at least “high advanced” on the writing proficiency portion of the test.

- Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) score of 58 with a 53 minimum in each category

  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.
• SAT score of at least 550 on the critical reading portion, or 22 on both the reading and writing sections of the ACT.

• Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) score of at least 5 in English language.

Applicants without qualifying test scores
Otherwise qualified applicants who do not meet the minimum scores listed above may be considered for admission to SCAD. These students must take a SCAD English language proficiency test to be placed in the appropriate level of ESL upon enrollment. Students must satisfactorily complete ESL coursework through completion of Level VI.

For applicants whose native language is English, no additional proof of English proficiency is required. For applicants whose transcripts show extensive study at an institution in 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 proficiency test upon enrollment at the university.

Interview (if applicable)
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)
While not required of most applicants, submission of GRE scores is strongly encouraged for applicants to architectural history, art history, business design and arts leadership and cinema studies. 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 regional 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.

Documents for visa application

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.

View more details on scad.edu/admission/admission-information-2016/international/us-visa-information.

Additional admission materials for international applicants

In addition to the requirements relevant to first-year freshman, 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 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 application for admission. Any falsification of admission documents or portfolio or audition materials constitutes grounds for termination of application procedures or dismissal from SCAD. Permanent residents must submit proof of legal
residency such as a copy of a resident alien card. 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 birthdates and other information vital to student registration.