Mission

Ringling College of Art and Design recognizes that artists and designers play a significant role in society. The College’s primary mission is to provide programs leading to degrees that prepare students to be discerning visual thinkers and ethical practitioners in their chosen area of art and design.

Visual arts professionals must understand diverse aspects of past and present cultures, and develop their capacity for creative expression and effective communication. Ringling’s curriculum, therefore, balances the teaching of technical knowledge and skills with the development of critical, conceptual and creative abilities and supports courses that provide historical, multicultural, global and future perspectives. Ringling faculty consists of professionally active and teaching-oriented artists, designers and scholars.

Ringling College of Art and Design strives to enroll both full- and part-time students from diverse backgrounds who intend to become professionals in the visual arts. Through its policies and practices, the College supports excellence in teaching and fosters the aesthetic, intellectual, professional, personal, and social development of its students. Academic programs and advising, career services, and an extensive co-curricular student life program prepare students for an art or design profession, or when appropriate, for continued studies on the graduate level.

In addition to its degree program, Ringling College offers courses, lectures, exhibitions and other art-related services to the local and regional community through its gallery, library, continuing education and community service programs.

Through the efforts of its Board of Trustees, administrators, faculty, support staff, alumni, and friends, Ringling endeavors to provide the necessary resources, services and environment to fulfill its institutional mission.

Founded in 1931, Ringling College of Art and Design is a private, independent, nonprofit, four-year college.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees, April 11, 1991
Revision adopted by the Board of Trustees, October 24, 2002
Revision adopted by the Board of Trustees, April 12, 2007
Reaffirmed by the Board of Trustees, February 12, 2015

Core Values

In Support of the Institutional Mission We Value:

- The arts as essential in the cultural and intellectual life of a society.
- Rich and varied arts education that engages innovation and tradition.
- Educational experiences in and out of the classroom that nurture lives of learning and creativity.
- Development and support of the whole student.
- Academic freedom, inquiry and freedom of expression.
- Integrity and social responsibility in an interdependent world.
- Diverse community that serves as a source of empowerment.
Academic Advising

The advising system is based upon the theory of developmental advising, and thus combines personal, academic and career counseling services.

First-year students are advised about the transition to college, goal setting and personal and academic matters by the designated First-Year Faculty Coordinators, the Director of Advising, the Academic Advisors, and the Office of Student Life staff.

Upper-level students receive advice about their program of study from the Academic Advisors and their Department Head. They receive advice about careers and graduate schools from Department Career Advisors and the Center for Career Services. The Office of Student Life staff will provide personal counseling and advice about the transition to a career and life after Ringling College.

The Office of Advising, Records and Registration Services tracks the progress toward a degree for all students. Students, however, are ultimately responsible for ensuring they have completed the academic requirements for their degree. Academic Advisors provide special help to students on probation, international students, readmitted students and those with disabilities. Throughout the four years, students are encouraged by their advisors “to clarify interests, skills, attitudes and values; develop habits of discipline; experience choice and develop autonomy; and develop purpose and direction.”

Admissions

First year (freshman) applicant

A First Year applicant is typically a recent high school graduate who has not previously matriculated to a regionally accredited college or university. To be considered for First Year admission, an applicant must provide the following:

1) A completed application via the Common Application Form, along with a nonrefundable $70 application fee or fee waiver.

2) Evidence from an education professional that the applicant has the qualifications necessary to engage and succeed at Ringling. This requirement can be satisfied by one of the following:
   b) Submission of a Teacher Evaluation Form from a high school teacher.
   c) Submission of a formal Letter of Recommendation from a high school teacher.

3) Submission of official academic transcripts from all high schools (Grades 9-12) that the applicant attended. If the applicant took any courses from a college or university (either for or not for credit), those transcripts should be submitted as well. A minimum 2.0 academic grade point average (or its equivalent) is required to be considered for admission.

4) Completion of a standard high school diploma or possess a Certificate of High School Equivalency (GED), as recognized by a State Board of Education, prior to matriculation.

5) Submission of an art portfolio via the Arts Supplement portion of the Common Application. Portfolios can take two possible formats determined by the program in which the student is seeking admission:
   a) Visual Portfolio Requirement: Computer Animation, Film, Fine Arts, Game Art, Graphic Design, Illustration, Motion Design, Photography & Imaging;
   b) Written Portfolio: Business of Art & Design;
Advertising Design and Interior Design applicants can choose to submit either a visual portfolio or a written portfolio.

6) While SAT and ACT scores are not required for admission, it is strongly recommended the submission of those test scores if available.

Transfer applicant
A transfer applicant is typically someone who has previously matriculated to a regionally accredited college or university within the past 10 years. To be considered for transfer admission, an applicant must provide the following:

1) A completed application via the Common Application Form, along with a nonrefundable $70 application fee or fee waiver.

2) Evidence from an education professional that the applicant has the qualifications necessary to engage and succeed at Ringling. This requirement can be satisfied by one of the following:
   a) Submission of a College Instruction Evaluation Form from an instructor.
   b) Submission of a formal Letter of Recommendation from a college instructor.

3) Submission of official academic transcripts from all high schools (Grades 9-12) and colleges or universities that the applicant attended. If the applicant took any courses from a college or university (either for or not for credit), those transcripts should be submitted as well. A minimum 2.0 academic grade point average (or its equivalent) is required to be considered for admission. The high school academic transcript requirement is waived if the applicant has earned more than 24 semester credit hours at the post-secondary level.

4) Submission of an art portfolio via the Arts Supplement portion of the Common Application. The determination of the format of the portfolio is similar to the requirements of First Year students.

International applicant
In addition to the above requirements for First-Year or Transfer Admission, students who are citizens of countries where English is not the primary language must demonstrate proof of English proficiency by achieving one of the following:

1) Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 80 or higher.

2) International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score of 6.5 or higher.

3) Pearson Test of English (PTE) score of 53 or higher.

4) Minimum score of 450 on the Critical Reading section of the SAT.

International students who have not achieved these minimum scores but meet all other academic and portfolio requirements will be considered for admission, but may be required to enroll in Writing Studio Plus or English as a Second Language (ESL) courses at the College if admitted.

International students who have earned university-level credit outside the United States and seek transfer credit are required to have their official transcripts evaluated by a foreign credentials evaluation service.

All applicant materials must be submitted in English.
Transfer Credits
As a transfer student to Ringling College of Art and Design, you will be choosing a major at the time you apply. Ringling College offers 11 undergraduate programs and each curriculum is distinct. It is important that you read about the majors carefully and then review the portfolio requirements for that major.

Bachelor of Arts:
Business of Art and Design

Bachelor of Fine Arts:
Advertising Design
Computer Animation
Film
Fine Arts
Game Art
Graphic Design
Illustration
Interior Design
Motion Design
Photography and Imaging

Students apply directly to one of 11 undergraduate majors and a portfolio of work specific to that major is required. While it is possible to change majors, it is not guaranteed, and can result in starting over in the new major.

We encourage students to spend time exploring their academic interests prior to applying to Ringling College of Art and Design. Opportunities to learn about and experience each major include the Admissions Counselors, Ringling College Website, the Pre-college summer program, Open House events, Continuing Education (CSSP) opportunities and National Portfolio Day.
All degree requirements, including studio, art history and liberal arts classes, are offered at Ringling College of Art and Design. Students matriculating at Ringling College are encouraged to complete all their coursework at the College. The rationale for this policy rests in the mission and philosophy of the institution and in its concern for the essential unity and integrity of all aspects of the curriculum: major requirements, liberal arts, art history and open electives. However, you can take the entire program in residence, or transfer in credits prior to entry.

Ringling College of Art and Design will consider for transfer any liberal arts or studio credit that meets academic requirements and in which a grade of “C” or better was earned from a regionally accredited college or university. Only the course credit is transferred. Transfer credit is not used in the calculation of grade point averages. Student transfer credit evaluations for studio art classes will be handled by the department head or his/her designee. The Office of Advising, Records and Registration Services evaluates transfer credit for liberal arts and art history courses. Once the evaluation is complete, transfer students will be able to see what courses have transferred and how they satisfy degree requirements by logging onto Self-Service and reviewing their on-line transcript. Students with liberal arts transfer credits may take additional studio or art history electives.

Students are limited to a total of 66 semester hours of transfer credits. A minimum of 54 semester hours must be taken at Ringling College of Art and Design. The last two academic years of study for a Ringling College of Art and Design degree must be completed in courses of study within a major of the College. Ringling College of Art and Design reserves the right to decline credit for coursework that is more than ten years old.
Studio Transfer Credit
Students who have taken studio art courses at another regionally accredited institution of higher education may have those courses and a portfolio reviewed by the department head or Academic Affairs designee to determine if the credits can apply to the degree requirements for the Bachelor of Fine Arts or Bachelor of Arts degrees. Requests for studio transfer credit must be supported by a sufficient number of portfolio submissions that demonstrate the competencies associated with those required by the majors as listed below:

Studio Transfer Competencies include: Drawing, Computer Art, 2D Design, 3D Design and 4D Design (Time base media)

Majors in the Studio Arts: Fine Art, Photography and Imaging, and Film.
Studio Transfer Competencies include: Drawing, Photography, 2D Design, 3D Design and Color Theory.

Majors in the Media Arts: Computer Animation, Game Art and Illustration.
Studio Transfer Competencies include: Drawing, Life Drawing, and 2D Design.

Permission to take courses at other colleges during the summer is granted through the Office of Advising, Records and Registration Services. Students must meet with their Academic Advisor who will consider all aspects of the student’s request, including the quality and level of the proposed course and its role in the student’s program of study before completing a Transient Student form. Courses intended to fulfill major requirements must also be approved by the department head. Students entering with an Associate of Arts or Bachelor of Arts degree from a regionally accredited college or university will be considered to have met the liberal arts requirements for the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree or Bachelor of Arts degree. Students entering with an Associate of Science or Bachelor of Science degree from a regionally accredited college or university will have their liberal arts credits evaluated to determine if they fulfill the distribution requirements for the B.F.A. degree or the B.A. degree. Additional course work may be required.

Art History Transfer Credit
Students who have taken art history courses at another regionally accredited institution of higher education may have those courses evaluated by the Academic Advisors in the Office of Advising, Records, and Registration Services to determine if they meet the degree requirements for the Bachelor of Fine Arts or Bachelor of Arts Degree. Departments at Ringling College may have specific art history requirements such as a history of the discipline. The proposed transfer credit will be reviewed by the Academic Advisor and/or an Academic Affairs designee to determine if the credit meets institutional standards for course equivalence.

Liberal Arts Transfer Credit
Consistent with the requirements for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), Ringling College will accept for credit, courses drawn from the following three areas of knowledge: humanities and fine arts; social and behavioral sciences; and natural sciences and mathematics.
Articulation Agreement
Florida transfer students who complete the AA Degree in studio art or photography from select Florida community colleges are eligible to apply to the 2 + 2 BFA in Fine Arts or the BFA in Photography & Imaging. Once accepted to the program, students are enrolled at the junior level and complete an additional two years in residency at Ringling College to complete the B.F.A. degree.

Participating Community Colleges:
State College of Florida: AA with an emphasis in Studio Art and AA with an emphasis in Photography.
St. Petersburg College: AA with an emphasis in Studio Art
Valencia College: AA in Fine Art/Studio Art

International Students
International students who have attended a college/university outside the United States and are requesting transfer credit must have their academic credentials evaluated by a Foreign Credential Evaluation Service. This evaluation must include a “course by course” evaluation with grades or marks and credits or hours equated to the U.S. system. The credential evaluation must be submitted directly to the Office of the Registrar at Ringling College of Art and Design. International students should have their transcripts evaluated by The American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) or the World Education Services (WES), which are RCAD’s preferred providers.

International Baccalaureate
Ringling College recognizes the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma. Students with an IB diploma may be given up to 12 credits for individual courses if they score 5 through 7 on the Higher-Level Examinations. No credit is given for Subsidiary-Level or Standard-Level exams. Official scores must be sent directly from the testing organization to the Office of the Registrar at Ringling College of Art and Design.

ACCEPTED IB EXAMS
Biology
Chemistry
Economics
English A1
College Algebra
College Algebra: Trigonometry
Environmental Systems
*Foreign Languages A1
History of Europe
History of Asia
History of Africa
History of the Americas
Mathematics
Physics
Philosophy
Psychology
Social Anthropology
**Visual Arts

*Students are not eligible to receive credit for IB foreign language exams that are the same as their native language. However, they may receive credit for AP foreign literature exams that are the same as their native language.
** Studio Art IB tests can only count for open elective credit, not Liberal Arts Elective credit.
CLEP Examinations
Below is a listing of the CLEP (College Level Examination Placement) examinations for which Ringling College awards credit. Ringling College will grant a maximum of 3 credits per exam as long as your score is 50 or better. (Students must score at or above the 50th percentile of the national norms.)

American Government
American Literature
Analyzing and Interpreting Literature
Calculus with Elementary Functions
College Algebra
College Algebra: Trigonometry
College Mathematics
English Composition with Essay
English Literature
Educational Psychology, Introduction to
General Biology
General Chemistry
History of the U.S. I: Early Colonization to 1877
History of the U.S. II: 1865 to the Present
Human Growth and Development
Natural Sciences
Psychology, Introductory
Sociology, Introductory
Trigonometry
Western Civilization I: Ancient Near East to 1648
Western Civilization II: 1648 to the Present

Ringling College of Art and Design is not a CLEP Testing Site. State College of Florida (SCF) in Bradenton is the nearest open CLEP Testing Site.

For more information about CLEP exams, in general, including sample test exams, visit their website: http://clep.collegeboard.org/

Advanced Placement Credit
Ringling College must receive the official Advanced Placement (AP) Transcript within the first year of matriculation to properly advise students of their graduation requirements. AP credit may be awarded after the first year, however the equivalencies stated in the student’s course catalog from the year they matriculated will be used.

Advanced Art History 4 or
Biology 3, 4 or 5
Chemistry 3, 4 or 5
*Chinese Language & Culture 4 or 5
Economics: Macro 3, 4 or 5
Economics: Micro 3, 4 or 5
English Language & Composition 4 or 5
English Literature & Composition 4 or 5
Environmental Science 3, 4 or 5
*French Language & Culture 4 or 5
Geography: Human 3, 4 or 5
*German Language & Culture 4 or 5
Government: Comparative 3, 4 or 5
History: European History 3, 4 or 5
History: U.S. History 3, 4 or 5
History: World History 3, 4 or 5
*Italian Language & Culture 4 or 5
*Japanese Language & Culture 4 or 5
Math: Calculus AB 3, 4 or 5
Math: Calculus BC 3, 4 or 5
Math: Statistics 3, 4 or 5
Physics 3, 4 or 5
Psychology 3, 4 or 5
*Spanish Language & Culture 4 or 5
**Studio Art: Drawing 4 or 5
**Studio Art: 2-D Design 4 or 5
**Studio Art: 3-D Design 4 or 5
U.S. Government & Politics 3, 4 or 5

* Students are not eligible to receive credit for AP foreign language exams that are the same as their native language. However, they may receive credit for AP foreign literature exams that are the same as their native language.

** Studio Art AP test can only count for open elective credit, not Liberal Arts Elective credit.