

OCAD University

College/University Transfer Credit FAQ

Welcome!

OCAD University welcomes students having obtained prior learning and previous course credit to be applied to their OCAD degree. All admission is based on a portfolio review with the opportunity to apply for transfer credit for work previously completed at another post-secondary institution.

At OCAD University each 1 semester course (12 week study period) is worth .5 of a credit. Students enroll in approximately 5 courses a semester or 2.5 credits (5 credits per year).

Glossary

- What are Transfer Credits?

Transfer of credit is the awarding of credit towards an OCAD University degree, usually on a course by course basis, for work done at another post-secondary institution. When you apply to OCAD University as a transfer student your transcript will be assessed for transfer credit based on the strength of your portfolio review, previously completed course work and available academic grades.

The two most common ways OCAD University may award you transfer of credit is via block and course by course transfer:

- **Block Transfer Credit** refers to a group of courses previously taken in one program that will be accepted into a related program at OCAD University. This group of courses is assigned a specific number of transfer credits (Example: 5 courses at your institution may be awarded 2.5 credits at OCAD University). OCAD University's Advanced Standing portfolio reviews and Articulation Agreements typically award block transfer credit.
- **Course by Course Credit** refers to course assessments that occur on an individual course by course. Courses eligible for transfer are determined according to a number of factors including completed previous coursework, academic standing at the postsecondary institution(s) you attended and the program/Faculty for which you are seeking admission. The following documentation is required and will be used to assess credit for transfer: 1) Transfer of credit assessment forms, 2) Official transcript(s), 3) Course descriptions and 4) Detailed course outlines (syllabi). Each case is reviewed in detail by OCAD University Admissions Officer, Tammy Madden, tmadden@ocad.ca or 416-977-6000 x308.

- What is the sending institution?

The sending institution is the institution from which you are transferring credits.

- What is the receiving institution?

The receiving institution is the institution you are seeking to transfer credits to.

- What is an Articulation Agreement?

This type of formal agreement between OCAD University and your post-secondary institution specifies the number of transfer credits and approximate length of time that is required for you to complete a degree. An agreement means that OCAD University and the post-secondary institution you are transferring from agree that your skill set and curriculum studied in your previous program are similar to that offered at OCAD University. This similarity allows you to continue your education and enrol in degree level study.

OCAD University currently has Articulation Agreements with the following post-secondary institutions. Please click on the links below to learn more about the details and requirements of these agreements:

- [Yukon School of Visual Art \(formerly KIAC SOVA\)](#)
- [Georgian College of Applied Arts and Technology \(Fine Art Advanced Diploma Program-FIAA\)](#)
- [Fleming College \(Visual and Creative Arts Diploma - VCAD\)](#)

- What is Prior Learning Assessment?

Prior Learning Assessment allows you to obtain credit for learning completed outside of and prior to your admission to OCAD University. Proper evidence and documentation is required for your assessment to be made. At OCAD University, Prior Learning Assessment describes three broad categories:

- Advanced Standing provides admission into second year or the beginning of third year at OCAD University through the awarding of block studio credit based on your portfolio review and/or evidence of work you have completed in an art or design program at another post-secondary institution. In cases where OCAD University has negotiated an articulation agreement with your post-secondary institution, block transfer credit for work in a specified program may be possible without a portfolio review.

- Transfer Credit awards credit towards a degree, usually on a course by course basis, for work you have completed at another post-secondary institution.
 - Course Challenge awards credit for knowledge you have acquired outside of formally accredited educational programs that coincides with a specific credit course or courses offered at OCAD University.
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Thinking about Transferring to OCAD University

- Am I required to complete a Portfolio Review?

A primary criterion for admission to OCAD University is a completed review of your portfolio. Portfolio guidelines and the review process, which happens during OCAD University's study week in February each year, can be viewed in more detail at the following links: [First Year Portfolio Guidelines](#) and [Advanced Standing Portfolio Guidelines](#).

You will be notified by e-mail of the exact date, time and location of your review. Unfortunately, due to the number of applications to OCAD University each year we are unable to change or reschedule portfolio assessments. A \$30.00 fee, payable in advance to OCAD University, is required to cover the cost involved with your portfolio assessment.

- Do I qualify for Advanced Standing at OCAD University?

If you have attended an accredited post-secondary art or design program for a minimum of one full year you may apply for admission with Advanced Standing. If you do not have previous art or design education you may apply to first year only.

Advance standing allows you to be granted admission into second year or the beginning of third year through the awarding of block studio credit based on a portfolio review and/or evidence of work completed in an art or design program at another post-secondary institution. Advanced Standing is not credit for credit transfer; instead, the quality and range of the work in your portfolio is assessed and assigned an amount of credit. Placement is based on the number of credits you were awarded from the portfolio review and ranges from first to third year of study. You may be required to take specified studio or liberal studies courses at a lower year level in addition to your second or third year program requirements.

In cases where OCAD University has negotiated an articulation agreement with your post-secondary institution, Advanced Standing and block transfer credit for previous work completed may be awarded without a portfolio review (while a review in these instances may not be required, you are responsible for submitting a portfolio for inclusion in your student record).

- Am I eligible to take a Course Challenge?

If you can demonstrate that you have acquired - through informal or unconventional means (Ex. paid or unpaid work experience, accumulated experience) - the knowledge covered by a specific course offered at OCAD University you may apply for a Course Challenge subject to the following:

- Course Challenge is only available once you have been admitted to OCAD University.
- You must submit a request for permission to challenge a course before the end of the first week of classes.
- You normally may challenge no more than 2.0 credits.
- Not all courses may be challenged. You are advised to consult with the relevant Faculty Office before submitting a request for permission to challenge a course.
- You must present evidence of prior learning and receive permission to challenge a course for credit from the Dean or designate of the Faculty offering the course.
- Credits gained through Course Challenge cannot be used to fulfill the University's residency requirements.
- If you are successful in challenging a course for credit you will receive a grade of **P** on your transcript. The grade of **P** has no numerical equivalent and is not included in the calculation of your grade point average. The grade of **P** may not be applied in any way toward application for scholarships, bursaries or loans.
- Credit will only be awarded if your work meets the standard expected of students who successfully complete the course with a grade of 65% or better.
- You may not challenge a course for credit if you have previously registered in the course or its equivalent at OCAD University or another university. Exceptions to this rule are made if you withdrew within the first week of the course or if your former university no longer possesses the official records required for transfer credit (i.e. universities in war zones).

- What is the advantage of an Articulation Agreement?

Advantages include the ability to continue your education at OCAD University without having to repeat previously completed course content. You can use the education you have completed at the college level to turn your prior studies and or certificate/diploma into a degree at OCAD University. Additionally, you can combine practical hands-on experience with theoretical knowledge in an art or design program, creating a well-rounded educational experience.

- Where can I learn more about transfer of credit?

The Ontario College University Transfer Guide (OCUTG), www.ocutg.on.ca, is an online database of information about transfer agreements and collaborations between Ontario's colleges and universities. The database is linked to institutional websites, hosts the transfer policies of all institutions, institutional contacts, and similar transfer

databases across Canadian provinces. Agreements on the website are arranged according to the following criteria:

- College to University Agreements
- University to College Agreements
- Regional Destination
- Agreement Type
- Keyword Program Search

You can search for OCAD University articulation agreements posted on this database and explore your options for obtaining an art or design degree.

Applying to OCAD University as a Transfer Student

- What is the process for applying to OCAD University as a transfer student?

Once you have made your decision to apply to OCAD University you can apply online through the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC), www.ouac.on.ca. As a transfer student you should use the HSS code on your OUAC application. All offers of admission to OCAD University are based on the strength of your portfolio but are conditional upon meeting the minimum academic requirements and supplying all required documents.

If you have previously attended an accredited post-secondary institution you may apply for transfer credit. The following policies and procedures will assist your application:

- All post-secondary transcripts/documentation must be presented to Admissions & Recruitment at the time of admission for possible transfer consideration. The following documentation is required for a transfer credit assessment: 1) Transfer of credit assessment forms, 2) Official transcript(s), 3) Course descriptions and 4) Detailed course outlines (syllabi). Decisions are made in consultation with the appropriate Dean or designate.
- All transfer credit should be processed and awarded at the time of admission or within your first year of entry.
- All applicants, including Canadian citizens, must provide proof of proficiency in English. Please note: If your first language is not English, and you have resided or studied less than four years in a country or school system where the official language is English, you are required to submit the successful results of TOEFL (or equivalent test).

- Will I receive transfer credit for my completed or in progress post-secondary education?

The amount of credit you may be eligible to receive is dependent on completed previous coursework, academic standing at your postsecondary institution and the program/Faculty for which you are seeking admission. Transfer credit assessments

cannot be completed in advance of admission as each case varies and requires time to complete. The following guidelines apply to the awarding of transfer credits at OCAD University:

- Generally, college diploma courses transfer to OCAD University at a value of 2:1 and degree courses transfer at a value of 1:1.
- A maximum of 1.5 studio credits will be awarded if you are a newly admitted first-year student who has not been granted Advanced Standing based on your portfolio review.
- A maximum of 1.5 History and Theory of Visual Culture (VISC) credits may be approved for transfer.
- Only those diploma or CEGEP courses with a minimum 70% average and university courses with a minimum of 65% will be eligible for consideration for transfer credit.
- Contact hours must total a minimum of 36 hours for 0.5 credit of OCAD University courses, with a minimum of three weeks' instruction.

- I already have a BFA or BDes can I still attend OCAD University?

If you are an OCA/OCAD degree or diploma graduate or hold a BFA or BDes degree from another institution you may apply for admission to a second program leading to a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) or a Bachelor of Design (BDes) degree. If interested, you may apply as an Advanced Standing candidate through the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) at www.ouac.on.ca

If you are entering with a completed undergraduate degree in a discipline other than studio art or design you may request to have your liberal studies courses assessed for possible transfer towards your OCAD University degree, but not more than 3 Visual Culture (VISC) courses.

[Transfer of Credit Application - Studio Credits \(PDF\)](#)

[Transfer of Credit Application - Liberal Studies Credits \(PDF\)](#)

[Transfer of Credit Appeal \(PDF\)](#)

- I'm completing the International Baccalaureate diploma. Will I receive transfer credit for the courses I've done?

If you have completed the International Baccalaureate, Caribbean Advanced Placement Examinations (CAPE), taking A-Levels within the GCE curriculum or Advanced Placement courses you will not be granted transfer credit. However, you may receive credit resulting from your portfolio review. Students will be considered for admission based on completed previous coursework and equivalency to the Ontario OSSD.

- I'm enrolled in a CEGEP. Will I receive transfer credit for the courses I've done?

Second year CEGEP courses and above will be considered for transfer credit. CEGEP courses will be treated similarly to Ontario college diploma courses in determining transfer credit. Generally, CEGEP courses will transfer to OCAD University at a value of

2:1. Only those credits with a final mark of 70% or higher will be eligible for consideration for transfer credit.

- What does it mean when courses transfer for a different value?

The value of the credits you have earned at your home institution may vary when transferred at OCAD University. OCAD University may assign fewer credits to a course you have taken if it is believed that the material covered does not go into the same depth or cover the same material as a similar course offered at OCAD University.

- If I apply and am denied Advanced Standing can my application still be considered for first year?

Advanced standing acceptance and year level placement is based on the strength of your portfolio and academic standing. OCAD University offers a limited number of spaces for students with Advanced Standing through Prior Learning Assessment and Transfer Credit. You are eligible to apply if you have at least one year of post-secondary visual art or design education that is the equivalent of OCAD University's first year. Your acceptance and year level placement are dependent on your portfolio review, which happens during OCAD University's study week in February.

If you have not been granted Advanced Standing, you will be assessed for admission to first year study. Successful applicants who do not qualify for Advanced Standing but have successfully completed courses at an accredited post-secondary institution may also be eligible for Transfer Credit.

- Does an Articulation Agreement guarantee admission to my destination program?

Articulation agreements do not guarantee admission. Although you may have met all minimum requirements, admission is competitive. Admissions procedures remain the same for all transfer students.

- Are there a maximum number of transfer credits I can receive?

The maximum number of credits that may be accepted for transfer is limited by OCAD University's Residency Policy, which requires you to complete a minimum of 50 percent of your graduation requirements at OCAD University. As well, two out of your three final semesters prior to graduation (assuming completion of 2.5 credits per semester), including the final one, must be completed in residence at OCAD University. You may transfer your liberal studies credits towards your OCAD University degree, but not more than 3 Visual Culture (VISC) courses or 1.5 credits of VISC.

- When is the deadline for submitting an English test score result?

All post-secondary transcripts/documentation are accepted at Admissions & Recruitment up to mid-August of the year for which you have been granted admission.

- Will I qualify for financial assistance?

As a transfer student you are not different than any other OCAD University student when it comes to eligibility for financial aid and awards. You may be eligible for financial assistance at OCAD University; potential sources include OSAP, bursaries, scholarships, awards and opportunities to work on campus. In addition to online resource information, staff in the [Financial Aid & Awards Office](#) can advise you with respect to your financial situation, provide referrals to appropriate financial assistance programs, and assist you in securing the resources required to meet your post-secondary education costs.

- Location: 51 McCaul Street, Level 1
Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
E-mail: [Financial Aid](#) (General office e-mail address)
Twitter: [FinAidOCAD](#)

- After I've sent my application to the Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC), how do I know OCAD University has received it?

OCAD University will acknowledge receipt of your application by e-mail and advise you of the date, time and location of your portfolio assessment (if required).

- Who should I talk to if I have questions about articulation agreements and transfer credit?

Please contact Tammy Madden, Admissions Officer, tmadden@ocad.ca or call 416-977-6000 x308 for more information.

Hearing from OCAD University about your Transfer Application

- When can I expect to hear from OCAD University with an admissions decision?

If you are a successful applicant, you will receive a conditional offer of admission in April, which must be accepted through OUAC.

OCAD University makes offers of admission based on your portfolio and available academic grades. All offers are conditional upon the completion of the admission process (meeting academic requirements and submitting necessary documents).

- When will I find out how much transfer credit I will receive?

The timing of the decision will vary based on your intended enrolment date. If you are an Advanced Standing student wishing to enrol and complete coursework during the

summer session you will be informed of the outcome of your preliminary transfer of credit assessment in April/May (provided all required documentation has been submitted). If you plan to enrol in the fall, all results will be made available over the summer months.

- As a transfer student is there orientation events I can attend at OCAD University?

Attending a Registration Assistance Day (RAD) session is a great way to get face-to-face advice on choosing courses. Ask questions about things like OCAD e-mail or dates and deadlines; consult with your student advisor and other faculty representatives; or, attend your "Writing@OCAD" appointment. While you register for your courses, interact with fellow students, meet faculty and staff and find out about the Student Mentor Program from volunteer upper-year student peer mentors who will help orient you to the campus.