

Senate Policy

Admission Requirements, Graduate Studies

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Description:

This policy outlines the minimum eligibility requirements and criteria for admission to a graduate program at OCAD University.

Approvals:

Approved by Senate Graduate Studies Committee: November 2011

Approved by Senate: December 2011

Approved by Senate Graduate Studies Committee: April 2026

Approved by Senate Academic Standards Committee: May 2026

Approved by Senate: May 2026

Date Effective: September 2026

Approval Authority: Senate

Signature: Julian Goss, Chair

Policy:

Admission to graduate studies at OCAD University is based on a combination of academic preparedness and the results of a review of program specific supplemental materials including but not limited to: samples of work/portfolio, statement of intent, curriculum vitae, and letters of reference. Top ranked candidates receive an offer of admission.

Applicants meeting the minimum requirements for admission outlined in this policy are not guaranteed admission into any graduate program. Admission is limited to applicants whose interests are compatible with available resources and faculty expertise.

All decisions on graduate admissions are approved by the Dean, Graduate Studies on recommendation from Graduate Program Committees. All admission decisions are final and may not be appealed.

OCAD U reserves the right to be the sole arbiter of what it will accept on an academic and equivalency basis. Admission requirements are subject to change.

Admission Requirements:

The minimum requirements for admission to a Graduate program at OCAD U are as follows:

- submitted evidence, including letters from qualified referees, of the applicant's ability to undertake and succeed in graduate level work in the program applied to (program specific requirements are available on the University's website and may be updated annually)
- a bachelor's degree or comparable honours degree/certification from a recognized accredited university, or equivalent
- a cumulative grade point average of at least 75% (B+) or better during the last two years of study

Applicants not meeting the minimum average and/or degree requirements outlined above may be admitted based on demonstrated exceptional experience/expertise in a relevant discipline or practice.

Conditional Admission:

Conditional admission may be offered to an applicant who is substantively ready to undertake a program, but who has not completed all admission requirements or who may need to complete preliminary items prior to the start of the program (including but not limited to: pre-requisite courses, language tests, recommended training or readings). A conditional offer of admission will specify the remaining requirements to be met and a time period within which to meet them. Normally, the requirements must be fulfilled prior to registering in the program. Applicants who fail to satisfy the conditions of their offer of admission, including submitting all required official documentation, by the deadlines indicated may have their offer of admission rescinded.

English Language Proficiency:

The official language of instruction at OCAD U is English. An applicant whose primary language is not English or whose previous education has been conducted in another language is required to demonstrate command of English sufficient to pursue graduate studies at OCAD U. Applicants may satisfy this requirement through one of the following:

- submission of valid test results for an approved English language proficiency test with scores that meet or exceed requirements. Approved tests and the required minimum scores are published on OCAD U's graduate admissions website.
- proof of completion of a Bachelor's, Master's, or doctoral degree (or equivalent) where the language of instruction was English. Details on

approved documentation is available on OCAD U's graduate admissions website.

- proof of completion of an approved English language program. Approved English language programs, school partners and requirements are published on OCAD U's graduate admissions website.

OCAD University reserves the right to request an English Language Proficiency test from any applicant during the application process regardless of their academic background. English Language Proficiency requirements are subject to change.

Transfer Credit:

Applicants with previously completed graduate studies level coursework may request transfer credit at the time of admission. With the approval of the Dean (or designate) and the Office of Graduate Studies, transfer credit may be granted provided that the course(s) has not been credited towards another degree, diploma, certificate or any other qualification. One half of the minimum course work of the applicable program, not including the written thesis or thesis project/exhibition, must be taken at OCAD U.

Application Fraud:

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that application information and all supporting documentation is truthful, complete and correct. OCAD University reserves the right to verify any information provided as part of the application. It is an act of serious academic misconduct to provide any false or misleading information (either by omission or commission) in an application. If it is proven, or if the University has reasonable grounds to conclude, that any information in the application, or in any of the material submitted in support of the application, is determined to be false or misleading, or written by a third party, the application may be invalidated at the absolute and sole discretion of OCAD University. This could result in immediate rejection of the application, or, in the revocation of an offer of admission, or, in the termination of registration at OCAD University. Any such information may be shared by OCAD University with other universities and colleges across Canada.