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Life as an artist at the USC Roski School of Art and Design is exciting and enriching. Small classes made up of incredibly diverse and talented students allow for the open exchange of ideas in a forward-thinking environment. Founded in 1893, USC Roski School is one of the most distinguished art schools in the United States with a robust faculty made up of internationally renowned artists and designers. Based on an extensive survey of more than 1,000 art colleges and universities, Niche.com recently ranked the school #1 in its list of Best Colleges for Design and the seventh best art college. USC Roski School is located in the heart of Los Angeles, one of the most important centers for art in the world with hundreds of museums, galleries and entertainment companies.

USC Roski School offers three undergraduate degrees: the Bachelor of Arts (BA), the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art (BFA Art) and the Bachelor of Arts in Design (BFA Design). Unlike in most art schools, Roski School undergraduates do not major in a specific medium or concentration, such as ceramics, critical studies, design, sculpture, photography, painting, social practice, public art or performance art. Instead, you are encouraged to explore, combine, mix, match and move freely, discovering what’s relevant to your needs and interests.
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Courses of interest

Ceramics
Critical Studies
Design
Digital Media
Sculpture
Printmaking
Photography
Painting and Drawing

The BFAs (Art and Design) are intensive pre-professional arts degrees that allow you to immerse yourself fully in making art. The BA, meanwhile, is a liberal arts degree, ideal for those who want to combine art with study in a related, complementary or completely different field. USC Roski School also offers eight minor programs in studio arts and design.

In the BFA Art program, the choice of studio courses is mostly up to you, with emphases available in painting and drawing, photography and video, sculpture, ceramics, social practice and performance and public art. There are no foreign-language or elective requirements, so you can spend the vast majority of your class time in studio courses, developing high levels of proficiency in two or three media. You will also take a series of critical theory seminars, critique studios and a studio capstone course and undertake a senior thesis project. Optional courses include professional internships and international study tours led by Roski School faculty. Advanced BFA students are assigned faculty mentors who guide their progression through BFA coursework to the final thesis.

The BFA Design is a four-year pre-professional degree leading to careers in advertising, publishing, fashion, sports, entertainment and film design, among others. Design education at the Roski School is based on the premise that all designers are also artists and makers, so first-year foundation courses include drawing, illustration and other art mediums, along with skills-based workshops in 2D and 3D design-specific media. Design coursework may be complemented by a series of critical theory seminars, professional design internships, international study tours and a senior thesis, as well as a minor in business, advertising, marketing, entrepreneurship or communication.

Advanced design students who are making exceptional progress may apply for the BFA/MFA Design progressive degree during their junior year, eliminating the need for a formal graduate application and reducing the time needed to earn an advanced degree.

The BA Art is a liberal arts degree and comprises a broader variety of courses from across the university than the BFA. The choice of art and design courses is very much student-driven and is ideal for those who want to combine their interests in art or design with a minor or double major in a related field, such as business, neuroscience or game design/animation. In addition to USC’s general education requirements, three semesters of a foreign language are required.

USC Roski School offers an exciting array of art and design minors to help you achieve your creative and career goals, regardless of their major. The school offers eight studio-intensive minors, each focusing on a different area of visual art: painting, drawing, photography, ceramics, sculpture, 2D studies, digital media-based imaging and 3D design. There are three interdisciplinary minors, including Communication Design (with coursework in graphic design, advertising, marketing and business), 2D and 3D Art for Games (with courses in art, computer science and interactive media) and 3D Design.
Big University
Small Art School
In addition to the Roski School, USC is home to five prestigious arts schools: the School of Architecture, School of Cinematic Arts, Thornton School of Music, School of Dramatic Arts and the new Kaufman School of Dance. Aspiring architects, filmmakers, musicians, dancers and actors come from around the country and the world to study with the renowned faculty at USC, forming an extraordinarily creative environment with limitless possibilities for collaboration.

USC, one of the most important research universities in the world, offers you the added opportunity to pursue whatever interests you alongside art — whether it’s anthropology, business, classics, psychology, neurochemistry or astronomy — and discover new passions. USC’s 150 minors offer an added depth of expertise in areas outside of art, bringing a variety of new perspectives to art-making.
At USC Roski School, you are encouraged to learn outside the classroom and beyond the university. The school offers creative internship opportunities uniquely suited for art majors — whether designers, photographers, illustrators or curators — to explore career options at museums, galleries, movie studios, television networks, magazines, advertising agencies, design firms and other creative organizations. You might also choose to get involved in the community, tutoring kids in local schools in reading, painting, ceramics, dance and everything in between. These invaluable real-world experiences forge crucial professional connections that last a lifetime.

Student Prizes and Exhibitions
Undergraduate art and design majors may apply for an Independent Student Exhibition in the Helen Lindhurst Fine Arts Gallery and Lindhurst Cases. Selected through a competitive process, students are awarded an exhibition based on the merits of their proposal and on the strength of their past work.

The Handtmann Prize for Photography is awarded to one outstanding third-year undergraduate student at USC Roski School. The $5,000 prize supports a proposed photographic project resulting in an exhibition in the spring of the awardee’s senior year in the Helen Lindhurst Fine Arts Gallery.

The Rebekah and Howard Farber Fund for Student Excellence awards one deserving undergraduate student a $4,000 award to pursue an art-related project or endeavor that has real societal value beyond the classroom.

The Ruth Weisberg Prize for Drawing provides a $6,500 grant to one outstanding third-year undergraduate student to support a drawing project resulting in a Helen Lindhurst Fine Arts Gallery exhibition in the awardee’s senior year.

Kathleen Neely Macomber Travel Grants are awarded to a maximum of four outstanding USC Roski School undergraduate and graduate students. The $7,500 prize supports proposed projects involving research-based travel, the production of new artwork and a public presentation of the new work.

The USC Roski Annual Student Exhibition — juried by USC Roski School faculty and presented in the USC Fisher Museum of Art — is a professional presentation of students’ artwork representing diverse media. Held during graduation week, the exhibition allows family and friends the opportunity to view the high caliber of artworks being created at USC Roski School.

USC Fellowships
All USC Fellowships Scholars receive a medallion to wear at graduation and have their designation noted on their final USC transcripts.

The Renaissance Scholar designation is intended to recognize and celebrate USC undergraduates who have excelled academically while pursuing at least two widely separated fields of study. Renaissance Scholars may be eligible for a $10,000 prize toward graduate study.

The Discovery Scholar designation recognizes USC undergraduates who have excelled academically while making a meaningful contribution to their field of study through exceptional new scholarship or artistic work. Discovery Scholars may be eligible for a $10,000 prize toward graduate study or other approved post-graduate endeavors.

The Global Scholar designation is intended to recognize USC undergraduate students who have excelled academically while becoming world citizens. Global Scholars may be eligible for a $10,000 prize toward graduate study.

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Going Global
Gaining international understanding can be invaluable. To expand your horizons while in school, you have the option to study overseas for a semester at one of USC’s 50 study-abroad programs in 28 countries around the world, all while earning USC credits. Four locales offer studio-focused, art-specific programs: Florence, Italy; Canberra, Australia; London, England; and Cape Town, South Africa. If you elect not to go overseas, the Roski School, with one of the highest enrollments of international students at a United States university, still provides a global experience.

Faculty
USC Roski School boasts an internationally recognized faculty of working artists who regularly present their work in exhibitions around the world, scholars who lecture at important arts institutions and are widely published, and professional designers who bring fresh and exciting visual communications to successful businesses and organizations.
Making and Doing
Facilities

Bolstered by an incredible group of philanthropic donors, the Roski School offers outstanding facilities for students, including professional exhibition galleries, state-of-the-art digital labs and light-filled studios.

Studios and Labs

The natural light–filled Galen Ceramics Studio is equipped with electric wheels, a slab roller, extruders and electric and soda kilns. The adjacent outdoor kiln yard features both large and small gas kilns.

The 1,725-square-foot Design Studio is outfitted with wireless worktables for production and state-of-the-art computer equipment.

The Del Mar Design Studio classroom features a consumer-grade 3D printer, a laser cutter, a selection of hand tools and fabrication equipment.

The Galen 3D Print Lab features professional-grade fused powder 3D printing, consumer-grade 3D printing and 17 iMac workstations.

The Makens Painting and Drawing Wing houses three drawing classrooms with extensive walls for critiques and projects, plus three painting studios that feature large north-facing windows and skylights for natural illumination.

The Helene V. Galen Intermedia Lab includes two state-of-the-art teaching labs offering workstations for each student with digital photo, video and audio equipment; vinyl cutters; film scanners and large-scale printing stations.

The Handtmann Photography Lab, primarily used by students enrolled in beginning photography courses, features Omega D5 and Durst enlargers.

The 3,500-square-foot Advanced Photography Lab in the USC Roski Studios Building offers private darkrooms, a Kreonite chromogenic color print processor, 14 Mac workstations and a 900-square-foot shooting studio.

The Sculpture Lab boasts spacious indoor and outdoor studios, a well-equipped wood and metal shop, a foundry for aluminum and bronze casting and welding stations for oxy-acetylene arc and MIG welding.

Printmaking courses at the Roski School are fully supported by a specialized pressroom. The Printmaking Lab features three large presses, including a state-of-the-art Takach press.
USC Roski Galleries

Helen Lindhurst Fine Arts Gallery
Gayle and Ed Roski Gallery

The Helen Lindhurst Fine Arts Gallery is located on the ground floor of Watt Hall on the USC University Park Campus. The 1,500-square-foot gallery is used primarily for undergraduate solo and group exhibitions, with occasional special programming such as faculty exhibitions and video screenings.

Located in the USC Roski Studios Building, the Gayle and Ed Roski Gallery is a stunning 2,000-square-foot gallery dedicated to exhibitions of work by the school’s undergraduate students, as well as occasional special programming, including performance art events, alumni exhibitions and film screenings.
Affiliated Arts Facilities

Architecture and Fine Arts Library
The Architecture and Fine Arts Library (AFA) houses more than 75,000 art history, fine arts and architecture books and journals as well as a notable collection of rare titles and artists’ books. In addition, the AFA has a growing collection of videos and DVDs in the art and design fields.

USC Fisher Museum of Art
The USC Fisher Museum of Art was the first art museum established in the city of Los Angeles and it remains dedicated solely to the exhibition and collection of fine art. Founded in 1939 by Elizabeth Holmes Fisher, the museum houses a permanent collection of 1,800 objects that includes 19th-century American landscapes, 16th- and 17th-century Northern European paintings, 18th-century British portraiture, 19th-century French Barbizon paintings and 20th-century works on paper, paintings and sculpture. Exhibitions of important historical works, including old master shows, as well as works by emerging artists — local, national and international — introduce the arts to a wide range of audiences.

USC Special Collections
The Department of Special Collections at the University of Southern California oversees rare books, manuscripts, archives and historic photographs. It contains more than 200,000 volumes, more than 1,000 archival collections and more than 2 million photographs.

Pacific Asia Museum
Serving the city of Los Angeles and the Southern California region, the Pacific Asia Museum is one of few U.S. institutions dedicated to the arts and culture of Asia and the Pacific Islands and to further intercultural understanding through the arts of those regions.

California African American Museum
Located across the street from USC, the California African American Museum houses 4,000 objects, including paintings, prints and mixed-media artworks from historical, modern and contemporary art periods.
For more information please contact the Roski School of Art and Design
213.740.9153 or roski@usc.edu

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