



School of Art and Design

ROSKI FAQs for prospective students

What is the difference between the BA Art, BFA Art and the BFA Design?

First, the similarities! They are both 4-year degrees and allow you to choose your own custom mix of art and/or design classes across the different art areas: 2D/3D Design, Photography/Video, Painting/Drawing and Sculpture/Ceramics.

Now the differences! **The BFA in Art and the BFA in Design** are immersive, focused art/design programs that aside from the USC-mandated General Education core courses, concentrate entirely on art or design classes. Can you add a minor? Yes, a choice of minor outside of art is included.

The **BA Art** is a humanities degree and allows for the selection of a wider variety of courses across the university, including the study of a foreign language of your choice and room for a minor, all in four years! Double majors are possible with the BA; you usually graduate in five years.

Does Roski have required foundation courses?

Yes, we want all incoming art and design students to be familiar with a variety of media. So unless you've already taken an equivalent course elsewhere and can demonstrate specific competencies, we do require one semester of Drawing, and a two-semester sequence of Art and Design studios that introduces you to a variety of media and methodologies. Those are the **only** required studio courses for art majors. So you can start choosing your own customized mix of art and design classes as early as the second semester in your first year!

What about the other requirements?

All USC students are held to the same core GE classes, regardless of their major, and students start taking them along with their major classes in their first year at USC. See a listing of GE requirements here: <http://dornsife.usc.edu/2015ge/2015ge-requirements/>. If you are in the BA Art program, you need to take three semesters of a foreign language, unless you can prove competency in a language by taking a test or submitting a score of 4 or 5 in AP foreign language. Note: all USC students planning to study abroad in Italy in junior year need to take at least one semester of Italian before their travel.

Art and Design majors are also required to take 3-4 critical studies courses that supplement their studio practice and inform their abilities to critique and give context to their own work.

What makes a Roski art education different from other schools?

1. We take a more individual approach to a student's art education than other art schools; we do not have structured, cookie-cutter curriculum where one size fits all. With guidance from our advisors, each student explores and chooses the courses that are right for them, according to their personal interests and/or career goals.
2. We do not offer specific majors in individual art areas so there is no need to pigeon-hole art students and force them to focus in one dominant art area: all students, regardless whether their chosen emphasis is in photography, painting or design, are free to move from one medium to another.
3. USC features an interdisciplinary approach to education where art and design students take courses in the social sciences, physical and biological science, the humanities, as well as art and design. Again, all of these disciplines enrich and inspire the artist and the designer.

Studio Access

Unless there is dangerous equipment (like table saws for instance) or expensive equipment (like cameras and computers) most Roski studios are accessible to art majors 24/7 with a swipe of their USC ID card. Painters are assigned semesterly to specific small-group painting studios. Studios manned by technicians, such as the digital labs, photo darkrooms, and wood shop are usually open 7 days a week until at least 5pm.

What about minors or double majors?

YES to both! See #1 above. The choice for double majors or minors is endless. They are usually added in your second year. They can help give you a competitive edge in the job market, expand your scope of interest in a subject or enhance your career options after graduation.

Do AP or IB scores count?

Scores on AP tests of 4 and 5 award 4 units of credit toward your BA or BFA degree. Some AP/IB tests can waive GEs or the foreign language requirement.

<http://arr.usc.edu/services/articulation/examcredit.html>

Note: A score of 4 or 5 in AP Art will not automatically waive you out of a beginning drawing course, but it is possible if you can demonstrate significant skills in drawing. Ask us for more details.

Study Abroad Opportunities

Each major at USC offers a range of different programs in different countries for study abroad semesters, that offer coursework for credit toward an undergraduate degree. Roski offers programs for art students in the following cities and countries: London, England; Canberra, Australia; Capetown, South Africa; and Florence and Cortona, Italy. We also offer faculty-led Study Tours to London and Berlin in the fall and spring semesters respectively, for 10 days each.

What about Jobs/Careers?

Professionalization for artists and designers begins in the junior year with our ambitious Arts Internship program, where the skills and techniques learned in art and design classes are applied to real-world settings. The Roski School has partnered with over 400 art and design-related companies in and around Los Angeles (and some in NYC) to offer internships in a variety of professional venues for qualified students, from museums, galleries, advertising firms, fashion companies, sports franchises, entertainment companies, animation and game design companies, start-ups and established big name companies. Our students tell us that it's an experience of a lifetime to be mentored by a professional in their chosen field, and to participate in client meetings and presentations. Meaningful connections are made and significant resume-building experiences are achieved.

Portfolio Reviews and campus visits

You have many options for a visit: You can come for a campus visit/tour with Meet USC

<http://admission.usc.edu/firstyear/prospective/oncampus.html> or attend one of our USC receptions in cities across the US and Asia in October <http://admission.usc.edu/firstyear/prospective/offcampus.html>.

The **Roski Portfolio Forum** and open house for prospective students is in the fall on the USC campus. Show us your art work and meet our faculty and students! Make a reservation on the Roski web site. We will be also be hosting **Roski Portfolio Reviews** in the NYC area in November. You can sign up on the Roski web site.

More Questions? Please contact Penelope Jones in the Roski admission office
213-740-9153 or penelope@usc.edu