

Design Media
Arts

PROGRAMSBA: Design Media
Arts

Undergraduate

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OVERVIEW

More information coming in Spring 2026 regarding Fall 2027 Admissions

The Design Media Arts (DMA) undergraduate program emphasizes innovative and exploratory creation with digital media. The curriculum features a set of foundation classes followed by a broad selection of courses in media arts, games, and design. Students are encouraged to focus on one of these areas and to enrich their experience with additional classes from other areas and related classes through other departments at UCLA. The program culminates with the Senior Projects class where each student defines their own senior project based on individual interests in media arts, games, or design

This uniquely challenging and diverse

APPLY Fall 2026

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The Department of Design Media Arts accepts first year and transfer applications for Fall quarter only. Review the Admissions details for requirements, key dates, and to apply!



BA Brandon Joseph, *LOM: Lighting By You, 2025*



BA Julia Wang,

program invites students to balance aesthetic sensibility with logical reasoning, formal theories with practical application, and contemporary thought with historical perspective. Most courses are taught as studios of no more than 22 students, which encourages individual growth and fosters a sense of community within the department.

Rather than focusing on narrow professional development, our curriculum fosters experimentation across a range of different media. We privilege a social outlook, process, experimentation, and personal growth over conservatism and commercialism and we search for students who share the same goals. We strive to provide a broad education that encourages young people to make new connections, to analyze complex situations, and to think critically.

Plastic

Menu ☰



BA Rakeem
Cunningham,
Colorscape

NEWS

11.05.21

JESSE

STECKLOW -

**Components in
the Air /**

Art@Bainbridge

Jesse Stecklow is excited to share that he will be opening an exhibition at Bainbridge House in Princeton, NJ on Saturday, November 6th

CURRICULUM

The undergraduate curriculum begins with a series of foundational courses in preparation for the major, and moves into core upper-division classes which comprise the major itself.

PREPARATION FOR THE MAJOR

- 8 Media Histories
- 10 Design Culture
- 21 Digital Image
- 22 Fabrication and Materials
- 24 Video and Motion
- 25 Typography
- 28 Interactivity

CORE LECTURE COURSES

- 101 Media Arts Introduction
- 104 Design Futures

CORE STUDIO COURSES (CHOOSE 9)

- 110 Tangible Media
- 111 Art and the Internet
- 131 3D Modeling and Motion
- 125 Game Design
- 116 Sonic Media

Menu ☰

EVENT 01.19.23 |
05:00pm
New Wight
Gallery

Hey, Can
you pick
me up?
I'm
scared.
I'm at
the
Intersec
tion of
Art and
Technol

- 127 Interactive Animation
- 126 Game Engine
- 114 Arts Research and Practice
- 115 Art and Science Collaboration
- 128 Worldbuilding
- 129 Collaborative Game Lab
- 130 Experiments in Virtuality
- 140 Word and Image
- 141 Web Design and UI/UX
- 142 Design Systems
- 143 Disability and the Web
- 144 Type in Motion
- 145 Design Research
- 146 Ecological Arts and Justice Practice
- 150 Professional Practice
- 160 Special Topics in Design Media Arts

SENIOR PROJECT

- 159 Capstone Senior Project in Design Media Arts

In addition to classes taken within the DMA department, students complete a series of general education courses and are encouraged to take other electives from the university to broaden their experience. A complete list of all DMA classes with descriptions is available in the UCLA General Catalog and

ogy: DMA UG Exhibiti on 2023 (Exhibiti on)

Menu ☰

EVENT 01.18.24 |
05:00pm
New Wight
Gallery

UG Winter 24 Exhibiti on, (Exhibiti

individual class websites can be found on the [DMA Classes website](#).

ADMISSIONS

The Department of Design Media Arts accepts first year and transfer applications for Fall quarter only. Each applicant must complete the University of California Application and the DMA Undergraduate Supplemental Application, including a creative portfolio.

WHO CAN APPLY?

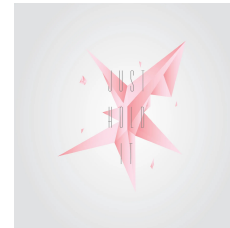
- High school graduates
- Students transferring from California community colleges or other accredited universities

HOW DO I APPLY?

Admission to the Department of Design Media Arts is a two-step process.

(EXHIBITION)

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BA Alec
Maassen,
Longing

EVENT 06.06.24 |
05:00pm
EDA

DMA
2024 UG
Senior
Capstone
Exhibition

Step 1

Students must complete the [University of California Application](#) and put Design Media Arts as their first choice major to UCLA.

Step 2

All applicants for the Design Media Arts major must also submit the DMA Undergraduate Supplemental Application in SlideRoom. Detailed information about the supplemental requirements and how to submit, can be **found in the [Important Documents](#) section below.**

Your supplemental application must be submitted by **DECEMBER 15, 2025** (11:59pm PST).

TRANSFER STUDENTS

on Opening (Exhibiti on)

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[Browse more Undergraduate work](#) →

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The Department of Design Media Arts emphasizes visual, audio, analytical theoretical, and technology-mediated work in design and media arts. This is typically a **three-year program** that fully integrates computers and other digital technology into the curriculum.

Admission to the Design Media Arts major is based on evidence of creative talent and academic achievement and is very competitive. The most important admission criteria is the supplemental application which requires a portfolio of creative work. While it may be beneficial to complete the courses listed below as recommended preparation, there is no guarantee they will transfer as exact UCLA equivalents. Substitutions for lower division requirements will be determined by the department in the summer following admission. Syllabi or other descriptive course documentation may be required for consideration

may be required for consideration.

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Recommended (not required)
preparation for the major: one course each in drawing, color theory, two-dimensional and three-dimensional form, digital media computer design, programming for media arts, letter forms and typography, design culture, and interactivity and media arts, and two courses in design history.

The department has prepared a [help document](#) for Transfer Students, to assist in identifying relevant coursework.

Non-UCLA students may also take DMA preparation for the major courses here at UCLA during Summer Sessions: <https://summer.ucla.edu/>.

Design Media Arts will consider sophomore transfers. For more information about admission criteria,

please visit. <https://www.uclaarts-admission.com/transfer-applicants>

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CHANGE OF MAJOR

Students who wish to join the Design Media Arts major submit applications in Fall Quarter to start coursework in Spring Quarter. Change of major applications will be considered only for current UCLA students who have successfully completed at least one quarter at UCLA/a UC campus and are in good academic standing. Students may not apply for admission to Design Media Arts more than two times during their residency at UCLA. Previous coursework in Design Media Arts does not guarantee admission.

The Department prefers that students have fewer than 90 units at the time of application to ensure a normal degree

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completion time. Students with more than 121 units (excluding AP and Design Media Arts courses) will not be considered. The supplemental application is a critical consideration in the admission process. Supplements are reviewed by department faculty, graduate students, and select alumni.

Students who would like to change their major to add Design Media Arts as a major must attend a mandatory information sessions on one of the dates listed below. Please register through link on the date you will be attending. Info sessions are held in Fall quarter only and will be held on Zoom.

Design Media Arts Change of Major Information Sessions:

Tuesday, September 9, 12-12:45pm

Friday, October 10, 12-12:45pm

Wednesday, December 3, 12-12:45pm

When you are ready to apply, please use [this link](#). Design Media Arts uses SlideRoom to collect Change of Major application materials. If you do not have a SlideRoom account, you will be prompted to sign up for one for free. There are no costs associated with applying for a Change of Major.

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ESSENTIAL DATES FOR NEW STUDENTS

- 11.30.25 UC General Undergraduate Application due
- 12.15.25 DMA Undergraduate Supplemental Application due

If you are a new UCLA student and have questions about the application process, please email our Enrollment Management office at admissions@arts.ucla.edu or check out our resources at www.uclaarts-admission.com.

ESSENTIAL DATES FOR CHANGE OF MAJOR

- 12.15.25 Register as a Change of Major at: <https://forms.gle/8CMdCwEnti3MdMj69>
- 12.15.25 DMA Change of Major Application

Due

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If you are a current UCLA student and have questions about the Change of Major process, please contact Laura Young
lyoung@arts.ucla.edu.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

- [SlideRoom Portal \(for both New UCLA Students and Change of Major\)](#)
- [Design Media Arts Admission FAQ and Portfolio Tips](#)
- [DMA Transfer Course Selection Guide](#)

USEFUL LINKS

- [UCLA Undergraduate Admissions](#)
 - [UCLA Transfer Admission Guide](#)
 - [UCLA General Catalog](#)
 - [School of Arts and Architecture](#)
- [General Information](#)
- [Financial Aid Office](#)
 - [Scholarship Office](#)
 - [Housing Office](#)

- [Center for Accessible Education](#)
- [Registrar’s Office](#)
- [Undergraduate Tuition and Fees](#)

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DMA	PROGRAMS	PEOPLE	EVENTS	INITIATIVES	INFORMATION	COMMUNITY RESOURCES
Facebook	Undergraduate (BA)	Faculty MFA	Calendar	UCLA Game Lab	About	AEDI
Twitter	Graduate (MFA)	Candidates	Lecture Archive	Counterforce Lab	Contact	DMA Labs and Facilities
Instagram	Summer Institute	Alumnx Work Archive	Announcements	Conditional Studio	Employment	Student Resources
	Summer Sessions	Staff		FLAT Journal		COVID-19 Information
				Art Sci Center		Classes Site
				Social Software		

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The Department of Design Media Arts is a part of the School of the Arts and Architecture at the University of California, Los Angeles.

As a land grant institution, UCLA acknowledges the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (Los Angeles basin, So. Channel Islands).

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