Graduate Application and Portfolio Guidelines

Graduate School of Graphic Design

 Applicants to the Graduate Program must submit the following:

1. **APPLICATION:** Complete the online application clearly indicating chosen discipline
2. **STATEMENT OF INTENT:** Outline your goals and intentions for graduate school (700 word limit)
3. **OFFICIAL COLLEGE TRANSCRIPT(S):** Transcripts must be official or unofficial, issued by the attended institution and show completion of an undergraduate degree. Academy of Art University accepts electronic submission of official and unofficial transcripts. Students sending an official or unofficial electronic transcript should have it directed to the following email address: transcripts@academyart.edu.
4. **RESUME:** Should describe your educational background, work experience, and skill set.
5. **PORTFOLIO:** A professionally presented indication of the applicant’s skills is required for optimal program placement. Specific portfolio guidelines are below.
6. **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION (OPTIONAL):** Please have your recommenders email their letters directly to your admissions representative.

**SUBMISSION FORMAT:**

*(Please note that your submission is incomplete until an application to the graduate school is on file.)*

- Go to [www.academyart.edu/GradSubmission](http://www.academyart.edu/GradSubmission).
- Upload your attachments in separate jpg files.
- You will be prompted to provide descriptions for your submission pieces. If the portfolio contains collaborative projects, the applicant’s role must be specified and described in detail.
- Website URLs will also be accepted.
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STATEMENT OF INTENT:

The statement of intent should be a one page essay that clearly defines your reason for applying to the School of Graphic Design degree program. Please be sure to address each of the questions below in the order that they appear. Please keep your response concise and to the point.

1. What is your motivation for pursuing a graduate degree in Graphic Design?
2. Why do you believe the Academy of Art University will be a good partner for your purposes? Do your research and be specific.
3. What strength/s do you have that will make you a good candidate for a degree in the School of Graphic Design? What weakness/es will you need to overcome to succeed as a graduate graphic design student? If applying to the program from an unrelated field, please provide an explanation of how your prior unrelated background and experience can be of benefit to you as an applicant to the program.
4. What is it about design that inspires you? Be personal and passionate, but refrain from writing a biography.
5. Tell us about your goals. Where do you imagine yourself professionally and how can graduate school help get you there? How well do you understand this industry and what it requires of students?

If you would like assistance, please contact Admissions.

PORTFOLIO GUIDELINES:

- Please submit 8-10 portfolio pieces (as separate jpg files)
- Your portfolio should reflect the potential, knowledge, understanding, and mastery of your art and design skills.
- Portfolio should demonstrate proficiency in Adobe Creative Suite.
- Please include samples that best represent the breadth of your skills (including but not limited to):
  - Design
  - Photography
  - Illustration/visualization
  - Typography
  - Interactive Design
- If you are applying from an unrelated discipline, your portfolio should be representative of your existing skills.
- The overall presentation of your portfolio will be a consideration as well.

PLEASE NOTE: For International Applicants, all copy and writing samples must be accompanied by an English translation.