

Why SAIC
Your Degree in Detail
Faculty & Facilities
Chicago, Our Campus

explore

**SCHOOL
OF THE ART
INSTITUTE OF
CHICAGO** 

**An art & design
education that takes a
different direction:**

YOURS

Start your journey here





You'll lead the way. We'll support you with the right structure and resources on your path.

TOP 10 ART & DESIGN SCHOOL IN THE WORLD*

Ash Nañoz
Hold the Girl, 2023
Organza, fleece, ribbon, gold metal hoop

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**QS World University Rankings for Top Art & Design Schools in the world*



The possibilities are exciting. The combinations are endless.

Embrace the freedom to follow your passions

You'll hear the word "interdisciplinary" a lot from us. Other schools may have interdisciplinary paths or "majors." We are interdisciplinary at our core, and that makes us very different.

An interdisciplinary curriculum means you can create work using all the tools and media available from any of our departments, and don't have to confine yourself to a single medium.

It's the basis of how we teach. It's also the way that contemporary artists, designers, and scholars work, and a way of thinking that prepares you for a successful future regardless of your life path.

Design your own creative course of study

You won't declare a major. Bring your work to life by starting with an idea and choose from a wide range of media to fulfill your creative vision — not the other way around.

What if text and painting can be showcased in an installation?

What happens when fashion blends with elements of technology?

When can fiber become sculpture?

And yes, if you want to focus exclusively on a single passion, you can at SAIC.



Tristan Scott Riggs
Ephemeria Capstone
Photo: Jim Prinz



REASONS TO CHOOSE SAIC

Here's what
makes us
different



A

1

You won't declare a major

Our program is built for you to experiment across boundaries, immerse yourself in the ideas that interest you, and develop a practice that is entirely your own.

Start
with an
idea

2

Dedicated time for you to work

Experience real-world professional dynamics, learning to manage your projects and time. Dedicated studio time lets you connect with other artists and realize your own artistic vision.



5

Your Museum—one of the world's most important collections

No other school of art and design can claim such a major museum as part of their campus. Visits to the museum are integral to your coursework, and a resource that is free to you. Encompassing more than 5,000 years of human expression from cultures around the world, our museum contains more than 300,000 works of art.



4

You'll prepare for life after art school from day one

Connected to some of the most exciting and inventive employers in Chicago and globally, you'll develop the skills to succeed beyond art school while you're still here.

A. Ella Daniels *Inner Cloud*



3

Your teachers have been there and made that

Our 700+ faculty members are practicing artists, designers, and scholars, passionate about mentoring their students and sharing their expertise and connections.



6

The city of Chicago is yours

Ready to stand out instead of getting lost in the shuffle? Chicago is a dream for young creatives. It's livable and approachable. Our faculty and alums are deeply engaged in its cultural scene, galleries, firms, and museums, opening doors to endless opportunities for you.

Our faculty are world-recognized in their fields

SAIC faculty members are globally renowned for pushing boundaries and shaping the future of art and design.

Over 700 practicing artists, designers, and scholars mentor the next generation, fostering bold, thoughtful engagement with the world.

Meet just a few of your amazing instructors on page 20.



SAIC Professor of Fashion, Body and Garment, Nick Cave.



11/1
student
faculty
ratio

Get professional, practical feedback

You don't get letter grades in life, and you won't find them on projects here.

Your skills will be honed through honest, insightful dialogues with your peers and with faculty who will demonstrate how to think like an artist. Reviews will empower you to understand and articulate the choices you make in creating your art.

Expand your art collection by about 300,000

Home to a collection of art and artifacts that spans centuries and the globe, the Art Institute of Chicago is like no other learning resource. Through courses and your own curiosity, you'll be able to take advantage of its breadth and diversity.

Faculty will guide tailored expeditions through the museum as an integral component of your curriculum. You'll also explore on your own, developing personal connections to the artworks.

It's a resource unparalleled among art and design schools.



77
neighborhoods
offering a vast,
welcoming
community

In Chicago, you can stand out

Chicago is a vibrant city with a rich cultural scene, making it an ideal place for young designers and artists.

It is an intimate city of neighborhoods, each with unique charm, yet it offers all the resources of a world-class city. When it's time to unwind, you'll find Chicago comfortable, affordable, and easily navigable, perfect for life outside of school.

SAIC is its cultural hub, with a network of faculty, students, and alums working in studios and galleries throughout the community.



See the world. See more of yourself.

Every education deserves a sense of adventure

We provide you with opportunities to participate in short-term and semester-long education abroad programs. Students have roamed the U.S. from L.A. to Saugatuck, MI, and journeyed as far as India, Cuba, Chile and Japan. No matter the adventure you seek, we can help you get there.



6
credits of study
must be earned
outside our
campus walls*



For Riley Gunderson, an internship with Kavi Gupta Gallery was an opportunity for hands-on learning.

Live a professional artist’s life before you graduate

You’ll be eligible to begin taking internships as soon as you complete your first-year requirements. You will have access to over 700 companies, studios, and institutions where you might dream of working one day. Our internships are tailored to equip you with practical skills, giving you résumé-worthy experience.

** BA in Art History students only need to complete 3 credit hours in off-campus study.*

Follow what interests you

Your degree in detail

Being open to new ways of thinking and doing is more crucial today than ever. SAIC’s interdisciplinary approach equips emerging artists and designers to develop informed practices and prepares them for the ever-evolving creative landscape after SAIC.

Choose from five degrees	12–13
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Shaping your studies

SAIC's undergraduate program offers students the choice of five different degrees. This page provides a curriculum overview of each degree, showing the credit breakdown requirements and where to go for more information.

Studio-Based

Studio courses integrate the formal with the conceptual, traditional with the contemporary, and make visible a variety of approaches in current cultural production in order to foster the development of students' emerging practices as makers and thinkers.

Liberal Arts

Liberal Arts courses expand your knowledge and inform your artistic practices. Your instructors are working writers, historians, philosophers, psychologists, scientists and musicians who bring their talents to inform a selection of rotating courses every semester.

For more information visit:
saic.edu/liberal-arts

Art History

Choose from 90+ classes each semester to build your expertise. The Art History Department at SAIC is one of the school's most expansive, offering an extensive array of art movements and cultural studies to explore.

For more information visit:
saic.edu/arhistory



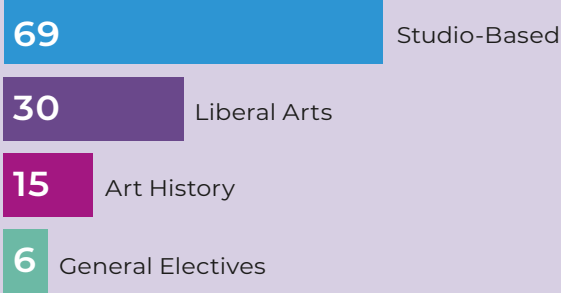
Choose from five degrees

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Studio

SAIC's most popular undergraduate degree provides you with a broad education that balances thinking and making, academic rigor, and experimental play. The BFA curriculum integrates academic and studio education — the classroom and the studio inform and enhance each other.

For more detailed information visit:
saic.edu/ug_programs

120 credit hour breakdown

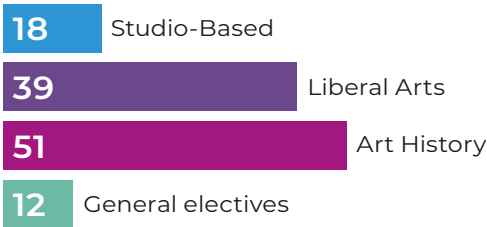


Bachelor of Arts in Art History (BAAH)

This degree draws on the depth and diversity of offerings in the scholarly study of art practices that only a major art school connected with a world-class museum can offer. Substantial coursework in Art History, supplemented by Liberal Arts and studio departments define the course of study.

For more detailed information visit:
saic.edu/arhistory

120 credit hour breakdown

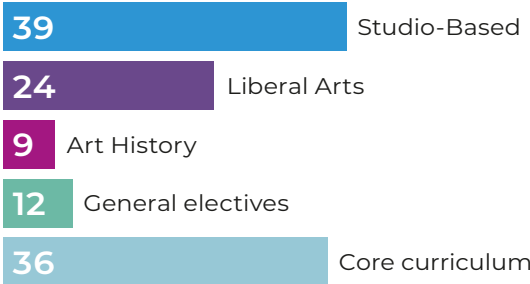


Bachelor of Arts in Visual and Critical Studies (BAVCS)

Students follow a curricular pathway that shares many classes with Bachelor of Fine Arts students before diverging into a unique course of study.

For more detailed information visit:
saic.edu/visual-critical-studies

120 credit hour breakdown

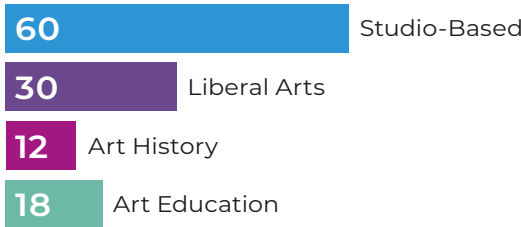


Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Education (BFAAE)

This program prepares undergraduates (teacher candidates) to teach art, design, and new media in elementary and secondary schools, meeting Illinois state PK-12 Visual Arts licensure requirements. The BFAAE is completed in the final two years of an undergraduate degree.

For more detailed information visit:
saic.edu/art-education

120 credit hour breakdown

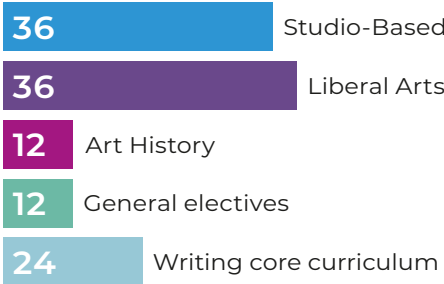


Bachelor of Fine Arts in Writing (BFAW)

Students follow an individualized curricular pathway allowing them to explore a wide range of possibilities for writing and integrating text with the visual arts.

For more detailed information visit:
saic.edu/writing

120 credit hour breakdown



Here's a breakdown of your first-year schedule



Studio Electives

These courses provide the perfect playground for your creative exploration. Dive deep into your area of interest right from the start, or experiment with unfamiliar subjects. You will not be restricted to working in one medium, but have the freedom to combine areas of interest to fulfill your visions.



Core Studio I & II

Embark on a high-energy, year-long series that introduces you to a wide range of art and design practices. Fabricate with 3D printers. Craft with industrial sewing machines. Through team-taught classes, you'll delve into surface, space, and time exploration, bridging disciplinary boundaries to cultivate your creative development.



Research Studio I & II

While creating studio projects, you'll explore contemporary art and design themes, practices, and contexts as a guide. In addition to learning various research methods and critique styles, you'll connect with your practice, fellow artists, the museum, Chicago, and the SAIC community, all supported by an Academic Advisor.



First Year Seminar

We break the mold of your typical freshman English class. Dive in with fearless thinking and writing in seminars like The Wire, Good Grief, and Class Matters.



Art History

Our art history curriculum moves beyond the study of historical art and artifact to the interrelationship between visual expression and the development of world cultures.

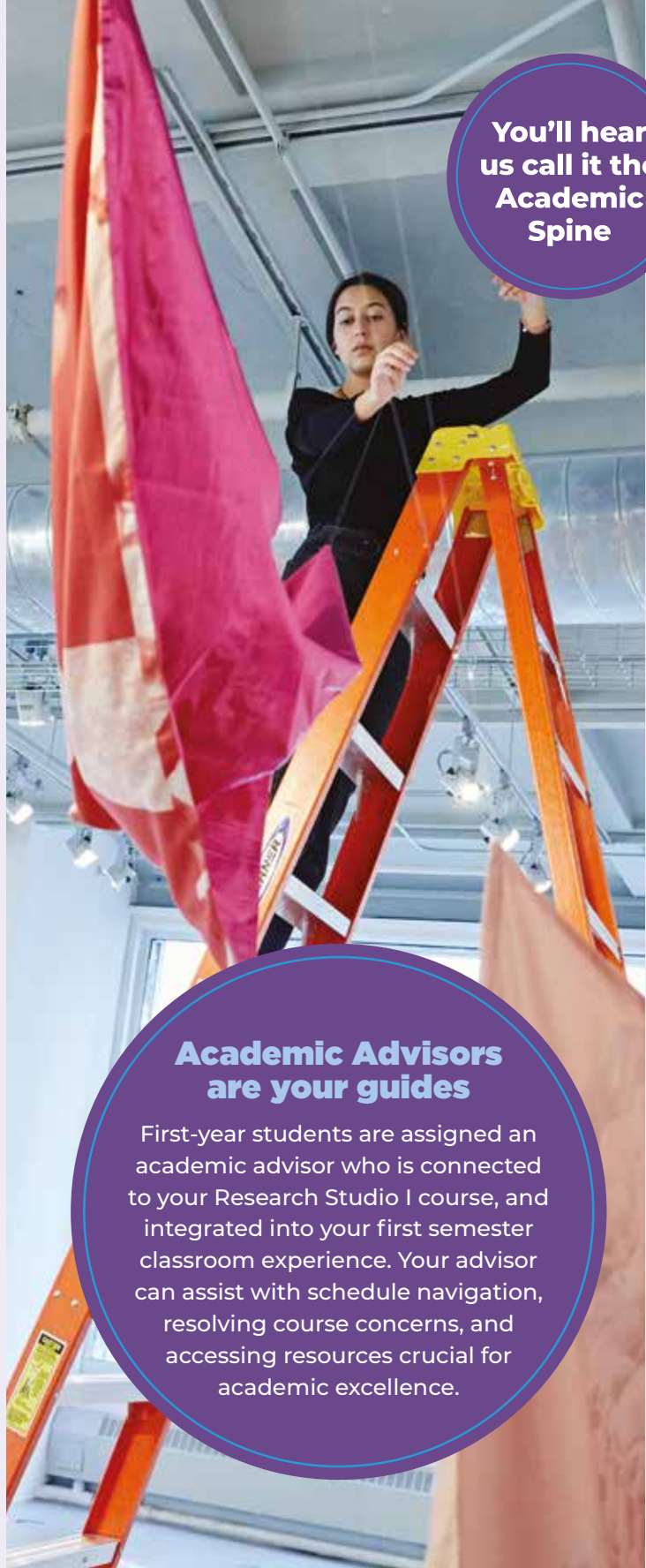
All first-year students take:

- » Art History I — World Cultures and Civilizations: Prehistory to the Nineteenth Century
- » Art History II — Survey of Modern to Contemporary Art & Architecture.



English for International Students / Academic Access Program

Some students will take EIS or AAP courses (in place of First Year Seminar) which focus on developing academic English proficiency and fluency as it relates to the arts, giving students the necessary foundation to flourish.



You'll hear us call it the Academic Spine

Academic Advisors are your guides

First-year students are assigned an academic advisor who is connected to your Research Studio I course, and integrated into your first semester classroom experience. Your advisor can assist with schedule navigation, resolving course concerns, and accessing resources crucial for academic excellence.

A blueprint to blossom

Within the freedom to explore your interests, we ensure there are touchpoints to keep you on track. Our pathway guides you with a “core” course every academic year. These classes provide the rigor to build the creative and intellectual capacity you need to keep learning, producing, and developing as an artist.

→ Sophomore Seminar

Discover, reflect, and connect as you explore common themes in art history, both past and present. Engage in readings, screenings, field trips, and artist presentations, guided by personalized mentorship throughout the semester.

→ Junior Professional Practice Experience

The Professional Practice Experience, taken in the third year, exposes students to key real-world, hands-on professional skills, such as proposal writing and networking, and assists in developing effective strategies for speaking about art and design work with various audiences.

→ Senior Capstone

This is your chance to showcase everything you've learned and accomplished throughout your journey at SAIC, including exhibiting your work, with intensive mentoring and a final presentation.

If you're a transfer student coming in after freshman year, you'll work closely with our Admissions team to determine how your previous academic credits will transfer.

THE POWER TO CHOOSE

Areas of study allow you to explore and customize your education.

ARCHITECTURE



ARTS ADMINISTRATION & POLICY



ART EDUCATION



ART & SCIENCE



ART HISTORY, THEORY, & CRITICISM



ANIMATION



ART & TECHNOLOGY / SOUND PRACTICES



ART THERAPY



BOOKS & PUBLISHING



CERAMICS



DIGITAL COMMUNICATION



DESIGNED OBJECTS



COSTUME DESIGN



COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS



DIGITAL IMAGING



ECONOMIC INEQUALITY & CLASS



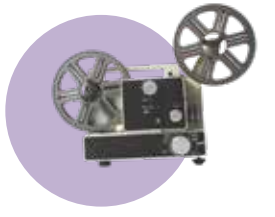
EXHIBITION & CURATORIAL STUDIES



FASHION DESIGN



FILM, VIDEO, NEW MEDIA, & ANIMATION



FURNITURE DESIGN



GAME DESIGN



GRAPHIC DESIGN (VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN)



ILLUSTRATION



INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE



PHOTOGRAPHY



PERFORMANCE



PAINTING AND DRAWING



LIBERAL ARTS



PLAYWRITING & SCREENWRITING



PRINTMEDIA



PRODUCT DESIGN



SCULPTURE



SUSTAINABLE DESIGN



TEACHING



VISUAL & CRITICAL STUDIES



WRITING



For a comprehensive list visit saic.edu/areas

J Catie Burrill K Spenser Bower L Arne Asaumi M Jordan Keyes N Daphne Edgren O Kai Ming Yang P Angel Otero (photo by Greg Stephen Reigh) Q Makayla Lindsay (photo by Ji Yang) R Elise Seigenthaler S Tim Zhang T Hyeseul Song U Emily Calderon



Faculty & Facilities

Meet your faculty. Get to know your facilities. At SAIC, you'll gain access to top-tier learning resources, including renowned learning libraries, instruction workshops, and one of the world's top museums.

World-class in every way

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FACULTY SNAPSHOT



Nick Cave
PROFESSOR, FASHION DESIGN

Artist, community builder, and educator

For over 30 years Nick Cave has been creating art that blurs the lines between fashion, installation, sculpture and performance. His work has been celebrated and exhibited all over the world, including career retrospectives at the MCA and the Guggenheim. He's been featured in *Vogue*, hosted an Art World Bash at the Park Avenue Armory, and choreographed "horses" in New York's Grand Central Station.

Nick brings a spirit of spontaneous discovery to the classroom, and is as dedicated an instructor as he is a ground-breaking artist. Cave helped launch the Fashion, Body and Garment program at SAIC nearly 15 years ago and still teaches courses today.

"My kids expect me to be bringing it every time I step in that classroom."

Photo: Greg Stephen Reigh (BFA 2013)

Exploring with visionaries

You've seen their work. You follow them on social. Our 700+ faculty are working artists, designers and scholars — and also YOUR teachers.

As creators, thinkers, and pioneers, they not only shape the forefront of art and design and are celebrated for their distinguished achievements, but also guide students like you in crafting tomorrow's innovations. Their unique passions influence the diverse array of courses we offer.



**Nationally –
and globally –
acclaimed
faculty are your
mentors and
collaborators**



"This is the next generation of artists and creators, and I'm interested in seeing and experiencing what their vision is going to look like."

Nick Cave

CREATIVE MINDS



Bio Art is just the beginning

Eduardo Kac's highly influential career spans poetry, performance, drawing, printmaking, photography, early digital and online works, holography, telepresence, and space art.

Eduardo created a fluorescent rabbit through molecular biology, called GFB Bunny. It became the first new mammal in the history of art, thus sparking the international recognition of Bio Art. Find him in the Art & Technology / Sound Practices program and you'll be able to ask him what it feels like to launch his artwork into space.



Eduardo Kac
Professor, Art & Technology / Sound Practices



Writing and drawing on the horror side of things

Beth Hetland is a published graphic novelist and author. Paper craft expert. Leader to many in the comics community. Both a graduate of SAIC, and one of our most popular instructors, Beth knows what it takes to create success.

Have you read *Tender*? You should. *The New York Times Book Review* calls it a "terrific debut graphic novel."



Beth Hetland / Professor, Adjunct



A master chef and master designer collaborate to cook up a new course

Jim's a Product Designer. Tommy is a Culinary Artist and two-time Master Chef contestant. Together, they're educators of Fashion, Object and Accessory Design at SAIC.

When a reality TV-show personality and a deep-thinking product-design studio leader get together, their chemistry is a force of creative application. They created a professional practice course in which students use the tools of today – social media – to plan and showcase their work in the real world.



Tommy Walton – Senior Lecturer, Accessory Design
Jim TerMeer – Associate Professor, Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects

FACULTY SNAPSHOT



Claire Ashley
PROFESSOR, ADJUNCT

Seeking to explode the possibilities of painting

Drawing upon pop art, painterly abstraction, monumental sculpture and slapstick humor, Claire Ashley's inflatable art is both spectacle and statement. Picture giant Tyvek marshmallows inflated with fans stitched into the fabric, and activated by live performers.

Also not to be missed is her gargantuan, flashing, multi-colored blob created in reference to sci-fi monsters and plague molecules created during COVID.

"I want to push against the immense history of painting, using its essential power to infiltrate other media/material to create hybrids."



Photo: Pratyush Swarup



An original voice in literature mentors aspiring writers

Jesse is the prodigious author of 14 novels, volumes of poetry and short stories.

His works have been published to acclaim in many parts of the world and translated into more than a dozen languages. He won the 2008 *Paris Review* Plimpton Prize, was long-listed for the National Book Award, and has been a fellow of the NEA, Creative Capital, and the Guggenheim Foundation.



Jesse Ball / Professor, Writing



Maria Gaspar / Associate Prof., Contemporary Practices



An artist advocate working for social justice

Associate Professor and interdisciplinary artist Maria Gaspar is a multi-faceted creator who explores installation, sculpture, sound, and performance in her work.

Collaborating closely with communities, she tackles social justice issues, aiming to amplify, and foster collective interpretation and action. Maria's list of awards includes the Guggenheim Award for Creative Arts, a Latinx Artist Fellowship, and she is a United States Artists Fellowship Foundation grant recipient.



Making the case for math

Yes, we have scientists in our midst. Dr. Eugenia Cheng is also an author, concert pianist and perhaps the world's most visible math advocate.

Her efforts make mathematics more accessible and understandable for audiences everywhere. She writes a weekly math column for the *Wall Street Journal*. Her book, "How to Bake Pi" uses recipes to illustrate mathematical methods and principles. Additionally, her TED talk has been viewed over 40,000 times.



Eugenia Cheng / Professor, Liberal Arts



1000+
international
artists, designers,
and scholars have
taken part in the
program since
1968



Visiting Artists Program

Some of the world's most influential artists visit SAIC to connect and share their ideas.

Through conversations, lectures, screenings, readings, performances — and even special roundtable discussions — you'll have the opportunity to learn from an incredible array of artists, designers, and thinkers.



Past featured speakers include writer and performance artist **Eddie Opata**, painter **Jeffrey Gibson** (top left), Austrian graphic designer **Stefan Sagmeister** (left), A.I. innovator **Stephanie Dinkins**, and the graphic novelist **Emil Ferris** (above).

We also host dynamic discussions, like architect **Jaeho Chong** in conversation with **Kimsooja**, a transcendent interdisciplinary artist, whose conceptual, contemplative aesthetics question art and humanity.

OUR MUSEUM

A world-class art museum

The Art Institute of Chicago is consistently ranked among the top museums globally, and it's your home base of inspiration. It's not just a piece of your education, it's a trove for exploration. No other school in the world offers you such a resource.

Every day you'll have the chance to immerse yourself in history and culture surrounded by some of the most famous art ever made. Instead of Googling works by Van Gogh, Georgia O'Keeffe and Kerry James Marshall, you can stand in front of them.



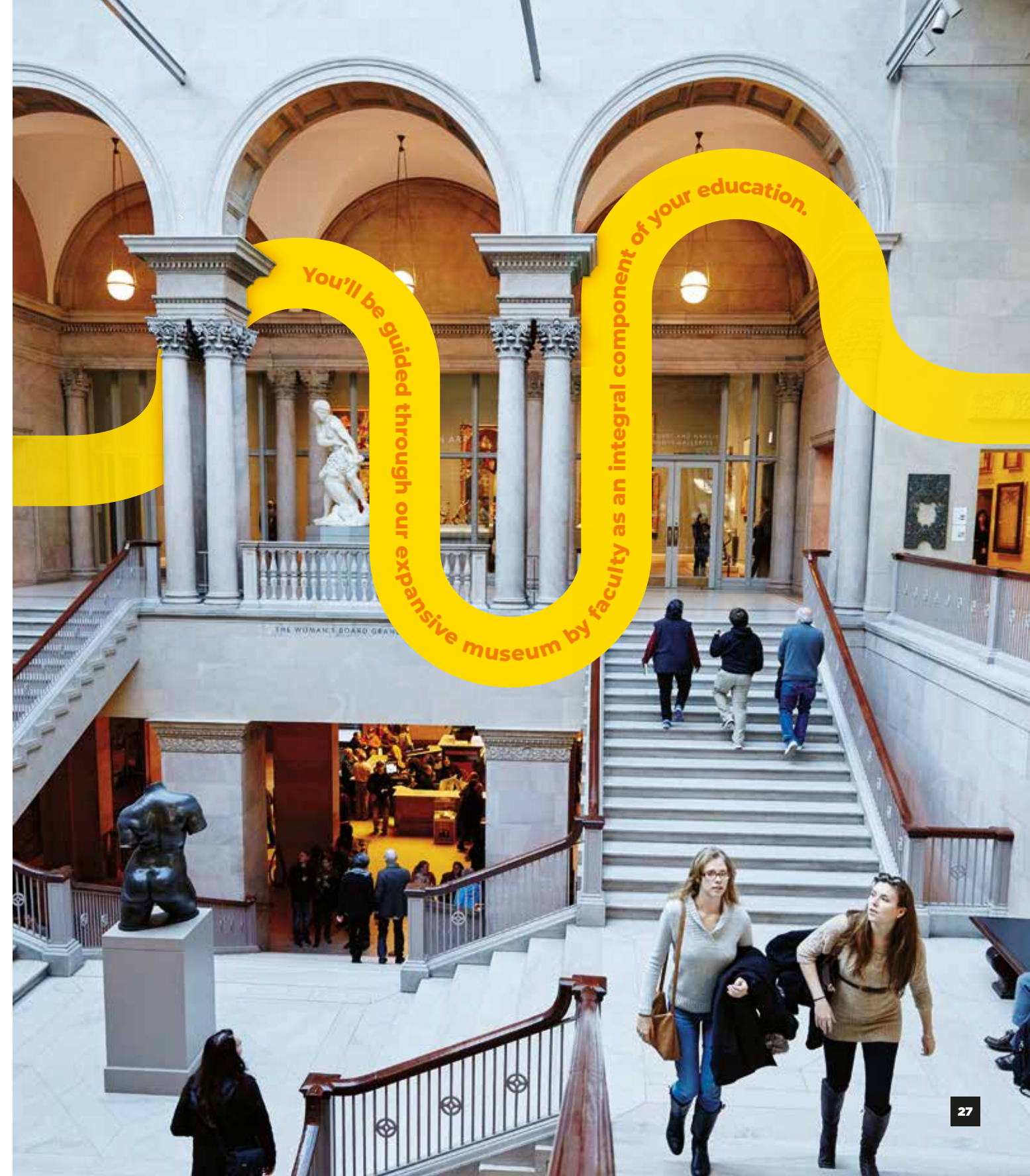
Did you know?

The Art Institute of Chicago was founded as a teaching resource by the faculty of the school now known as SAIC in 1879, 13 years after the school was opened.



**You pay
no entry fee**

**Your student ID
is your ticket**



You'll be guided through our expansive museum by faculty as an integral component of your education.



OUR MUSEUM



Get close

SAIC students gain special access to the museum's **Prints and Drawings Collection**, where you can examine work up close and personal — Warhol screenprints, drawings by Picasso, or Cézanne's personal sketchbooks. The collection houses over 11,500 drawings and 60,000 prints in total.



A collection to build on

The **Ryerson and Burnham Libraries** are pivotal resources for art and architectural history research featuring architects' journals, letters, project records, photographs, sketchbooks, clippings, writings, transcripts, and personal documents.



See what's next

The museum constantly refreshes with a diverse array of traveling exhibitions, ensuring each return visit brings a fresh and exciting experience. Names you'll recognize and exhibitions you'll never forget. Recent exhibitions have included Bisa Butler, Christina Ramberg, and Ellsworth Kelly.



Grant Wood, *American Gothic*, 1930. The Art Institute of Chicago

Tools to enhance your creativity

Our facilities? Cutting-edge. Because we're an art school, not a department within a school that offers art.

In our workshops you'll find 3D printers, laser cutters, and industry-grade digital equipment. We also embrace time-honored processes, like lithography, darkroom photography, and metal work.



Your ideas are unparalleled
Your resources should be as well



TAKE A TOUR OF

OUR INSTRUCTIONAL SPACES

+ FEATURED TOOLS

saic.edu/museum-facilities

Digital Fabrication

Trotec laser engravers, Cricut plotter cutter, and 3D printers with PLA, ABS, ASA, Polycarbonate ABS and TPU plastics, for that perfect feel.

Metal Shop

Stationary cutting and forming tools, forge, welding stations, cold-working stations, grinding room, sandblaster, and the ability to check out tools.

Foundry

Pour and cast metal in a professional-grade setting.

Wood Shop

Everything you need to craft anything—from stretcher bars to fine pieces of furniture.

Digital Output

Prototyping Lab: Laser cutters, 2D scanners and large-scale 2D printers, with 3D scanners and printers for modeling.

StudioLab

Make your own paints and pigments in the Painting and Drawing department.

Media Center

We've got your gear. Access great A/V equipment and tools you'll need to create, document and exhibit any facet of your art, including DSLR and film cameras, lighting equipment, video displays, projectors, audio accessories, and more.

Media Resources

Get hands-on with media equipment, editing suites, and studio space to film.



Fashion Service Center

All the equipment needed to create your next fall lineup.

Render Farm

State-of-the-art render farm with industry-grade tools for Film, Video, and New Media makers.

Service Bureau

Output your dreams with wide-format printing, latex printing, laser printing with several binding options, Risograph printing, kiss cut stickers, and vinyl cutting.

Sullivan Fabrication Studio

Find the tools for Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects students to practice their craft.

Writing Center

Achieve your writing goals with the help of tutors on anything from essays, artist statements, applications, presentation texts, theses, proposals, creative writing, and even social media posts.



DISTINCTIVE RESOURCES

ONLY OFFERED AT SAIC



Gene Siskel Film Center

Meet your new neighborhood cinema, discounted just for students. Located next to our 162 N. State residence hall, this premier cinema showcases contemporary, independent, international, and classic films, with 100+ guest artists and 1,600 screenings yearly.



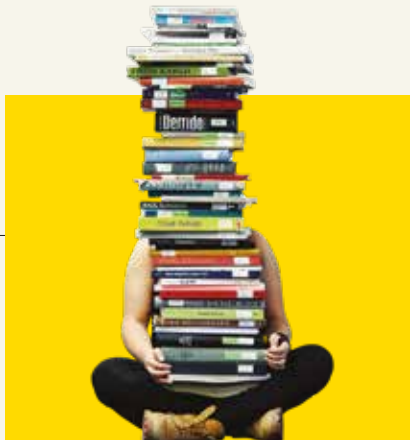
Joan Flasch Artists' Book Collection

Browse through 8,000+ artist publications by acclaimed national and international artists, spanning avant-garde genres like punk, comics, underground art, and tape culture.



Fashion Resource Center

Interact with a hands-on collection of cutting-edge designer garments and accessories from the late 20th and 21st centuries, showcasing extreme fashion innovations. You can feel the seams of a Chanel dress!



John M. Flaxman Library

Explore more than 130,000 items focused on 20th- and 21st-century visual arts, design, architecture, criticism, theory, and philosophy, including exhibition catalogs, artist monographs, videos, sound recordings, magazines, ebooks, and databases.



Roger Brown Study Collection

Donated by alum Roger Brown as a resource for SAIC students, his collection includes works by Chicago Imagists, other contemporary artists, folk and tribal art, objects from material and popular culture, costumes, & more.



Video Data Bank

One of the United States' leading collections of video by and about contemporary artists, with more than 650 artists and 6,000 video art titles.



Show Your Work

Find opportunities to exhibit your work on and around campus



Trista Li
Puzzles

SITE Galleries

Gain real-world experience managing every step of a successful gallery show, from reviewing proposals to curation, advertising, budgets, and installation. With a street-level location in our **LeRoy Neiman Center**, you'll showcase your work to thousands of passersby each day.

saic.edu/sitegalleries

SAIC Galleries

Explore the boundary-pushing work of emerging and established contemporary artists and designers. Our 26,000-sq-foot public art space features the exhibitions of our graduating class, alongside special shows highlighting national and international talent.

saic.edu/saic-galleries

SAIC's Residence Hall Gallery

SAIC's residence halls offer gallery space for you and your hall mates. Curate, install and exhibit. Oh, and critique of course.

Share
your projects
with your
community,
the city, and
the world



Chicago, Our Campus

Our urban campus is situated in the core of one of the nation's premier cities, Chicago. Its rich cultural scene is an ideal setting for aspiring designers and artists. Discover the charm of our diverse neighborhoods coupled with the resources of a global metropolis. This is your Chicago.

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Craig Schmidt
Stuff Going on in Chicago
Screen printing and monotypes on paper, plastic, and styrofoam



Chicago's creative spirit

Chicago is a global cultural hub brimming with opportunities. This diverse city is made up of **77 unique neighborhoods** and strong communities, fostering a welcoming environment where creativity flourishes.

3RD
largest city
in the U.S.



Chicago is a community-centric city, and SAIC shares its ethos of mutual support.

18 reasons you'll fall in love with Chicago

- 26 miles of open lakefront
- 29 beaches
- 303 miles of bike lanes
- 580 parks
- 8,300 acres of green spaces
- 56 museums
- 125 art galleries
- 7,300+ restaurants
- 500 public artworks
- 250 live music venues
- 200+ theaters
- 200 professional dance companies
- 74 music festivals
- 40 annual film festivals
- 36 annual parades
- 8 professional sports teams
- 2 major airports
- The singular home of the Chicago Blues Festival, Chicago Jazz Festival, Lollapalooza and more.

*Source: chicago.gov/city/en/about/facts.html



The Loop. The Lake. The El. They'll all soon become part of your vocabulary.



In Chicago, you'll find an experience all your own. Run along the lake. Find fresh threads at a thrift shop. Try a new music venue every night. On campus, you can work and play, too. Focus on projects or hang with friends at our cafes or student center.

"My first experience of Chicago was coming to SAIC for an interview. I was coming into the Loop and seeing the lake ... it was just so magical."

MCKENZIE THOMPSON, FOUNDER OF OUTSIDER SUPPLY

Finding YOUR Chicago

There's so much this city offers, you just need to start exploring.

I had an internship doing art education with the YMCA in Chicago. Fireworks happened at Navy Pier twice a week, so I'd meet my friend after work, and walk the trail to see them. They'd start just after sunset, and I'd end at Navy Pier when it was dark and there was music playing. I never got tired of it. It was a very special ritual. Seeing the fireworks for a moment really made me feel how beautiful the city of Chicago is, with its towering buildings and the comfort of the lake.

"Georgia O'Keeffe was the first artist who inspired me to try painting, and I loved seeing her work at the Art Institute."



Moly Wu / Painting & Drawing / Visual Communication

Photo by Greg Stephen Reigh (BFA 2013)

85%

of freshmen and
40% of transfer
students opt for
campus living



Take a virtual 360-degree tour of the SAIC campus including our residence halls at saic.edu/#virtualtour

Artful Abodes

Designed by student artists to meet the needs of creators, our residence halls are exceptional. They offer a top-tier living experience not found at many colleges.

You'll find comfortable furnishings, and ample natural light, with resources and common areas nearby designed for both relaxation and productivity.

You'll see why our students refer to campus accommodations as home.

All loft or apartment-style spaces contain:

- » Private bathroom
- » Kitchenette with stovetop, full-size refrigerator, and microwave
- » Wireless internet
- » Spectacular city views
- » Full-time, live-in professional staff and student resident advisors
- » 24-hour studio spaces
- » Lounge facilities
- » 24-hour security & ID card access



“Life on campus always felt connected. You branch out way beyond hanging with just your dorm mates. The events and opportunities to meet new people allow you to stretch and learn different things.”

WILSON ALLEN,
ON SAIC RESIDENCE HALLS



Eat well all around campus

Campus cafés feature fresh menus designed to promote healthy and sustainable eating, sourcing local, organic and fair-trade foods whenever possible.

Choose from three cafés that offer varied fare. Living in the residence hall, you'll have a declining-balance meal plan. Use it for everything from a cup of coffee to an à la carte feast.

Want to switch it up? Chicago's culinary scene is a foodie's dream--whatever your budget and appetite. With 77 eclectic neighborhoods, international cuisine is just a El train or bus ride away.



DID YOU KNOW?
SAIC is carbon-neutral

Live here, get everywhere

Chicago redefines commuter-friendly. Most students don't have, need or even want a car.

Both the El train and city bus routes have stops on campus. (Humble brag: We've got the second largest public transportation system in the U.S.) From campus, you can venture out to find spots that are just right for every budget and interest.

Full-time SAIC students purchase a highly discounted "Ventra U-Pass" that allows unlimited use of CTA (Chicago Transit Authority) train and bus services for the fall and spring semesters.

145
EL STATIONS.
With rail service
to two major
airports



Get involved

From student organizations and clubs to sports and campus events, SAIC delivers the full college experience. How you choose to get involved is up to you.

Student Groups

Ready to join in? SAIC student groups offer fun, fresh ways to engage. Try out dynamic new activities. Take a leadership role. Explore new interests, meet like-minded peers, and make lasting memories. We've got plenty of groups to choose from (60+ and growing).

- » AIAS (American Institute of Architecture Students)
- » AIGA (American Institute of Graphic Arts)
- » Arab Culture Club
- » BIK@SAIC
- » DUCKIZ Dancers
- » Dungeons & Dragons
- » Mouth Magazine
- » Indigenous Student Association
- » Parlor Room (Photo Group)
- » SAIC Climbing Club
- » SAIC Coding Club
- » SAIC Trans Artist Coalition
- » Sports@SAIC
- » Students Enacting Environmental Design (SEED)
- » Taxidermy Society SAIC
- » The Art Therapy Collective
- » The Purl Girls
- » Xerox Candy Bar (Comic Zine)

Check out all our student groups. Can't find one you like? Start your own.

engage.saic.edu



Events

We've got a full schedule of events including organized tours of alums' studios, visiting artists talks, and gallery openings.



Student-run programming

For students and by students, these school-wide events indulge any interest. Latin dancing. Rock climbing. The Halloween Ball. Visits with Therapy Dogs. Plus an abundance of film screenings, philosophy discussions and art critiques.



Student government

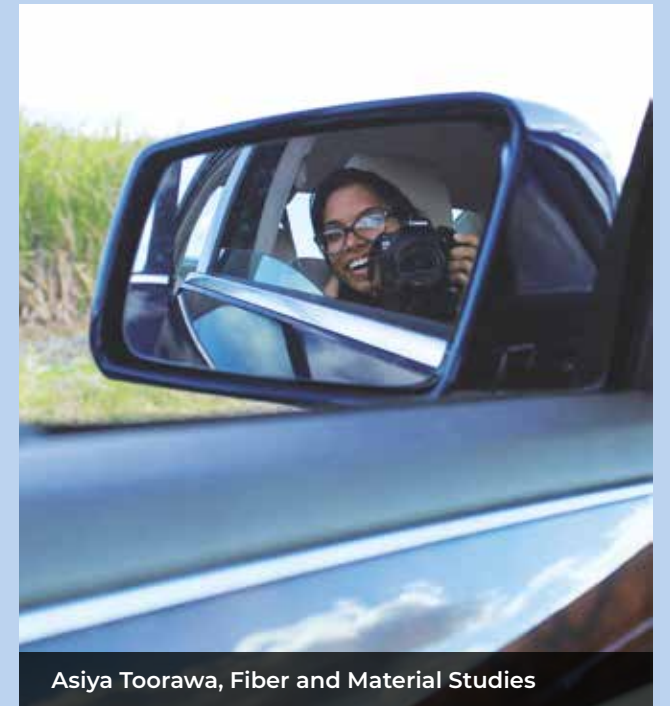
Our student government fosters dialogue, collaboration, and action on diverse campus issues, promoting inclusivity and belonging. From diversity and sustainability to student wellness, it offers spaces for students to address concerns and make a meaningful impact.

Seek daring opportunities

I've been involved all over. I worked with Residence Life, the International Affairs staff, and I was actively involved on the Student Programming Board, which is a subset of student government that plans school-wide programming events like the Halloween Ball.

I founded Muslims of SAIC because there was a Hillel, Korean Student Association, and Chinese Student Association, all these different groups and I thought why not just take the initiative and make a group?

“Networking is such a big part of art school, and I've set up my own personal networks with professors, school administration, and friends. It's really made me appreciate the school so much more.”



Asiya Toorawa, Fiber and Material Studies

Gain experience as a student leader

I originally got involved in Namaste (now known as the South Asian Student Association), which promotes artistic, social, and cultural events, in order to feel closer to home. However, I eventually saw it as an opportunity to spread cultural diversity throughout the SAIC community.

I was also active in SAIC AIGA, which creates a thriving design community through artist talks, studio visits, and workshops. It started out as a way to spend time with like-minded people, but became a great way to nerd out about something I love to do: design.

As the President of both groups, I secured funding and planned events. But, learning how to motivate my team was the best part!

“Work hard, be nice to everyone, and go to The Green Mill jazz bar (when you turn 21, of course)!”



Yash Rastogi, Printmedia

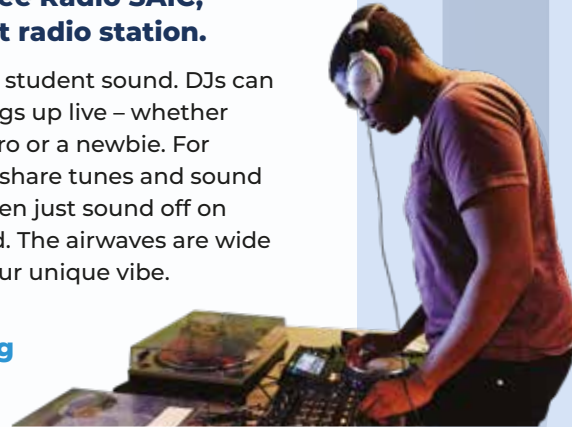
GET INVOLVED

Free Radio SAIC

Unleash your creativity and air your ideas on Free Radio SAIC, our own internet radio station.

It's a playground for student sound. DJs can dive in and mix things up live – whether you're a seasoned pro or a newbie. For others, it's a spot to share tunes and sound art, tell stories, or even just sound off on what's on your mind. The airwaves are wide open, waiting for your unique vibe.

Tune in at:
freeradiosaic.org



F Newsmagazine

Written, designed, and edited entirely by SAIC students, F Newsmagazine publishes student writing and art, paying contributors as freelancers for their content.

Content that includes reviews, art criticism, comics, news, and commentary on the school, popular culture, and politics. It's a simple way to join the conversation at SAIC.

The web edition is published year round, and is paired with eight printed versions a year.

F Newsmagazine has won numerous awards from the Illinois College Press Association, from General Excellence to design, photography and column writing.



Signature events

Special Events and Cultural Programming unites our community in celebration and recognition of our togetherness. Get ready to celebrate, learn, and connect with your peers.

Here's a peek at what's in store:

Lunar New Year

Dancing, music, games, and more await as we ring in the Lunar New Year.

Diwali

Join the South Asian Student Association for the Festival of Lights, featuring dances, lanterns, stories, and delicious food.

Heritage Month Programs

Throughout the year, we honor diverse heritages with events like Latinx, Native American, Black, Women's History, Asian, and Pride months.

The Cultural Oasis

Need a spot to unwind? Swing by the Cultural Oasis in Sullivan 1425, a student-designed haven for relaxation, community, and cultural connection.

The center of campus life

With the LeRoy Neiman Center, we've reimagined what a student center can be:

- » 19,000 square feet for students, faculty and visitors to meet, eat, and greet fresh ideas
- » Comprised of art galleries, meeting spaces, and lounge areas to unwind
- » Filled with high-end technology to allow artists to present forward-thinking ideas





Diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism at SAIC

We want every member of our community to feel like they belong. At SAIC this requires work at every level to make sure our campus is a diverse, equitable, inclusive, and an anti-racist one.

SAIC formed the Anti-Racism Committee (ARC) as part of this work to address how systemic racism manifests at SAIC and design solutions to improve the lived experiences of all members. In coordination with this campus-wide effort, here are some of the ways we and our community members are coming together to help build an inclusive, accepting, and compassionate atmosphere.

Looking to strengthen connections with your fellow artists? Affinity and identity-based groups are the way to go. Joining these student-led gatherings lets you meet folks who share your background, culture, or journey. Dive into a diverse range of groups shaped by identities like race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, spirituality, gender, and sexuality.

saic.edu/life-saic/multicultural-affairs



Identity/Affinity groups

Creating a diverse experience at SAIC means providing the opportunity for inclusion on every level. Our student-led identity-based groups help ensure a welcoming place for all.

- » Arab Culture Club
- » BLK@SAIC
- » Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA)
- » Coalition for Black Restorative Artists (COBRA)
- » Hapa, Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islanders (HAAAPI)
- » Indigenous Student Association
- » Intersivity Christian Fellowship
- » Korean Graduate Student Community
- » Korean Student Association (KSA)
- » National Organization of Minority Architecture Students (NOMAS)
- » Organization of Asian Artist Propagation (OAAP)
- » SAIC Trans Artist Coalition
- » SAIC UNIDXS
- » Saudi Student Association
- » South Asian Student Association (SASA)

The Cultural Oasis

A newly renovated space designed by students of color as a dedicated student place to meet, relax, recharge, and create community.

The Cultural Oasis is host to a variety of programs designed to center the narratives of our students of color and promote cultural diversity and inclusion. These include Affinity Group events, Heritage awareness programming, Multicultural Affairs Affinity Communities (MAAC) meetings, as well as other events planned by and with students who identify as Black, Indigenous, Latine, Asian, Asian American, and as a person of color. Amenities include a lounge area, community library, kitchenette, coffee-maker, audio visual equipment, and computer stations. An enclosed meditation/quiet room within the Cultural Oasis is equipped with customizable lighting for spiritual or wellness needs. Gender-neutral restrooms are located next to the Cultural Oasis.

Location:

Sullivan Building
36 S. Wabash Ave., room 1425

For more information contact the Cultural Oasis Coordinator:

Karl Constant, Director for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion for Student Engagement
KConst2@saic.edu



HERE TO HELP

At SAIC, we're all about keeping you thriving, inside and out. Here's a list of personal and professional resources you can take advantage of throughout your time at SAIC.

Student Support

Assists students with a wide-range of issues and concerns that might arise during their time at SAIC.

Taking care of yourself is key, whether you're navigating freshman year or gearing up for a big exhibition. Here's a rundown of how we support your wellbeing:

→ The Wellness Center

It's your go-to for compassionate care, offering counseling, health services, and resources through the Disability and Learning Resource Center. Plus, check out the Wellness Center Gallery for showcases from our talented community.

→ Counseling Services

Talk it out with licensed professionals who provide therapy, crisis support, and mental health awareness.

→ Disability and Learning Resource Center

Delivers innovative services for SAIC students with disabilities by facilitating and advocating for reasonable accommodations so students have equal access to all programs, activities, and services of the institution.

→ Health Services

From basic care to promoting healthy habits, our team of nurse practitioners keeps you in top shape.

→ Wellness Events

Take a break with massages, meditation sessions, and special events like De-stress Week, featuring therapy dogs and comfort food. Sounds too good to be true, but it's all part of our approach.

Academic Advising

Helps students navigate SAIC's interdisciplinary curriculum and connect resources across campus to their academic and personal success.

Campus Life

Supports community engagement by sponsoring school-wide events and assists students in connecting to each other and any of our 60+ student groups.

Career and Professional Experience (CAPX)

Empowers students to build lasting creative careers through 1:1 advising, internship and career opportunities, and dynamic workshops and events that bridge their development in the classroom to the outside world.



Housing and Residence Life

Helps students create their home on campus – through building community, creating meaningful connections and offering comprehensive support.

International Affairs

Provides guidance, advocacy, and resources in support of international students; provides study abroad opportunities via study trips and semester away programs.

Korean and Chinese Advising

Provides support for Korean and Chinese students in their adjustment to SAIC, navigating resources, and building communities through various programs and outreach.

OUR CAMPUS



**SAIC is at
the heart
of Chicago's
downtown
Loop**

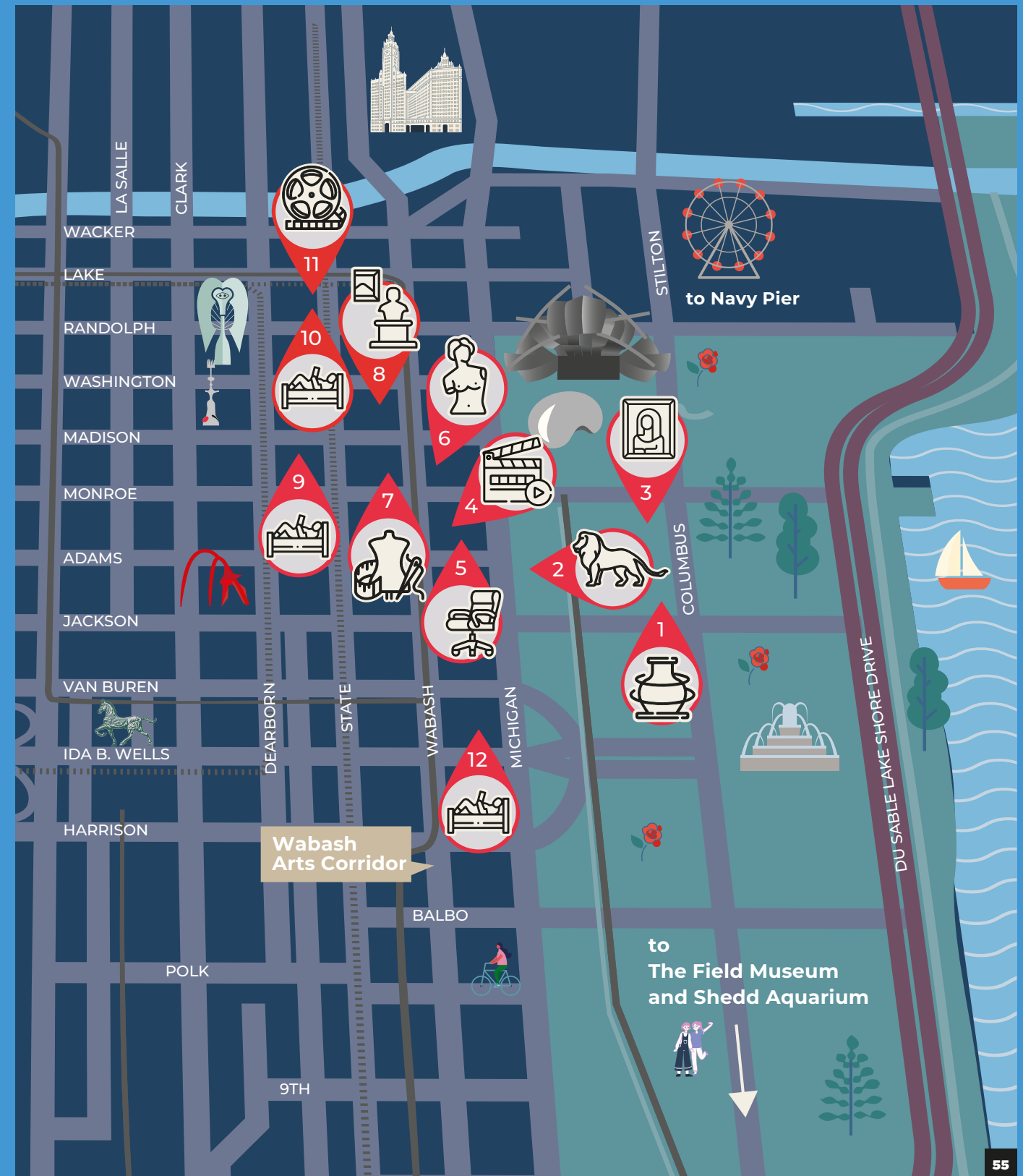
A campus alive with energy

12 buildings comprising studios, residences, classrooms, reference libraries, and student-centric services.

Roughly covering a 2-square-mile area, bounded in an 8 block x 12 block grid.

Neighbor to 21 other colleges, Chicago is home to over 500,000 college students.

- 1| 280 BUILDING**
280 South Columbus Drive
Ceramics / SITE Gallery / MFA Studios / Painting and Drawing / Performance / Photography / Printmedia / Sculpture
- 2| THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO**
111 South Michigan Avenue
- 3| THE MODERN WING**
159 East Monroe Street
- 4| MACLEAN CENTER**
112 South Michigan Avenue
Art and Technology / Sound Practices / Art History, Theory, and Criticism / Computer Resources and Information Technology / Film, Video, New Media, and Animation / MFA Studios / SAIC Ballroom / Video Data Bank / Visual and Critical Studies / The Writing Center
- 5| LAKEVIEW BUILDING**
116 South Michigan Avenue
Career and Professional Experience / Counseling Services / Disability and Learning Resource Center / Early College Program / F Newsmagazine / Health Services / Historic Preservation / Human Resources / Office of Institutional Advancement
- 6| SHARP BUILDING**
37 South Wabash Avenue
Art Education / Art Therapy / Arts Administration and Policy / Campus Life / Contemporary Practices / Continuing Studies / Deans and Division Chairs / Fiber and Material Studies / Finance / John M. Flaxman Library / The LeRoy Neiman Center / President's Office / SITE Galleries / Visiting Artists Program / Visual Communication Design / Writing Program
- 7| SULLIVAN CENTER**
36 South Wabash Avenue
Admissions / Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects / Enrollment Services / Fashion Design / International Affairs / Multicultural Affairs / Office of Student Affairs / Ox-Bow / Registration and Records / Residence Life / Student Financial Services (Financial Aid, Student Accounts)
- 8| SAIC GALLERIES**
33 East Washington Street
- 9| JONES HALL**
7 West Madison Avenue - Residence Hall
- 10| 162 NORTH STATE STREET RESIDENCES**
Residence Hall
- 11| GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER**
164 North State Street
- 12| THE BUCKINGHAM**
59 East Van Buren - Residence Hall



Where to go next

You're just getting started.

It's all in your hands. Got questions on financial aid? Hungry to see student work? Discover life as an international student?

→ **Reach out to our admissions team:**

1.312.629.6100
800.232.7242
ugadmiss@saic.edu

→ **Follow what life is like at SAIC:**

saic.edu/lifeatsaic
Instagram: see_saic
TikTok: @schooloftheartinstitute

→ **Keep up on news and events:**

facebook.com/saic.admissions
youtube.com/
schooloftheartinstituteofchicagosaic

THE SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

The Art Institute of Chicago is a private, non-profit corporation. The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) is a professional college of the visual and related arts, accredited since 1936 by the Higher Learning Commission.

The BFA in Art Education (BFAAE) and the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) art education programs are certified by the Illinois State Board of Education, and its Master of Arts in Art Therapy And Counseling (MAATC) program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of the Accreditation Council for Art Therapy Education (ACATE). The Master of Architecture (MArch) degree program tracks are accredited by the National Architecture Accrediting Board (NAAB).

SAIC is a member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, the American Association for Higher Education, the National Art Education Association, the College Art Association of America, the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities, the Illinois Art Education Association, the National Conference of Artists, the College Scholarship Service, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, the Institute of International Education, the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs, the American Association of University Women, the National Association of College Admissions Counselors, the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, the College Entrance Examination Board, and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Art Institute of Chicago, including both the school and the museum, is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for its students, visitors, faculty, and staff, and to ensuring that educational and employment decisions are based on an individual's abilities and qualifications. The Art Institute of Chicago does not tolerate unlawful discrimination based on race, color, sex, marital status, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, military or former military status, or any other status protected by federal, state or local law, in its programs and activities, public accommodations or employment practices. The following individuals have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Title IX Coordinator

Jacqueline Hennard
Human Resources Department
116 S. Michigan Ave., suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60603
312.499.4165 | title9@saic.edu

The Title IX Coordinator also serves as the designated Section 504 Coordinator for student disability claims.

The Office of Civil Rights can be contacted at the US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Bldg., 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington D.C., 20202-1100; the phone number is 1.800.421.3481 and the email address is OCR@ed.gov.

ANTI-RACISM AT SAIC

Knowing that a more diverse, equitable, inclusive, and anti-racist campus is critical for the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) to fulfill its mission and institutional aspirations, our anti-racism committee established a number of action items to support diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts, and catalyze DEI and anti-racist work throughout all areas of SAIC. For further information, visit saic.edu/about/anti-racism-committee and saic.edu/about/diversity.

CLERY ACT REPORTING

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago's Annual Security & Fire Safety Report is accessible online at saic.edu/clery. The report contains information regarding campus security and personal safety including these topics: crime and violence prevention, fire safety, crime reporting policies, disciplinary procedures, emergency procedures and other matters related to security and safety on campus. It also contains information about crime statistics for the three previous calendar years concerning reported crimes covered by the Clery Act that occurred on campus; in any off campus buildings or property owned or controlled by SAIC; and on public property within, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus. Paper copies of this report are available by contacting the Campus Security Office at 312.899.7442 or by emailing John Pack, Executive Director of Campus Security, at jpack@saic.edu.





School of the Art Institute
of Chicago

saic.edu/ug
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
36 S. Wabash Ave., Suite 1201
Chicago, IL 60603
1.312.629.6100
admiss@saic.edu