

HOW ARE ARTCENTER SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED?

Graduate students can apply for the Continuing Scholarship Portfolio Review if they meet eligibility requirements. The graduate continuing scholarship process takes place at various times during the year. Check with your department to see when the scholarship review takes place. Please note: Department participation varies.

- Scholarship awards are based on a combination of merit and financial need. Your department determines the merit “portfolio score” and the Financial Aid Office determines the “financial need score” based on the FAFSA.
- International and Undocumented student scores will be based on the portfolio score only.
- Students will be considered for both institutional and donor scholarships. The amount and type of scholarship funding available varies each term.

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Continuing graduate students must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in order to participate. First term students are eligible to apply.
- U.S. domestic students must have filed a current FAFSA and demonstrate financial need. Students may apply online at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa>. Domestic students must have submitted all requested documentation, and their financial aid file must be complete prior to the review.
- International and Undocumented students are eligible to apply and do not need to complete the FAFSA.

HOW DO I APPLY?

- All applicants complete the General Application Questionnaire on <https://artcenter.academicworks.com>.
- Submit your portfolio at the time and location specified by your department. Contact your department coordinator for detailed instructions and advice on content and format specifications for your major.

WHO WILL REVIEW MY SCHOLARSHIP PORTFOLIO?

- The Department Chair organizes a scholarship committee that consists of faculty members who represent a wide range of viewpoints and levels within the department. Each faculty committee member will evaluate your portfolio on a scale of 0-100. Scores are based on the overall strength of the portfolio with consideration given to the student’s term level. The portfolio scores are compiled and sent to the Financial Aid Office.

HOW IS FINANCIAL AID FACTORED IN?

- Domestic students will have a need score applied to the portfolio score to determine a final score. The portfolio score determined by your department accounts for 75% of your final score, and the need score accounts for 25%. The two scores are combined for a final score, which will then be used to create a ranking of students within each department. The maximum possible combined score is 100 (75 merit points + 25 need points).
- The final score for International and Undocumented students will be based solely on the portfolio score.

HOW MUCH SCHOLARSHIP CAN I RECEIVE?

- New awards are normally offered for one to two terms and average from \$1000 to \$1500 each term. The amount and duration may vary due to fund availability.
- Keep in mind that the process is highly competitive, and funds are limited. Many factors go into determining the scholarship award. Remember that in addition to a portfolio score, the need score will affect the outcome.
- An increase in your scholarship amount may affect the amount of other financial aid you will receive. For example, if you have a private or Grad Plus loan that meets your total cost of education, a portion of the loan may have to be returned to avoid an over-award.

HOW WILL I BE NOTIFIED?

- The Financial Aid Office will send email notifications to all applicants. Whenever possible notifications will be sent prior to the upcoming term. However, there may be circumstances such as timeliness of department reviews that could delay notification.

WILL I KEEP MY SCHOLARSHIP UNTIL I GRADUATE?

- Most scholarships are offered for a short time and are dependent on funding availability. Students will be notified of how many terms the scholarship funding will be available.
- If a student receives a scholarship that is continuous, the duration cannot exceed the ArtCenter's time limitation policy.
- ArtCenter scholarships are also subject to the following eligibility criteria:
 - File a FAFSA every year and demonstrate need (domestic students only).
 - Maintain a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA.
 - Do not take more than two consecutive terms off.
 - Must not be involved in disciplinary or judicial action with the college.

Please review the ArtCenter Scholarship and Grant Policies at <https://inside.artcenter.edu/go/fa>.

WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE RESULTS OF THE REVIEW?

We try to maintain a fair and transparent process, but acknowledge that this is a sensitive process, and extremely important to every student applying. It will help to keep in mind the following:

- Limited funds do not allow us to offer scholarships to all deserving students, including those with high scores.
- The Scholarship Portfolio Review is highly competitive within each department and all term levels are considered.
- The review of any portfolio is subjective. There will be times when a student may feel their work is stronger than another student's work if it is revealed they have received a scholarship.
- Like many situations you will face in your career as an artist or designer, your work will be subject to opinion by an audience, and in this case a group of your faculty.
- Many variables go into awarding new scholarships, such as availability of funds, fund criteria, and the number of student applicants.

WILL I GET ANY WARNING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF LOSING MY SCHOLARSHIP?

- Students may not take off more than two consecutive terms or they will forfeit their scholarship.
- Graduate students whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 are given one "warning" term and one "probation" term. Failure to bring the GPA up will result in the forfeiture of scholarship awards.
- Students having difficulty maintaining a cumulative GPA above 3.0, should seek counseling from their department's advisor. Additionally, students may contact the Center for Advising and Academic Success via <https://inside.artcenter.edu/go/advising>.