

Transfer Credit Evaluation

Applicants must arrange to have copies of official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions they have attended sent to the Admissions Department or a signed document waiving any transfer credits from those schools. Official transcripts for courses completed at colleges outside of the United States must be submitted to the College and to an approved evaluation agency before transfer credit will be evaluated by RMCAD (refer to the International Transcript Evaluation section of this catalog). A student who does not list all colleges attended on their application may have their admission rescinded.

Credit will be considered for courses in-progress at another institution so that students may be notified of potential transfer credit. In these cases, an official transcript documenting enrollment is required. Credit may not be awarded at a later date from colleges not listed on the application.

Students must earn a minimum of 120 – 125 (depending on the program of study) credit hours in order to receive the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. A maximum of 60 credits can be earned from external sources, including transfer credit, Advanced Placement (AP), CLEP, IB, and credit given through a portfolio review. Sixty credits must be earned in residency, the last 15 of which must be earned at RMCAD.

No transfer credit is accepted for the final term of study. Grades for external credit are not calculated into the RMCAD cumulative grade point average. External credit is good for the catalog year for which credits were evaluated. Students who defer their start date to a new catalog are subject to reevaluation at that time.

Official college transcripts are required, as well as a portfolio reflecting the prospective student's highest college-level studio work (if applicable). RMCAD has access to an extensive library of course catalogs and course descriptions from most schools across the nation and we will attempt to locate course descriptions for prior courses in order to determine course equivalency. It is helpful, however, for prospective students to submit course descriptions for prior coursework whenever possible, as it is ultimately a student's responsibility to provide information as it relates to prior schooling. Courses are considered for transfer credit based on the following standards:

Accreditation of the Sending Institution

Credits may be considered for transfer if they were earned at an institution accredited by any of the six regional accrediting associations, the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA), or by the National Association of Schools of Art + Design (NASAD). Credits from schools accredited by another national association are not generally accepted, but might be eligible for portfolio-based transfer credits. Credits earned at non-accredited institutions are not accepted.

Antiquity Policy

There are no antiquity limitations on courses that are deemed equivalent to lower division (1000 or 2000 level) RMCAD art and design courses. Digital media and other computer- or technology-based courses are considered for transfer provided they were completed within the last two years prior to the date of matriculation.

Courses that are deemed equivalent to upper division (3000 or 4000 level) RMCAD credits must have been completed within the last five years prior to the date of matriculation. Once the five-year period has lapsed, credit is contingent upon the evaluation of the Department Chair to determine if the course satisfactorily meets current standards and practices in the discipline. These requirements apply to the transfer of art and design courses only; they do not apply to Liberal Arts courses.