



California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

Art and Design Department
(805) 756-1148 • Fax (805) 756-6321

Dear Prospective Student of Art & Design:

Thank you for your interest in the Department of Art and Design. We offer a four-year curriculum leading to the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with concentrations in Graphic Design, Photography, and Studio Art. Our program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. We prepare students for careers in commercial art fields and fine arts. Students study fine art and art history to broaden and deepen their creative abilities. The attached career flyer and curriculum sheet outline our program in greater detail.

Our program is one of the most popular of its kind in the state. We receive 700+ applications for 45-60 available spaces for Fall term admission. We are an officially state-mandated impacted program with an enrollment limit, which makes our admission program highly competitive. Academic, artistic, and technical standards are among the highest in the nation.

Steps to Application to Cal Poly Art & Design:

- Apply online at <http://www.csumentor.edu/> by November 30th for the following Fall Quarter (our program accepts new students only in the fall and does not participate in “early admission decision”).
- The following January, our department receives a list from the Admissions Office of applicants for our program who meet university requirements for the art and design major.
- By the end of January or early February, eligible candidates will be sent an invitation with detailed information necessary to submit an appropriate portfolio (**via** the **e-mail** address submitted online with Admissions when applying for Cal Poly).
- Portfolios will be due about the end of February (approximately four weeks from the time the invitation to submit is sent).
- Portfolios will be reviewed the week after the due date, and you should receive notification of the outcome within three weeks of the review, as well as your portfolio (if mailed) no later than the end of March.

The best advice we can give you is to follow directions as closely as possible, while applying your best creative instincts and most professional techniques to the preparation of your portfolio. We suggest that you consult with teachers and career professionals in your area with expertise appropriate to the career you wish to pursue, and use the suggested reading materials (where applicable) for a clear understanding of the nature of the discipline to be reflected in your portfolio. Indeed, part of our criteria for admission is a clear demonstration of knowledge of the career to be pursued and appropriate presentation of the work in the portfolio. Sample portfolio requirements for each of our concentrations can be found on our website, but please note that requirements may change from year to year.

It is inappropriate for us to assist applicants in the production of their portfolio; therefore, it is not possible for our faculty and staff to give individual advice or portfolio critiques to applicants to our program. But we’ve made available on our website samples of selected student portfolios that demonstrate the level of work we consider characteristic of the pool of applicants admitted to our program. (We do not give portfolio reviews at any time other than during our official admissions review.)

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, is an attractive campus in one of the most desirable environments in California. We offer academic excellence with a strong career emphasis, and we are proud of the caliber of students that attend. To obtain a closer look at Cal Poly and our program, we invite you to visit us during Cal Poly’s Open House in April when we present our annual student exhibition in the University Art Gallery in the Dexter Building. This exhibition demonstrates the quality and type of work produced by our students.

We hope this information is helpful. Please also visit our website at: <http://artdesign.calpoly.edu/>.

Sincerely,

Sky Bergman, Department Chair