
Department of Art and Design, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Portfolio Review Policy

The Cal Poly Department of Art and Design reviews over 200 admission application portfolios per year. We consider this review the most important evaluation of a student's potential for success in our program and we give the procedure our most serious consideration. We have established the following policy regarding portfolio review:

The Cal Poly Department of Art and Design considers it unethical and impractical to preview any student's portfolio prior to the official portfolio review -- or to assist with decisions regarding content or interpretation of the portfolio requirements. To do so would give some students an unfair advantage over others. This creates a potential for liability that we cannot assume. We therefore decline to review any student portfolios prior to the official review. We ask that you review the requirements carefully, then prepare and submit your portfolio based on the information provided, rather than seeking additional information by contacting our department.

The Cal Poly Department of Art and Design does, however, post samples of past selected student portfolios in the areas of graphic design, photography and digital imagery, and studio art that demonstrate the level of work we consider characteristic of applicants admitted to our program. Applicants are welcome to view these selected samples via our website at:
<http://cla.calpoly.edu/vrc/portfolios/index.htm>

Following the review, we are unable to provide feedback and/or recommendations towards improving an applicant's portfolio, as this also would give an unfair advantage. Students may find it helpful, before or after the review, to ask a mentor or high school or junior college instructor for guidance, as long as the instructor is not affiliated with Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.