

Thank you for filling out the on-line application applying on-line

Here are some instructions to help you through the process.

Columbia

COLLEGE CHICAGO

INNOVATION IN THE VISUAL, PERFORMING, MEDIA, AND COMMUNICATION ARTS

Instructions and Deadlines For Priority Consideration

Admissions files must be completed and received by:

Term of Interest	Priority Deadline
Fall 2008 term	May 1
Spring 2009 term	November 15
Summer 2009 term	April 15

Late Applications

In some cases, students who apply after the published deadlines may be considered for admission. Late applicants are required to submit all of their official transcripts at the same time that they submit all of their application materials, in order to allow sufficient time for an admissions decision to be made.

Note: Applying after the priority deadline often means that students will have missed important orientation sessions or financial aid deadlines. Because this can have a detrimental effect on a student's first semester, students are advised to consider carefully whether it is in their best interest to begin classes at that time.

Admissions Decisions

An Admissions Review Committee evaluates all completed applications for admission to the College. Students will be notified of their admissions decisions by mail within 3 to 4 weeks of the completion of their admissions file.

Students whose application materials suggest they are likely to be under-prepared to meet the college's standards will be required to participate in the College's Bridge Program. Students who are required to participate in the Bridge Program must successfully complete the program before they can be admitted to the College. Students whose application materials suggest that they would be inordinately challenged by the College's curriculum will be denied admission.

Scholarship Deadline

Columbia College offers a limited number of merit scholarships for full-time students who begin their studies in the Fall term. These are competitive scholarship programs, some of which require a separate application form available through the Admissions Office at www.colum.edu/scholarships. The deadline to apply for these institutional scholarships is February 1st.

Other forms of financial assistance may be available through the traditional financial aid process. Students are encouraged to apply as early as possible at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Additional information on financial aid is available from the Office of Student Financial Services at www.colum.edu/sfs, or 866-705-0200. Columbia's school code is 01665.

On-Campus Housing

New freshmen students who live beyond a "commutable" distance are expected to live on campus. Living on campus is an important part of the complete college experience for freshmen. College housing is located only steps away from the main campus buildings, and provides students a nurturing support system through which to navigate college life in the city of Chicago.

Although a housing application is sent to freshmen students as part of their acceptance to the college, students may apply for housing even before they are fully admitted to the college. If you wish to apply for housing early, you may access the housing application on-line at www.colum.edu/apply, or you may request a housing application by calling the Admissions Office at 312-344-7130.

Because housing is limited, please submit your housing application as early as possible.

Local freshmen students and transfer students are also invited to apply for on-campus housing.

Returning Students

Columbia College Chicago students who chose to interrupt their studies for one full academic year or longer must complete and submit a re-enrollment form in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions upon their return. Upon re-enrollment, the student must meet the academic program and degree-completion requirements that are in place at the time of re-enrollment and must meet with a College Advisor prior to registration to have his or her transcripts and requirements assessed.

Please Note:

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students can apply on-line or download a PDF of the International Student Application at www.colum.edu/apply. Please contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions for an International Student Application at 312-344-7130, or email intladmissions@colum.edu for more information.

NON-DEGREE SEEKING STUDENTS

Please complete the Student-at-Large application on-line at www.colum.edu/apply.

A Complete Admission Application must include:

1. Completed Columbia College Chicago Undergraduate Admission Application form (including your essay)

There is a \$35 non-refundable application fee (check or money order payable to Columbia College Chicago) or pay online at www.colum.edu/onlinepayment. Please include the student's full name and Social Security Number, if available, on your check. PLEASE DO NOT MAIL CASH.

2. Official transcripts sent to the Columbia College Chicago Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

HIGH SCHOOL APPLICANT

Have your most recent and/or final transcript sent by your school. All admitted students must have final transcripts on file prior to Orientation/Registration.

If you have taken the ACT or SAT, and your scores are not on your transcript, please arrange to have your test results forwarded separately to the Admissions Office. Although the ACT or SAT is not required for admission to Columbia College Chicago, these tests are valuable tools for advising new students. In many cases ACT scores may be used as an alternative to the College's assessment test. All students are strongly urged to complete one of these tests while they are in high school.

GED APPLICANT

Have an official copy of your GED test results (including your scores) sent from the testing agency (certificates of GED completion are not acceptable).

HOME-SCHOOLED APPLICANT

Have an official copy of your transcript sent from a state-recognized home school.

TRANSFER APPLICANT

Have all previous official college transcript(s) and final high school transcript or GED test results (including your scores) sent. There is no minimum required number of transfer hours.

POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE OF MAJOR

Submit the official college transcript on which your first bachelor's degree is posted.

Please Note:

Students applying for a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate of Major are required to fill out the online application ONLY! www.colum.edu/ apply.

Please Note:

If you have attended a high school or college/university outside of the United States, you must have your credentials evaluated by either Education Credential Evaluators, Inc. (ece.org) or World Education Services (wes.org).

Credential evaluation agencies will convert educational documents into their U.S. equivalent. In addition to submitting your original transcript you must also submit a certified English translation.

3. **One letter of recommendation** from an instructor, guidance counselor or other individual who is qualified to comment on your potential to complete college level work in an arts and communications curriculum. Please be sure your full name and Social Security Number, if available, appear on the letter. An optional recommendation form is available to download from www.colum.edu/ apply. Additional letters of recommendation are welcomed.

Please Note:

If your transcripts or letter of recommendation are mailed separately by your school(s) and/or instructors, please be sure that you give them proper mailing instructions. Your admission file is considered ready for review

only when you have submitted your application and the Columbia College Chicago Office of Undergraduate Admissions receives your essay, transcripts, and letter of recommendation. While it is not necessary to submit all of these materials together, doing so enables the College to process your application more efficiently.

4. **Immunization Records:** Students are required to submit records showing proof of specific immunizations as follows: one tetanus/diphtheria shot within the last ten years, two separate measles shots during your lifetime, one rubella shot and one mumps shot. Students born prior to January 1, 1957 and students enrolled in fewer than six credit hours are exempt from complying with this law, Illinois Public Act #85-1315.

Completed applications will be reviewed without immunization records on file. However, all students are required to have complete immunization records on file prior to Orientation/Registration.

5. **Return your completed application form, essay, transcripts, letter of recommendation and \$35 application fee (payable to Columbia College Chicago) to:**

**COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO
OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS
600 SOUTH MICHIGAN
CHICAGO, IL 60605-1996**

Application documents may be sent via fax to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 312-344-8024. Please include a cover letter with your full name and Social Security Number, if available.

Please Note:

Official transcripts must be faxed directly from the school that issues the transcript.

Section 3: Essay

25. Essay

THE ESSAY IS A MANDATORY PART OF THE APPLICATION. ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION.

YOUR FULL NAME AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (IF AVAILABLE) MUST BE TYPED CLEARLY AT THE TOP OF YOUR ESSAY.

YOUR ESSAY MUST BE AT LEAST 400 WORDS, THE ESSAY IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR APPLICATION. PLEASE TAKE TIME TO COMPLETE IT IN A THOROUGH MANNER. ESSAYS MUST BE TYPED, AND DOUBLE-SPACED. ESSAYS SHORTER THAN 400 WORDS WILL BE CONSIDERED INCOMPLETE.

1. Risk-taking is a part of the creative process. To break new ground or to veer in a new direction requires a certain blend of courage and “blind faith,” a hopeful confidence that your message will be heard and understood, and—most importantly—valued by others.

Many successful artists, musicians, performers, writers, entrepreneurs, filmmakers, producers, etc., take creative risks to move their artform forward, and, while many risks have proved successful (maybe even revolutionary), it’s also true that just as many have flopped. Whether exploring a new idea or form, proposing a show, writing a grant proposal, or presenting their work to the public, the greatest artists have faced rejection and were forced to find ways to persevere.

Big or small, tell us about a time in your creative or artistic life when you were criticized for your creative decisions or told “no”. Did you abandon your new idea? Refine your new idea? Or did you reject the criticism and proceed full speed ahead? Tell us about your thought process during this time. Do you regret not following through on your idea? Or are you now grateful you didn’t go out on such a precarious limb? How do you think the criticism or denial affected the further development of your creative work?

OR

2. Improvements in consumer-grade technology and its relative affordability have provided opportunities for students to create and distribute their art, their films, their writing, and their music in a way previously unavailable. Though it was once far too expensive for an individual outside of the professional world to make a “film”, for example, many young people now engage in scripting, shooting, and editing their own works. Aspiring journalists write and publish their own e-zines, blogs, and on-line journals. Self-managed musicians create and distribute their own CD’s and promote themselves. And we all know about podcasts...

With so much ready access to the technology tools that help produce and distribute these creative works, and with so much work being produced and distributed “out there” (some of it not very good, by the way), how will you make your work stand out? For the moment, forget the technology and what it has done for you and your art form. Tell us, instead, about your ideas. What themes or concepts do you want to explore through your work? What do you want to make your “audience” think or feel? What do you want to make them aware of? Why are you interested in your *ideas*? Why should anyone else be interested in them? Have you already begun to explore your concepts through your work? What do you hope or expect Columbia College Chicago will contribute to the development of your ideas? What is the first thing you want to do at Columbia to explore your ideas?