

Bachelor of Fine Arts [BFA] CREDITS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How many credits do I need to graduate?

Students need a total of 120 credits to graduate. 90 credits must be in the Performance Immersion category. 30 credits must be in the General Education category. These 30 credits are divided into the following requirements:

NEW Categories - Effective Fall 2017	Category	Credits
Written Communication	(ENG)	3.0 cr
Oral Communication	(SPC)	3.0 cr
Math/Problem Solving	(MAT)	3.0 cr
Critical Thinking	(CRT)	3.0 cr
Social and Behavioral Sciences	(SOC)	6.0 cr
Physical and Biological Sciences	(SCI)	3.0 cr
Arts and Humanities	(HUM)	6.0 cr
Creative Expression	(CRE)	3.0 cr
GE classes comprise of = a Total of 10 classes to equal 30 credits required to earn the BFA		

How many credits should I take each semester?

12-15 credits each semester constitutes “full-time” status (and full-time tuition fees). However, successfully acquiring a minimum of 15 credits each semester is necessary to complete the degree program in the traditional eight semesters. Each semester’s sample course outline is reflected in the AMDA Catalog. A semester specific “Course Outline” is available on AMDA’s student Portal reflecting the intended courses for each particular program and semester level.

Can I take more than 15 credits in a semester? Can I take less?

Yes, students are permitted to register for more than the 15.0 credits. However registering for more than 15.0 credits results in additional “per credit” tuition charges. Students may take less than a 15.0 credit semester, however curriculum completion may be delayed affecting an extended anticipated graduation date and financial aid borrowing affected. Students must meet with the Student Accounts Dept to confirm any necessary adjusted tuition & fees. *NOTE: Certain semesters, AMDA may provide for a particular course load that is above 15.0 credits. For those semesters, when the course load is prescribed, there is no additional tuition charge to a student taking the advised credit load.*

Students may take as few as 12.0 credits in a semester while maintaining “full-time” status, however tuition covers 15.0 credits. Therefore, AMDA recommends students maintain 15.0 credits per semester until completion. If a student registers for less than 12.0 credits and is identified as “three-quarter time or part-time”, their financial assistance may be affected.

Students may register for BFA Productions when they have been cast in any of the performance opportunities that are applicable for credit. Adding the performance opportunity for credit is completed by submitting the “Add/Drop Form”, thereby officially registering for those credits. Adding credits allows a student to earn additional “performance immersion” credit towards their BFA degree. Students may **substitute** performance opportunity credits for other “non-core” courses or may be able to defer certain classes that are not required during that particular semester. *[This option will require a credit counseling session with an Education Dept/Academic & Registrar’s Office staff member].*

What is the Add/Drop/Withdrawal class policy? Applicable to BFA PROGRAMS ONLY

NOTE: Dance & Musicianship LEVELS may not be changed via Portal.

*NOTE: Students **do not add** themselves to **dance** or **individual voice** classes as they are assigned levels by the Departments and then registered by the Education Dept/Registrar’s Office.*

- **The course Add/Drop timeframe: Students may add/drop courses within two timeframes:**
 - i. During Week 15 of the current semester for the upcoming semester’s classes**
 - ii. Week 1 of the upcoming semester. Students must USE THE PORTAL when adding/dropping classes**

- **Week 2- 11 Course Withdrawal Policy:** Students who withdraw from class during the **SECOND** to the **ELEVENTH** week will have a “W” (Withdrawal) recorded, however tuition is unchanged. **An ADD/DROP FORM must be submitted.**
- **Week 12- 14 Course Withdrawal:** Students who withdraw from class during the TWELFTH to the **FOURTEENTH** week will have a “W/F” (Withdrawal/Fail) recorded and GPA is affected, however tuition is unchanged. **An ADD/DROP FORM must be submitted.**
- **“ADD/DROP” forms** are located on the AMDA Website under Student Life/Education Department/FORMS as well as on the student Portal. A completed form must be on record in the Education Dept/Registrar’s Office before the student’s official class schedule can be adjusted and finalized. **Forms must be submitted to the Education Dept/Academic & Registrar’s Office for processing.**

CHARGES/FEEES MAY BE INCURRED WHEN ADDING/ DROPPING COURSES. PLEASE CHECK WITH STUDENT ACCOUNTS AND/OR FINANCIAL AID STAFF IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS.

NOTE: “Required” courses as listed on the “Course Outline” may not be dropped at will. Counseling and approval from a member of the Education Department/Registrar’s Office is required.

What about Transfer Credits and graduating “early”?

Students with credits from other institutions may submit official transcripts for credit review and application to their AMDA program. Only credits pertaining to AMDA’s General Education categories can be applied. Transfer courses must have a final grade of “C” or above. Credits may not be applied to AMDA’s Performance Immersion courses. Up to 30 credits total from other institutions may be applied.

(NOTE: students who have graduated from the AMDA Conservatory/AOS Program and then admitted into the BFA program will be awarded 60 Performance Immersion credits for their conservatory/AOS courses).

Transfer Credits as they relate to Performance Immersion Requirements

Students with applied transfer credits will most likely need/want to substitute Performance Immersion credits for the General Education course(s) they’ve already fulfilled.

AMDA will do its best to offer the student as many alternative Performance Immersion course/credit opportunities as possible. Please know that availability of courses (and the ability for a desired course to fit into a required schedule) cannot be guaranteed. Additional course offerings may include evening and/or weekend commitments. Please see the Education Department/Registrar’s Office for advisement.

Advanced Standing

Students who have earned credits beyond their semester year/level and by the end of the fifth semester have only 15 – 30 credits remaining may be eligible to expedite their program by advancing to 7th or 8th semester depending on the earned amount of credits. Upon review of the submitted form, a student’s total accumulated credits, overall GPA and skill level, standing in the AMDA community, financial status as it pertains to AMDA’s Student Accounts Office, and other criteria deemed appropriate by AMDA, a student may be approved to “advance”, thereby skipping their 6th and/or 7th semester classification.

Advanced Standing Procedure: **Within a student’s 5th semester** and by **no later than the FIFTH week of the semester** students may apply for a credit evaluation review to determine their eligibility for advanced standing. The Application is available via the AMDA website. Students complete and submit the form for evaluation. If applicable, the students’ following semester will reflect the approved “new” classification by registering the student in the appropriate 7th or 8th semester classes.

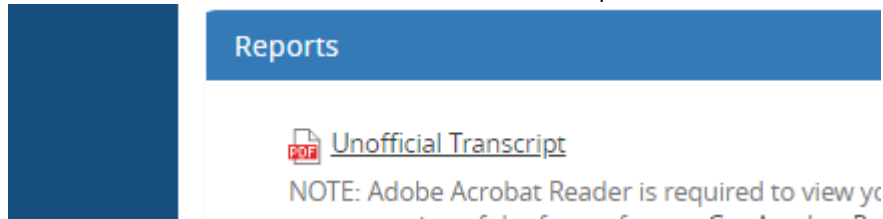
How do I start planning my credits for next semester?

Prior to the conclusion of the current semester, students will be provided a “Course Outline” [PDF document available via Portal] to view their next semester’s course offerings, in order to then self-register for certain courses. Course selections are not guaranteed and course offerings may change without prior notice.

How do I start to track my courses so that I complete the necessary 30 credits of General Education?

Students are strongly encouraged to view and track their academic record via their AMDA Student Portal to track their General Education and their Performance Immersion credits.

- To view an unofficial transcript through the Portal, please select “My Academics”, “Degree Audit”, locate REPORTS section and select unofficial transcript.



Use the following chart to track your completed courses under the General Education course Requirements:

NEW Categories Effective Fall 2017	Category	Credits	Course I've completed
Written Communication	(ENG)	3.0 cr	
Oral Communication	(SPC)	3.0 cr	
Math/Problem Solving	(MAT)	3.0 cr	
Critical Thinking	(CRT)	3.0 cr	
Social and Behavioral Sciences	(SOC)	6.0 cr	
Physical and Biological Sciences	(SCI)	3.0	
Arts and Humanities	(HUM)	6.0 cr	
Creative Expression	(CRE)	3.0 cr	
Total		30.0 cr	

Use the following table to calculate the credits “Earned” and “Required”.

Stay on Track by updating your credit totals:

Degree Requirements:	
G.E. total required:	30.0
P.I. total required:	90.0
Total Credits Required for Completion:	120.0

Total earned:	
P.I.	
G.E.	

Subtract the total earned from the Degree Requirement totals to calculate the “required” credits:

Still Required:	
P.I.	
G.E.	

Questions about BFA credits and staying on track: Education Dept/Academic & Registrar’s Office /2nd floor/Main Building
AMDA College of the Performing Arts/ 6305 Yucca Street/ Los Angeles/CA/ 90028 323.603.5900

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General Education Courses: Categories of Courses for Applicable Transfer

General Education Course Categories as pertaining to AMDA's General Education Categories & Requirements

Arts & Humanities: 6 credits required

1. History and Appreciation of the Arts (Art History, Art Appreciation, Humanities, Music Appreciation, History of the Theater)
2. Philosophy
3. Foreign Language
4. Western Culture (American Studies, History of Civilization, Civilization, Humanities)
5. Non-Western Culture (Generally other than European and North American, e.g., African, Asian)
6. Religion
7. Historical Settings (History, Historical Anthropology, Western Civilization)
8. Political Institutions (U.S. Government, U.S. History, U.S. Political Science)
9. American Government/History (U.S. Government, U.S. History, or U.S. Political Science)

Communication/English: 6 credits [3 Communication Oral, 3 Communication Written [English Composition]

1. English Composition (usually English 1, 1A or 101)
2. Speech, Oral Communication, Foundations of Communication

Critical Thinking: 3 credits

1. Philosophy, Argumentative Essays, Ethics, Critical Thinking, Logic

Social and Behavioral Sciences: 6 credits

1. Social Institutions (Anthropology of Religion, Cultural Anthropology, Cultural Geography, Earth History, Psychology, Gerontology, Sociology)
2. Economic Institutions (Concepts of Business, Principles of Business, Introduction to Business, Economics)
3. Contemporary Settings (American Social Problems, Contemporary History, Contemporary Society, Mass Communications, Sociology of or History of Women or Racial and Ethnic Minorities)
4. U.S. Government (usually Political Science 1 or 101)

Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning: 3 credits

1. Mathematics (All mathematics courses except remedial, non-transferable courses such as Mathematics A, B, R, 30, 31, 32, and 125)

Physical & Biological Sciences: 3 credits + 1.0 lab

1. Physical Science (Astronomy, Chemistry, Earth Science, Physical Environmental Science, Geography, Geology, Meteorology, Physical Oceanography, Physical Science, Physics)
2. Life Science (Anatomy, Biological Anthropology, Physical Anthropology, Biology, Botany, Biological Environmental Science, Microbiology, Biological Oceanography, Physiological Psychology Zoology)

Creative Expression: 3 credits

1. Electives (Creative Writing, Literature, etc.)

Students' prior college course work will be evaluated for possible General Education (General Education) transfer credit upon receipt of official transcripts from all previous schools attended. Courses eligible for transfer evaluation **must have a final grade of "C" [2.0]** or above and apply to one of the General Education categories listed above. Courses taken outside of AMDA must be "college level" courses, remedial or pre-requisite courses are not applicable. Courses in Theatre Immersion are ineligible for transfer evaluation. Students are requested to have all official transcripts mailed directly to AMDA. AMDA will maintain a written record of previous education/training evaluated. Students will be notified in writing, and credit will be reflected on the official transcript.

International Baccalaureate transfer courses may be submitted for evaluation of transfer course status provided an official transcript record document is submitted to AMDA. Courses that fall under the General Education course category will be evaluated for transfer credit based on HIGH LEVEL (HL) course designation. A **score of five (5) and above** may be accepted toward AMDA's Bachelor of Fine Arts Degrees. Courses listed under the category of Standard Level (SL) will not be considered for evaluation.

Students who have tested through the College Board's Advanced Placement Program (AP) or College Level Examination Program (CLEP) may submit official exam/scoring documentation for evaluation of transfer course(s) toward the BFA Program. Documentation must be received directly from the College Board. AP scores earned **must be a score of 3 or higher** to be accepted. **CLEP scores must be 50 or higher** to be accepted.