



FOUNDATION STUDIO

Where the journey begins. The common ground.
The creative launchpad for every Otis major.

THE FOUNDATION STUDIO EXPERIENCE

Before declaring a major, every student begins in Foundation Studio, a carefully designed first-year experience that builds essential skills, creative confidence, and a shared visual language. Through an immersive, interdisciplinary curriculum, students learn to observe, think, and create with intention.

They develop strong foundations in observational drawing and visual communication through still life, figure drawing, and exploratory making, while engaging core design principles such as color, composition, form, and space.

As the year progresses, students experiment across materials and processes that bridge traditional craft and digital tools. Introductions to fabrication and emerging technologies, including 3D printing and project-based making, expand how ideas move from concept to form. Concept development is grounded in social, cultural, and ecological awareness, with critical thinking and visual storytelling woven throughout.

Together, these experiences form a flexible creative toolkit that supports every major at Otis College of Art and Design and prepares students to move forward with clarity and confidence.

HOW YOU'LL WORK

Studio-first. Exploratory. Connected.

Foundation Studio is built around hands-on learning and a strong sense of community. Students work within small, consistent studio sections that foster collaboration, peer connection, and a shared studio culture. Learning unfolds through critique, iteration, and guided exploration, mirroring professional creative practice.

Students engage across drawing, design, and making, using both analog and digital technologies, including professional-grade labs in wood, metal, and digital fabrication, as well as emerging technologies. Electives and Foundation events allow students to personalize their path and make informed academic choices before sophomore year.



“A primary goal of first-year studies in Foundation is to instill in students a **confidence in their ability to manifest creativity.**”

—TeaYoun Kim-Kassor,
Chair, Foundation Studio



PROGRAM
OVERVIEW



WHY IT MATTERS

Foundation Studio is where students learn how to think, make, and grow before deciding what they'll specialize in. It is where students become Otis students.

- Builds transferable skills essential to all art and design majors.
- Encourages creative risk-taking, experimentation, and confidence.
- Develops fluency across traditional craft and advanced technologies.
- Fosters collaboration, professionalism, and self-awareness.
- Prepares students to succeed in upper-division studios and real-world creative environments.

THE FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE AT OTIS

Foundation Studio is fully integrated into Otis's First-Year Experience and sets the tone for everything that follows. Students benefit from:

- A supportive transition into college-level studio practice.
- Strong faculty mentorship and peer connection.
- Exposure to multiple disciplines before committing to a major.
- A shared creative language that carries across the entire Otis community.



**CURRICULUM
OVERVIEW**

MORE INFORMATION

**TeaYoun Kim-Kassor,
Chair, Foundation Studio**

Admissions and Aid

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Apply: otis.edu/apply

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otis.edu/admitted

