

## **Foundation Program – New Student Guide**

Foundation offers an integrated platform of skills, information, and experience that will support you in your future, both educationally and professionally. It will provide you with an experiential understanding of the rich relationships between all of the art & design disciplines. You will be working alongside future Fashion Design, Product Design, Digital Media, Environmental Design, Communication Arts, Fine Arts, and Toy Design students.

When school starts, you will be attending studio classes within a “Section”, or group of students. Your studio classes will meet together as a section group for all of your studio courses in the first semester, and will continue in the second semester in several of your classes. This section grouping provides increased peer support and a more secure setting to work in, as well as better opportunities for developing connections with others creatively, socially, and professionally.

Below are some questions students frequently ask about the Foundation experience:

### **What studio classes will I be taking in Foundation?**

In the first semester, the core curriculum includes a choice between Life Drawing I and Creative Practices I. You will also take Drawing and Building Form and Principles of Design. All of these classes meet for 6 hours each week. Students take these three studio courses along with two Liberal Arts and Sciences courses: typically, Writing in the Digital Age and Introduction to Visual Culture.

In the second semester, all students take Connections through Color and Design, which incorporates Creative Action curriculum, and two Liberal Arts and Sciences courses, typically Birth of the Modern and Ways of Knowing. In addition, you will choose between Life Drawing I or II and Creative Practices I or II; and between Drawing Studio and Form & Space; and you will take a Foundation Elective, offered by the major departments. To learn more about the classes you will take during your Foundation year please visit the Curriculum page on the Foundation [website](#).

### **What can I do this summer to prepare for my studio classes?**

Before you arrive in the Fall, a great way to prepare is to get as much exposure to “aesthetic experience” as possible. For example, go to the museums (either in-person or visit virtually) and take your time; look closely at work that attracts you. Read about an artist/designer you’re interested in and the influences that shaped their work. Think less in terms of *what* you like, and more about *how* things were done. Looking more closely can put you in mind of the human investment present in the work. Watch a recording of a concert, read a novel, or see a film. By giving yourself aesthetically enriching experiences, you allow yourself to slow down, open up, and absorb the potential for human achievement in the arts that is within your power to achieve as well.

### **What support services are available for students at Otis?**

When you arrive at Otis it’s important to remember that everyone including the Foundation department administrators, your instructors, and other students are here to support you and your success. There are a number of student support services available at Otis that we encourage you to take advantage of and learn more about prior to beginning the fall semester. These include:

- Disability Services is dedicated to maintaining an environment which guarantees all students with disabilities access to Otis’ educational programs, activities, and facilities. If you have a disability

and would like access to these services, we recommend that you contact Dr. Carol Branch [cbranch@otis.edu](mailto:cbranch@otis.edu) (310) 846-2554 in advance of the start of classes to learn more. Dr. Carol Branch's office is located in room 209 in the Ahmanson Building.

- The [Student Health and Wellness Center](#), located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Ahmanson Building, provides medical and counseling services to help students fulfill their artistic endeavors at Otis College. All enrolled students have free access to the Center's services.
- Have a question about tuition, scholarships, or your financial aid package? Visit or contact [Financial Aid](#) located at the One Stop on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Ahmanson Building. If you are experiencing extenuating circumstances and are unable to purchase text books or supplies, please contact Student Financial Services at [sfs@otis.edu](mailto:sfs@otis.edu) .
- Need help with writing, homework, or time management? Tutoring and Success Coaching are available through the [Student Learning Center](#) located in the Millard Sheets Library.
- Not seeing the resource you need? Please contact Moira Connelly in the Foundation Office at [mconnelly@otis.edu](mailto:mconnelly@otis.edu).

### **How do I know if I need a textbook?**

All of your required textbooks and software should be purchased online **AFTER** you have received an email confirming your fall course registration. You will need to check the [Estimated Price Lists](#) to get information regarding required texts for your classes.

### **How do I order required Textbooks?**

1. You can purchase your required books from any bookseller, in-store or online. Some examples would be Amazon or Textbooks.com. Also, many have rental or digital options at a less expensive rate.
2. You will need your Student Schedule printout (sample below) provided by the Registrar.
3. Using the information found on the [Estimated Price Lists](#) (ISBN, Title, Author, Publisher) and your Student Schedule, you can search for your books online.

#### Sample Student Schedule Printout

CRN	SUBJ	CRSE	SEC	TITLE	CREDITS
30396	FND	115	A	Principles of Design	2.0
30425	FNDT	180	A	Life Drawing I	3.0
30090	AHCS	120	C	Visual Culture	3.0

CRN – a number you use to register online

SUBJ – stands for subject

CRSE – stands for course

SEC – stands for section

TITLE – course title

CREDITS – number of credits course is worth

### **Can I have my books and readers delivered to Otis?**

You may be able to have your orders shipped to the College before you arrive. To find out how to arrange this, contact the office of Student Affairs at (310) 665-6960.

### Do I need to purchase a computer?

Otis requires that incoming students own a laptop that meets the minimum system specifications for software used in the Foundation year. This requirement will help ensure that all students have access to the college's digital resources at home or on campus. As collaboration is a foundation of our curriculum, owning a laptop will promote communication, investigation, and making, both within and outside of the classroom.

If a student has an intended major, please refer to the major department minimum specs on the website for guidance. We have selected these configurations to enable a broad range and a long useful life for your computer, so as long as your laptop meets the minimum specifications, you are welcome to customize your machine to suit your individual needs. Otis partners with hardware providers for additional discounts for students purchasing a new laptop. If you already own a laptop with comparable specs to the Otis minimum requirement, you may opt to use that instead.

<https://www.otis.edu/foundation/software-hardware-purchases>

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### The Top Six Things To Know About Your BFA Program:

As an undergraduate student you are enrolled in a 120-credit degree program that leads to a B.F.A. Degree. The following *six key things to know* will help you navigate your college career, and graduate on time:

1. **The College Catalog** (The Hoot) tells you all about the program, its requirements, and how to move from level to level toward your earned degree. Download The Hoot for the academic year you entered as a Freshman:

<http://www.otis.edu/registration-records/course-catalog-student-handbook>

2. **Understanding Course Credits** allows you to build *with your Advisors* each semester's schedule, always remembering the goal—graduation! Your status as either a Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, or Senior depends on your total accumulated course credits.

Level	Credits
Senior	84–120 Credits
Junior	54–83 Credits
Sophomore	25–53 Credits
Foundation	0–24 Credits

3. Your **Course Requirements** are outlined in the catalog for your Foundation year, all your Liberal Arts and Science requirements, and your Major (and Minor, if you choose to pursue one), and Creative Action. Follow these **with your Advisors** to be sure you're on track each semester!

## FOUNDATION

Fall - Foundation		
COURSE		CR
Life Drawing I <i>or</i> Creative Practices I	FNDT180 FNDT172	3
Principles of Design	FNDT115	2
Drawing & Building Form	FNDT160	3
Writing in the Digital Age	ENGL107	3
Intro to Visual Culture	AHCS120	3
		<b>14</b>

Spring - Foundation		
COURSE		CR
Life Drawing I, II <i>or</i> Creative Practices I, II	FNDT182 FNDT173	3
Connections through Color & Design	CAIL101	3
Drawing Studio – Expanded Practices <i>or</i> Form and Space	FNDT162 FNDT161	2
Elective	FNDT145	1
Birth of the Modern	AHCS121	3
Ways of Knowing	LIBS114	3
		<b>15</b>

The Hoot includes a table with course requirements for every Major and Minor at the College.

4. Your **Academic Standing** depends on your successful completion of required courses. A cumulative GPA of 2.0 (“C”) or better is required to continue in good standing. Academic Probation is conferred upon a GPA that falls below 2.0—this is remedied with help **from your Advisors**.

5. **Adding, Dropping, and Withdrawing** from courses can be successfully accomplished **with your Advisors**. It is important to be sure that any changes to your academic schedule be made in such a way that you don't fall behind on progress toward your degree! **Your Advisors** will help you do this in the most productive way; be sure to *read your Otis College email* for important dates and reminders!

6. **Knowing and Using Your Resources** is critical to your success. Your Academic Advisor, Department Chair, Academic Advising, Student Learning Center staff, and Student Affairs staff are all at your service to help you succeed at Otis College, and beyond.